

NOVEMBER 2023

# Gleanings

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE

## Pathway to Excellence: Celebrating Adventist Education



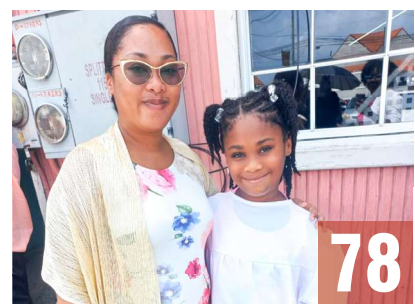
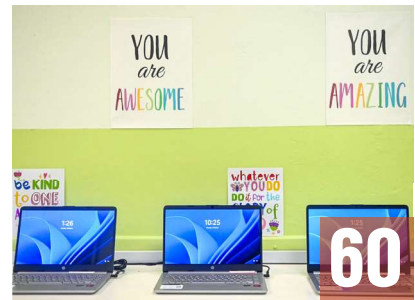
The Relevance  
of Adventist  
Education





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## SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST EDUCATION: NURTURING HOLISTIC GROWTH IN AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD

In today's fast-paced world, where the pursuit of knowledge sometimes clashes with spiritual values, the significance of genuine education cannot be overstated. Within this educational landscape, the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) education system has withstood the test of time, offering a distinctive blend of Christ-centred principles and academic excellence.

The essence of Adventist education lies in its ability to inspire transformation. Committed to holistic development, SDA institutions have consistently emphasized academic rigor, critical thinking, and moral grounding, equipping students for both professional success and ethical leadership.

Beyond mere academic pursuits, Caribbean Union schools, a part of the Seventh-day Adventist network, foster a strong sense of community. Here, students are encouraged not only to excel academically but also to embody values of integrity and cooperation, setting the stage for future leadership roles within their communities.

The impact of SDA education goes beyond the individual, extending to the communities they serve. Through various outreach initiatives, students are encouraged to embrace a life of service, compassion, and meaningful contribution to society, in line with the SDA's emphasis on social responsibility and the teachings of Christ.

Furthermore, SDA schools prioritize physical health, emphasizing the importance of balanced, healthy lifestyles. In contrast to current trends, SDA education has long incorporated principles of self-discipline, self-care, and balance, equipping students with lifelong tools for maintaining their well-being.



SDA education provides a sanctuary for those seeking to nurture their faith in God alongside their intellectual growth, in an era marked by shifting values and growing secularism. By integrating faith and learning, students are encouraged to explore their beliefs, deepen their spirituality, and engage in meaningful discussions about the intersection of faith and knowledge. Seventh-day Adventist education is driven by the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy and remains unwavering in its commitment to equipping students with the resilience and hope necessary to navigate life's complexities.

Seventh-day Adventist education serves as a testament to the enduring power of holistic education, providing a model for institutions worldwide. In a world yearning for leaders with integrity and wisdom, the commitment of SDA education to academic excellence, character development, community service, and spiritual growth shines as a beacon of hope for the future.

*-Education Department, CARU*

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Dear Esteemed Readers,

With profound joy, I extend my heartfelt greetings to you through the vibrant pages of the Caribbean Union Conference Gleanings, in this exceptional edition titled, "Pathways to Excellence: Celebrating Adventist Education." It is with immense pride that we highlight the dedicated efforts of the Education Department in shaping the hearts and minds of our students, guided by the enduring philosophy of Seventh-day Adventist education. This magazine stands as a testament to the enduring commitment of our esteemed educators, resilient students, and vibrant community, as we collectively celebrate an education system that has withstood the trials of time. Together, we have crafted a pathway to excellence, inspired by Divine wisdom.

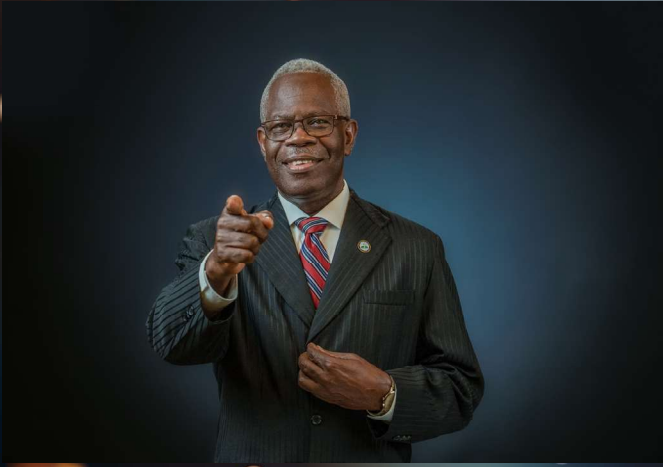
Within the rich tapestry of this publication, you will unearth the inspiring narratives of our educational journey, the triumphant successes we have rejoiced, and the aspirations we tirelessly nurture. Our department remains resolute in its mission to equip students as lifelong learners, fostering a growth mindset and nurturing traits that reflect their encounter with Jesus and acceptance of Him as their Saviour.

In our celebration of Adventist education, we pay homage to our dedicated educators and stakeholders, whose unwavering commitment serves as a guiding light for our students along this path to excellence. Their passion and dedication inspire our students to reach for the highest pinnacles of success and to embody the very best versions of themselves, rendering Adventist education a beacon of hope in a tumultuous world.

As we reflect on our past, let us also embrace the boundless possibilities that lie ahead. Our celebration transcends mere reminiscence; it serves as a compass directing us toward a brighter future. Together, we will continue to tread this path to excellence, nurturing young minds and shaping responsible citizens who will positively impact the world and find salvation in the embrace of God's kingdom.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable participation in this incredible journey, and I eagerly anticipate your continued support as we co-author many more chapters of excellence.

Daphney Magloire  
Education Director, CARU



## “Pathway to Excellence: Celebrating Seventh-day Adventist Education”

Dr. Kern Tobias, CARU President

We will be focusing on ‘Education’ for this issue of the Gleanings magazine. It is an area of emphasis that has everyone’s attention. It is more affordable, accessible, and available than ever before. However, it is unbelievable that there are so many who do not have this luxury, and those who are denied it because of their gender, and yet there are those that squander their opportunity.

Matthew 28:19 – 20 say, “19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” That was the commission given to us centuries ago, and it is still for us today, to go, to teach, to educate others about Christ.

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” The world we live in is constantly changing. Mandela made this statement years ago, and we see it in the meaning for education today, where one allows oneself to be informed by what one is learning so that it brings about changes in one’s behaviour and lifestyle. Education is not only receiving knowledge, but also the process of teaching others what one has learnt.

I like how Ellen G. White states it, “The true teacher is not satisfied with second-rate work. He is not satisfied with directing his students to a standard lower than the highest which it is possible for them to attain. He cannot be content with imparting to them only technical knowledge, with making them merely clever accountants, skillful artisans, successful tradesmen. It is his ambition to inspire them with principles of truth, obedience, honor, integrity, and purity—principles that will make them a positive force for the stability and uplifting of society. He desires them, above all else, to learn life’s great lesson of unselfish service. These principles become a living power to shape the character, through the acquaintance of the soul with Christ, through an acceptance of His wisdom as the guide, His power as the strength of heart and life. This union formed, the student has found the Source of wisdom. He has within his reach the power to realize in himself his noblest ideals.

The opportunities of the highest education for life in this world are his. And in the training here gained, he is entering upon that course which embraces eternity. In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, “other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” Education 29.2-30.2

May God bless you on your pathway to excellence as we continue to celebrate Seventh-day Adventists Education!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kern Tobias'.

Dr. Kern Tobias  
PRESIDENT



## *Pathway to Excellence: Celebrating SDA Education*

Dr. Colwick Wilson and Dr. Deleise Wilson

**S**eventh-day Adventist education celebrates over 100 years in Trinidad, over 116 years in Jamaica, and 102 years in Haiti. The development of Seventh-day Adventist education is as old as the arrival of missionaries to the Caribbean, as the early church believed that education was indeed the right arm of the gospel.

EG White stated, "In the highest sense, the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, "no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11 (Counsels for the Church, p. 202.3 (Ellen G. White). The gospel was carried forward with an earnest attention to literacy and self-development for everyone to acquire the ability to read and understand the word of God, earn a living, and be exemplary members of society.

From those humble beginnings in the 1900s, SDA education provided exceptional traditional academic programs at the elementary, primary, and high school levels. Additionally, the SDA church successfully launched its tertiary institutions to deliver programs such as pastoral ministry, music, medicine, nursing, and early childhood education.

SDA education was consistently delivered through the ages of world history that transversed the period of developing nations in the Caribbean and Africa, civil unrest in the United States, and transitions of governments across the spectrum from socialist or communist republics to independent countries. Times of regional and national turmoil have impacted the availability of SDA education and caused it to be accessible in fits and starts. During the worst of times, the links may have been weakened, but they were never broken as the leaders of these institutions stayed grounded in the spiritual mission of their calling. The leaders for the church schools were originally and typically missionaries or pastors who served the Department of Education for the General, Union, or Local conferences. These men and women broke many barriers to push the institutions to meet and exceed organizational, national, regional, and professional accreditation standards. As the programs offered were diversified, faculty and staff members with specialized training and expertise in specific content areas broadened the pool of administrators and rose to serve in leadership positions. Today,



many SDA institutions have full councils of leaders who are representatives of new academic disciplines that offer cutting-edge award-winning programs such as computer information science, environmental science, medical technology, business management, graduate education in leadership, social work, and psychology while remaining steadfast to the mission of redemption for all who enter their portals.

Excellence in SDA education includes equipping young men and women to “...grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” 2 Peter 3:18, KJV.

EGW admonishes that God’s grace provides the motivation and the basis for the highest level of accomplishment in life. She counsels that “many who are qualified to do excellent work accomplish little because they attempt little. Thousands pass through life as if they had no great object for which to live, no high standard to reach. One reason for this is the low estimate which they place upon themselves. Christ paid an infinite price for us, and according to the price paid He desires us to value ourselves. HDL 43.1

Be not satisfied with reaching a low standard. We are not what we might be, or what it is God’s will that we should be. God has given us reasoning powers, not to remain inactive, or to be perverted to earthly and sordid pursuits, but that they may be developed to the utmost, refined, sanctified, ennobled, and used in advancing the interests of His kingdom. HDL 43:1,2. SDA education is built on a platform of God’s amazing grace that is saturated with principles of a growth mindset and a commitment to excellence. It is our conviction to become better in our daily life that fuels excellence in education at the individual and institutional levels.

Many families place a high value on our schools not only on account of the solid academic training that they offer but also the focus on the integration of biblical principles in education. This perspective takes a holistic and long-term view of education that extends beyond the formal education years. SDA campuses provide the context and interactions that support the Christian lifestyle that foster the completion of the development of teenagers’ pre-frontal cortex, the seat of reason and decision-making. Excellence is further enhanced when our institutions are the settings where young minds can be immersed in the wonders of God’s love, the majesty of his creation, and the expansiveness of His plan of salvation. True education happens in the “school of Christ, from which the students never graduated” MYP p. 171.

Therefore, the call to the future is to propel our students with biblical solid foundations to the highest levels of achievement. Our institutions are preparing students to compete for coveted seats in medicine, dentistry, and doctoral programs in humanities, social and physical sciences. Students successfully compete in national and international media, choral, and research competitions. Notable SDA education alums include the Florence and Laura Norman Professor of Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health, the Governor General of Jamaica, grammy award-winning artists, Emmy-nominated film producers, theologians, politicians, acting prime ministers, the chaplain of the United States Senate, college administrators, CEOs of national and international management firms, rights activists, epidemiologists, geologists, biogerontologist, chemists, lawyers, and consultants for the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund, and the Pan American Health Organization.

“Heaven is a school; its field of study, the universe; its teacher, the Infinite One. A branch of this school was established in Eden; and, with the plan of redemption accomplished, education will again be taken up in the Eden school.” Education p. 301. The pathway to excellence of our SDA institutions is the bridge between the school established in Eden and the school of the hereafter. EG White states, “Restored to His presence, man will again, as at the beginning, be taught of God: “My people shall know My name: . . . they shall know in that day that I am He that doth speak: behold, it is I.” Isaiah 52:6.

SDA education from kindergarten to university must be a priority for each church member. It should be supported in our Pathfinder and Master Guide clubs. An earnest effort at the local, regional, and General Conference must be made to recruit and retain SDA youths and others of the community for preparation for eternity. To this end, the dedicated administration, faculty, and staff cadre must be applauded. The commitment to serve and teach in our schools is to be recognized. The lure of worldly fame and treasure is ever-present, but with the drum beat and call for missionary volunteers, these servants of God answer the call faithfully year after year. SDA education is transformational, pregnant with principles of excellence that are grounded in God’s grace as we walk in HIS light that gets brighter and brighter toward the ‘midday sun.’

## Meet the Team of Education Directors and School Supervisors of the Caribbean Union Conference



1 - Dr. Daphney Magloire  
Caribbean Union Conference

2 - Mrs. Jessica Cunningham  
South Caribbean Conference

3 - Dr. Eulalie Semper  
South Leeward Mission

4 - Mrs. Jamila Nicholls  
Tobago Conference

5 - Mrs. Clara Bhola  
Grenada Conference

6 - Pas. Carolyn Brandon  
Guyana Conference

7 - Mr. Morrie Hercules  
St. Vincent and the Gren-  
adines Mission

8 - Mrs. Priscilla Stephen  
St. Lucia Mission

9 - Mrs. Judith Blackman  
Suriname Mission

10 - Mrs. Andrea Hoyte  
East Caribbean Conference

11 - Mrs. Gerene Joseph  
North Caribbean Conference

12 - Mr. Wayne Richardson  
School supervisor,  
Tobago Conference

13 - Mr. Casford Francis  
School supervisor,  
South Caribbean Conference

14 - Mrs. Lisa Bramble  
Associate Education Director  
South Caribbean Conference

15 - Mrs. Adsum  
Ahyoung-Sun  
School Supervisor  
South Caribbean Conference

# OVERVIEW OF THE CARU EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Daphney Magloire

The Education Department of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is dedicated to advancing the mission of Seventh-day Adventist education at primary and secondary schools throughout the union. Its primary mission is to provide guidance and support to its educational institutions, ensuring that each school delivers a comprehensive, effective, and high-quality education to every student. We believe

that through education, we can empower individuals to make positive contributions to society while inspiring a lifelong pursuit of knowledge and a closer relationship with God.

The team that propels this mission consists of Education Directors, Principals, and teachers, ancillary Staff and the Boards of Management. The Union and Conference/Mission Administrators, SDA clergy, church members, par-

ents, and well-wishes support this resilient team, and together they foster a collaborative environment that promotes continuous improvement, shape the future leaders of our Union and nurture citizens for the global society and the heavenly kingdom.

You may view the department's Strategic plan using the link: [Caribbean Union Conference Education Department Overview and Report Mid Year Committee. mp4 - Google Drive](#)

## Schools' Profile by Fields 2023/24

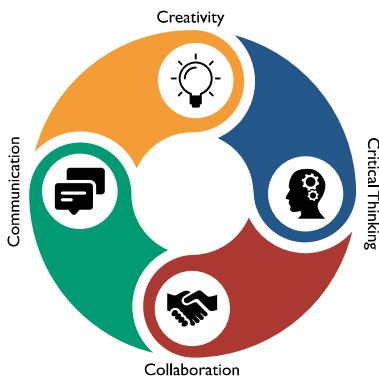
	NO. OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	NO. OF PRIMARY SCHOOL	NO. OF HIGH SCHOOL	NO. OF STUDENT	NO. OF TEACHER	NO. OF ANCILLARY
East Caribbean Conference	1	4	2	1148	74	19
South Caribbean Conference	5	12	3	3262	203	77
South Leeward Conference	1	3	1	924	43	20
Grenada Conference	1	2	1	849	52	9
Suriname Mission	0	2	0	405	20	8
St. Lucia Mission	0	3	1	716	44	28
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Mission	0	3	2	673	46	7
Guyana Conference	0	1	0	135	11	4
North Caribbean Conference	0	5	3	923	87	58
Tobago Conference	0	4	1	685	50	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9719</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>248</b>

## Strategic Priorities 2022- 2026

We are pleased to share with you the strategic priorities, embedded in the Department’s Strategic Plan, which serve as our roadmap for the future. These strategies guide our actions and decisions as we work tirelessly to fulfil our mission, to advance the cause of Seventh-day Adventist education and provide the best possible learning experiences for our students. The seven priorities for the next four years are as follows:

### Delivering Quality Twenty-First Century Teaching and Learning:

In an ever-evolving world, we are committed to providing our students with a dynamic and innovative educational experience that equips them with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the twenty-first century and beyond.



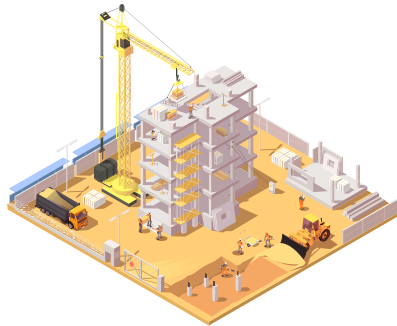
### Promoting Entrepreneurship and Skills Training:

We recognize the importance of equipping our students not only with academic knowledge but also with practical skills and an entrepreneurial mind-set that empowers them to create opportunities for themselves and others.



### Participating in Infrastructural Development:

To create conducive learning environments, we will actively engage in infrastructural development projects, ensuring that our schools have the necessary facilities and resources to support effective teaching and learning.



### Stabilizing Schools’ Financial Viability:

Financial sustainability is essential for the long-term success of our educational institutions. We will work diligently to strengthen the financial health of our schools, ensuring their ability to provide quality education for years to come.



### Fostering Strong Seventh-day Adventist Ethos:

Our schools are not just centres of academic learning but also places where students can grow spiritually. We will promote and uphold the strong Seventh-day Adventist ethos that underpins our education system. The plan outlines strategies to strengthen the spiritual ethos.



### Using Research and Data to Make Decisions:

Informed decision-making is critical to our success. We will utilize research and data analysis to guide our actions and ensure that our strategies are effective and evidence-based.



### Marketing Seventh-day Adventist Education:

We will actively promote the distinctive values of Seventh-day Adventist education within our church community and general public. We will also highlight our commitment to holistic development and faith-based learning. We invite your active support and collaboration in implementing the Strategic plan, as together, we shape the future of our Seventh-day Adventist education system.



Thank you for your continued commitment to the cause of SDA education and our shared vision of nurturing responsible, successful, and heaven-bound citizens.

# CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE SCHOOLS SHINE BRIGHT

Daphney Magloire

It is with immense pride and dedication that the Caribbean Union Conference schools reaffirm their commitment to upholding exceptional academic standards as they foster a dynamic environment that seamlessly integrates spiritual growth with scholarly achievements. In the current academic year, the collective performance of the Union's educational institutions has yielded remarkable results which are reflected in an impressive range of pass rates that speak to their unwavering pursuit of excellence. Across the Union's educational institutions, the overall average pass rate has ranged from an encouraging 72.3% to an outstanding 92.3%, culminating in an exceptional average of 81.9% pass rate. Notably, seven of our distinguished schools have achieved outstanding pass rates from 85%, while the remaining schools have demonstrated their commitment with pass rates ranging from 72.3% to 84%.

With tremendous pleasure and pride, we celebrate the exceptional achievement of the Antigua Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) Secondary School, which secured the top position among our esteemed institutions for the first time with a remarkable pass rate of 92.8%. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the administration, staff and students for their remarkable performance, wishing them continued success in their journey of academic excellence, under the grace of the God of success.

Following closely in the pursuit of excellence is Southern Academy, proudly attaining an admirable average pass rate of 88.29%.

Additionally, we applaud the exceptional accomplishments of our students who have excelled in their respective examinations. Notably, Aniyah J. Williams from the British Virgin Island SDA School emerged as the Union's top performer, securing a remarkable eleven Grade ones. Not far behind, Cashelle Challenger of Arthur Waldron SDA Academy has demonstrated remarkable prowess with nine Grade ones and three Grade twos. An exceptional highlight of this report is the outstanding performance of Arthur Waldron SDA Academy students, achieving Grade One in 41% of all their entries. Furthermore, their exceptional performance in EDPM in which the class of 14 all received Grade ones.

The unwavering commitment of the Caribbean Union Conference schools to nurturing the intellectual and creative capacities of the region's students stands as a testament to their relentless pursuit of excellence. As we collectively strive to elevate education standards in the Caribbean, we eagerly anticipate even more remarkable achievements in the years to come.



**GOAL:**  
Foster educational  
excellence at all  
schools within the  
Caribbean Union  
Conference



Southern Academy top 2023 CSEC Student

# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL SECONDARY SCHOOL RANKS FIRST IN THE SCHOOLS IN THE CARIBBEAN UNION

Dr. Eulalie Semper and Mrs. Melecia Campbell-Edwards



Antigua SDA School - Graduation Ceremony - Class of 2023

**S**taying true to the theme chosen for the 2022-2023 academic year, "Hard Work + God's Grace = Success", the Antigua Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School has recorded a 92.8% pass rate at the June 2023 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Examination. It is with absolute delight that we enjoy the privilege of ranking first in the schools in the Caribbean Union.

An analysis of the results revealed that the school exceeded the national and regional percentage pass rates in all 20 subject areas and received a 100 percent pass rate in the areas of Agriculture Science, Biology, Building Technology, Chemistry, EDPM, Food, Nutrition and Health, Information Technology, Office Administration, Physical Education, Physics, Principles of Business, Principles of Accounts, Social Studies and Technical Drawing.

While it is not a new occurrence for the school to obtain a 100% pass rate in 14 subject areas, having produced similar results in the 2022 exam sitting, it is the first time in a long while that the school received a 100 percent pass rate in the three main science subjects

(Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Integrated science, though not making the 100% grade, showed significant improvement, ending at a score of 92.9%.

Although not making the 100% pass rate, the core subjects of English Language and Mathematics also recorded a significant increase from the previous year, having received 96.4% and 73.1% respectively. This is an outstanding achievement for the school, especially considering that the regional average for mathematics was 45.7%, and that of Antigua was even lower at 32.6%.

Director of Education within the Ministry of Education, Sport & Creative Industries, Mr. Clare Browne, commended the students on their hard work, "We celebrate our students. We commend them highly for their resilience because we can never forget the context in which they would have operated through because these same students were impacted by Covid as well," Browne stated.

Dr. Eulalie Semper, Education Director of the South Leeward Conference of SDA, is also celebrating the success of the school, students and parents. This is a significant accomplishment,

that both she and Mrs. Cheryl Morris, former principal of the school, have been working towards for several years. "We recognize this consistent effort of working towards excellence with the implementation and monitoring of specific strategies that allowed for consistency, student empowerment, teacher accountability and academic success" she expressed.

The school's recently appointed principal, Mrs. Melecia Campbell-Edwards, expressed gratitude for the excellent results and attributes the success of the school to the help of God and the hard work and dedication of the teachers and students as well as the continued support and commitment of the parents to SDA Christian Education. "The success accomplished is an indication of what God can do when the home, school and church collaborate to work with our young people." she shared.

Mrs Campbell -Edwards also urges the SDA community to continue to support and own the school, as the faculty and staff pledges to continue on their mission of educating students for life.

# THE ARTHUR WALDRON SDA ACADEMY CELEBRATES ITS SUCCESS AT THE 2023 CSEC AND CCSLC EXAMINATIONS

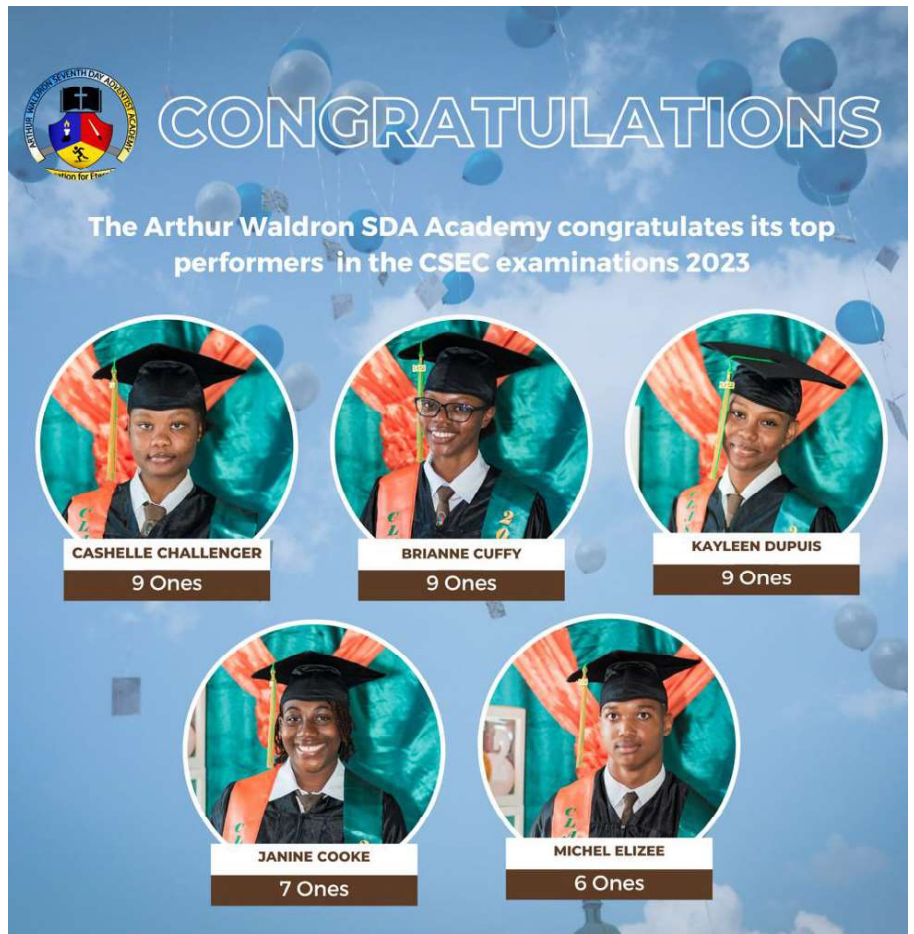
Jeanette Barry

The Arthur Waldron Seventh-day Adventist Academy is delighted to announce its remarkable achievements in the 2023 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Certificate of Secondary Level Competence (CCSLC) Examinations. The school takes immense pride in its exceptional performance, reflecting its commitment to academic excellence.

At the CCSLC examinations, the Arthur Waldron Seventh-day Adventist Academy achieved a perfect score, with a remarkable 100 percent pass rate across all subject areas. In the CSEC examinations, the school continued to excel with an impressive 87 percent pass rate, of which 41 percent were awarded the highest grade, Grade ones.

Notably, the school had five exceptional students who secured places on the prestigious national scholars' list, having earned Grade one passes in at least six subjects. These remarkable scholars have set a benchmark for excellence and **are a testament** to the quality education provided by the Academy.

The top CSEC performer for the Arthur Waldron Seventh-day Adventist Academy was Cashelle Challenger, whose outstanding efforts led to nine Grade ones and three Grade twos. Other notable top performers include Brianne Cuffy, who achieved nine Grade ones and one Grade two; Kayleen Dupuis with nine Grade ones; Janine Cooke with seven Grade ones and three Grade twos and



Arthur Waldron SDA Academy 2023 Top CSEC Students

Michel Elizee, who secured six Grade ones and three Grade twos.

Additionally, the Arthur Waldron Seventh-day Adventist Academy secured 100 percent pass rate in 12 subjects, and 75 percent and above pass rate in a range of other subjects.

Mrs. Carlotta Challenger, the Principal of the Arthur Waldron Seventh-day Adventist Academy, expressed her gratitude for this outstanding achievement, stating, "We attribute our success to God's providence, strong leadership, and a dedicated, committed staff." She further stated that this achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our parents and our holistic

approach to education.

The staff and students of Arthur Waldron Seventh-day Adventist Academy praise God for His abundant goodness and favor, which resulted in these remarkable successes.



Jeanette Barry



Aniyah Williams - Top BVI CSEC Student

## ANIYAH J. WILLIAMS TOPS BVI SDA SCHOOL @ CSEC WITH 11 GRADE ONES

**A**niyah J. Williams emerged as the exceptional achiever at the 2023 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Examinations for the British Virgin Islands Seventh-day Adventist School. Notably, she garnered Grade Ones in all eleven subjects, a remarkable feat that firmly places her among the highest achievers in the history of the CSEC exams in the Virgin Islands.

Expressing her surprise at the outstanding results, the 17-year-old Williams attributed her success to her unwavering faith in God, which provided her with the fortitude and discernment to confront challenges and make prudent decisions. She also acknowledged the unwavering support of her parents, Jailann and Azim Williams, whose selfless

dedication and provision of a conducive learning environment enabled her to concentrate fully on her studies.

Having graduated as Valedictorian from both the BVI SDA School and the Agape Total Life Academy, Williams expressed her gratitude to the teachers at BVI SDA School for their guidance and belief in her capabilities, even during times of self-doubt. Principal Wade W. Tobin lauded Williams as a diligent, perceptive, and well-rounded student who excelled not only academically but also in extracurricular activities, particularly as a successful track athlete.

Presently pursuing an Associate's Degree in General Science at H. Laverty Stoutt Community College (HSCC), Williams contemplates a career in medicine, yet

remains open to exploring various avenues within the field. Encouraging her fellow students, she emphasized the importance of self-belief and seeking assistance when necessary, underscoring the significance of hard work and confidence in achieving academic success.

Additionally, Principal Tobin commended the efforts of the dedicated teachers at the school, acknowledging their pivotal role in nurturing the students. Notably, Angelique Gurley, Kaylah Vanterpool, Khemoe Foy Jr, Rhyann Prince, and Naomi Thompkins also distinguished themselves as top-performing students at the CSEC from the BVI SDA School, reflecting the institution's commitment to fostering academic excellence and holistic development.



# ALPHA CHI RHO MEMBERS GRADUATE IN FULL REGALIA AT BVI SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL LOCAL CHAPTER OF NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOUR SOCIETY CELEBRATES SECOND BATCH OF GRADUATES

Ysanna John

The British Virgin Islands Seventh-Day Adventist School proudly witnessed a historic moment as the graduating members of Alpha Chi Rho, the local chapter of the National English Honor Society for Secondary Schools (NEHS), donned their full regalia for the first time. In a remarkable display of academic achievement, the students adorned cords, medallions, and stoles featuring the society's distinguished insignia.

This momentous occasion marked the second batch of students graduating from the esteemed Alpha Chi Rho chapter, which was established under the guidance of lead advisor Mrs. Ysanna John, who played a pivotal role in spearheading the launch of the local chapter in September 2021, paving the way for students to receive recognition for their excellence in English and literature.

Alpha Chi Rho is the English-speaking Caribbean's only English Honor Society for High School students. Under the motto "Duty Goes Before Honor," the NEHS aims to acknowledge the remarkable accomplishments of students and faculty who excel in English and literature. Assistant Advisor, Mrs. Ann-Marie John was instrumental in providing a platform to students in their senior program to showcase their talents and abilities. The society



seeks to nurture their potential and create opportunities for grants and scholarships to pursue further studies.

The graduation ceremony was a sight as the graduating members proudly displayed their academic achievements through regalia. The cords, medallions, and stoles embellished with the society's insignia symbolised their dedication, hard work, and commitment to pursuing knowledge in English and literature. Of the 40 graduating seniors, 16 are members of the society, including the Valedictorian, Ms Aniyah Williams, Salutatorian, Ms. Naomi

Thompkins, Head boy Mr. Khemoe Foye jr, and chapter president and Head Girl, Ms. Angelique Gurley. Director of NEHS, Christopher Lockwood witnessed the ceremony via the school's Facebook page and congratulated the graduates. Additionally, the Education Director of The North Caribbean Conference of SDA, Mrs Gerene Joseph, NCC Secretary Wilmoth James, members of government and opposition, and members of the SDA family and other community members were in attendance to support and congratulate these students.

Beaming with pride, Mrs.

John expressed her joy at witnessing the success of the local chapter's second batch of graduates. She commended their diligence, passion, and unwavering dedication to studying English and Literature and highlighted the significance of the regalia, emphasising that it symbolises each graduate's exceptional achievements and potential.

The Alpha Chi Rho chapter of the National English Honor Society has recognised and celebrated academic excellence and fostered a sense of community among its members. The society has created a platform for students and faculty to collaborate, inspire one another, and contribute to the vibrant literary landscape of the British Virgin Islands and beyond.

As the graduating members of Alpha Chi Rho embark on their future endeavours, they carry with them the honour and distinction bestowed upon them by the NEHS. They joined their fellow graduates from around the world, who are part of this prestigious society. Their exemplary performance is a testament to the power of education and the transformative influence of language and literature.

The British Virgin Islands Seventh-Day Adventist School and the Alpha Chi Rho chapter congratulate the graduating members on their remarkable accomplishments. They extend their best wishes for continued success and a bright future filled with literary achievements and scholarly pursuits.

## ST. CROIX SDA STUDENTS EXCEL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS (UVI)



Gabrielle Rose



Anjeness Williams

The St. Croix SDA School continues its tradition of producing early admission students to the local university, the University of the Virgin Islands (U.V.I). Early admission is granted to students who excel in the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT). Such students are allowed to skip the Grade 12 year of high school and commence college a year earlier.

In 2022, Anjeness Williams and Gabrielle Rose received early admission to the U.V. I. Both students excelled in their first year of college and ended their freshman year with 30 college credits. Additionally,

both made the Dean's List, and were awarded the Barrett Frank Awards, which is presented to the two students with the highest overall Grade Point Average (GPA), with the greatest number of credits. Gabrielle achieved a GPA of 4.0 in her freshman year. Congratulations to both students!

This year the early admission students are Eden Smith and Leoyanna Raveriere. We wish them a successful freshman year! Kudos to Principal Jacinta Berthier and her staff for continued academic excellence at the St. Croix Seventh-day Adventist School.



Eden Smith



Leoyanna Raveriere

# ST. CROIX SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL PRODUCES ANOTHER STATE POETRY OUT LOUD CHAMPION



Annelia Graham, U.S. Virgin Islands State Poetry Out Loud Champion



Annelia Graham at Poetry Out Loud National Championship, Washington D.C.

Annelia N. Graham, a distinguished student at St. Croix Seventh-day Adventist School, represented the United States Virgin Islands at the 2023 National Championship of Poetry Out Loud. Annelia exemplifies the school's mission statement of 'Striving for Excellence.' Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that fosters the appreciation of great poetry by providing free educational materials and hosting a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the United States. This program assists students in mastering public speaking skills, building self-confidence, and deepening their understanding of literary history and contemporary life.

Annelia's journey in expressive poetry began by observing and assisting her cousin, Mahlana

Graham, a former student of St. Croix Seventh-day Adventist School and two-time U.S. Virgin Islands State Champion (2018, 2019). Inspired by Mahlana, Annelia honed her skills and participated in school recitals. In February 2023, she triumphed in her school-level competition and advanced to represent her school at the Territorial Championships held at the University of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix Campus. Competing against students from high schools across the U.S. Virgin Islands, Annelia performed before a panel of judges that included cultural icons, educators, and radio personalities. Her exceptional performance at the March 2023 Territorial Championship earned her the title of State Champion and the honor of representing her school and U.S. Virgin Islands at the National Championship held in Washington D.C. in May 2023.

Reflecting on her experience, Annelia remarked, "Like reading the Psalms, poetry uplifts and instills confidence in the reader, reciter, and listener. It is a medium that brings hope to all who engage in this form of expression." Poetry Out Loud has transformed Annelia from a usually shy and soft-spoken individual into someone who faces her fears and finds her voice through the process.

Besides poetry, Annelia enjoys various forms of creative expression, including drawing, painting, and singing. She attributes her creativity to divine inspiration and seeks to express her faith through her recitals and artistic endeavors.

RESOURCE

<https://www.poetryoutloud.org/>



**ST. CROIX SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL**  
"Striving For Excellence"



Guyana Academy Students Football Group



Guyana Seventh-day Adventist Academy\_s Football Team in Action

## GEORGETOWN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ACADEMY STEM INITIATIVE

The Georgetown Seventh-day Adventist Academy in its mandate to provide a curriculum that supports the all-round development of each student has restarted its choir and football clubs which were halted due to COVID. Additionally, in the coming weeks, the students will be involved in the robotics club as the school collaborates with STEM Guyana to heighten technological awareness.

Let's continue to keep the students, teachers and parents in our prayers.

## STUDENTS FROM THE ST. MAARTEN SDA PRIMARY SCHOOL EXCEL IN 2023 FBE EXAMS

The St. Maarten Seventh-day Adventist Primary school celebrates its excellent performance in General Knowledge and Mathematics in the 2023 Foundation-Based Education (FBE) Exams with 4 students achieving national recognition for their performance.

Every year, students from all primary schools on St. Maarten write the (FBE) Exams at the end of Grade 6. This summative standardized assessment is conducted in four subject areas – Mathematics, General Knowledge, English Language Arts and Dutch.

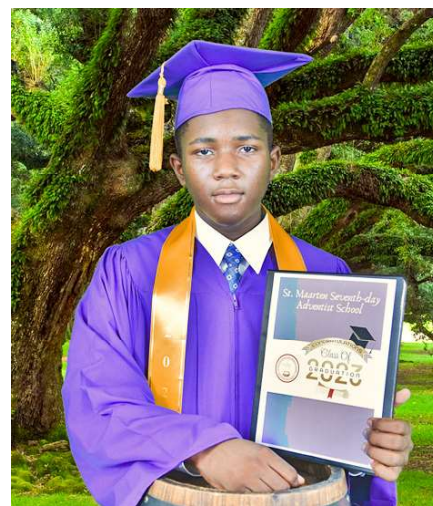
In General Knowledge, Amanda Olmos Montaya placed 1st with 92%; Kimarly Hughes placed 2nd with 87%; Jhavid Ramcharan placed 4th with 83%, and Gavin



Amanda Olmos Montoya (St Maarten SDA - Top student in General Knowledge Nationally - FBE Exams)

Hawkins placed 5th with 82% on the national level.

Also on the national level, Javid Ramcharan placed 3rd with 94% and Amanda Olmos Montaya placed 4th with 93% in Mathematics.



Jhavid Ramcharan - St Maarten - 3rd Place in Math nationally in FBE Exams

Congratulations to Principal Vera Illidge and the staff of the St. Maarten Seventh-day Adventist School for their outstanding performance, nationally, in Mathematics and General Knowledge!



Kiera Cox, Barbados SDA Student Shaving a Client



Barbados Woodwork Students at Work

## BARBADOS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SECONDARY SCHOOL CVQ PROGRAM

**Sandra Maughn, CVQ Coordinator  
Barbados SDA Secondary School**

In 2015, the Barbados Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School introduced The Caribbean Vocational Qualification program into its curriculum. This initiative was part of our effort to equip our students with skills in vocational areas, a fundamental part of what Seventh-day Adventist education refers to as 'The hand'. The program is an international one administered by the Ministry of Education and the TVET Council, with certification by CXC. All certification gained in secondary schools is at Level one or two, equivalent to any CSEC or CAPE certification. CVQs are competency-based, using evidence collected and practical assessments.

To offer quality Certification, the programs must adhere to International Health and Safety, Facilities, and Qualification Standards. No certification is offered where a centre fails to satisfy these standards. Therefore, we have constructed a centre dedicated to providing CVQ courses, making Barbados SDA Secondary School now an approved CVQ centre thus affording us the ability to instruct students in any CVQ we choose to. To date, seven staff members have been trained as Level 4 Assessors and instructors in Data Operations, Furniture Making, Food preparation and Cookery, Fabric Design and Barbering. However, there is additional work needed to complete the project.



Jade Willoughby - World Skill Competition

novel one which requires due diligence and commitment from the school, teacher, and student. Also, we hope to serve our Adventists by offering evening classes to train and retool those who want to make a career change or become certified in their area of expertise.



Barbados SDA Secondary School Students Spray Painting in workshop

In our continuing effort to rebrand and repackage as a school of excellence, we have been making changes to our facilities and introducing our students to careers where they can be equipped with skills as businesspeople and entrepreneurs. The idea of leaving school as a certified barber, chef or carpenter and going into business at the entry level is a

We are grateful for the input and assistance given over the past years by our varied sponsors and the administration. We must continue to improve our CVQ plant by completing construction projects and purchasing additional tools and equipment. We look forward to meeting this aspect of our vision and thank our community of supporters who continue to partner with us.

# CASHELLE CHALLENGER TRIUMPHS AS WINNER OF THE CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE 2022 TALENT PARADE

Carlotta Challenger



Cashelle Challenger

Cashelle Challenger, a distinguished student at Arthur Waldron SDA Academy, demonstrated exceptional talent and mastery of her craft as she emerged victorious at the prestigious Caribbean Union Conference 2022 Talent Parade for secondary schools on April 25, 2022. This remarkable achievement showcased her dedication and proficiency in the categories of prepared speech, impromptu speech, and talent performance.

Under the theme of "How can Cultural Diversity in the Inter American Division Advance the Mission of the Church in the English Speaking Caribbean," Cashelle Challenger delivered a thought-provoking prepared speech that exemplified her in-depth understanding of the role of cultural diversity in advancing the mission of the Church. Her eloquent and persuasive delivery demonstrated both her intellectual prowess and her dedication to the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist faith.

Furthermore, in the impromptu speech category, Cashelle displayed her remarkable ability to

think on her feet and articulate her insights on various aspects of the Inter-American Division. Her impromptu speech demonstrated her quick thinking, adaptability, and comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter.

Cashelle's talents extended beyond the realm of oratory as she took the stage to perform in the talent category. With a captivating and engaging presentation, she skillfully highlighted an aspect of the Inter American Division that resonated with the audience, leaving a lasting impression with her unique creative expression.

Cashelle's success at the Talent Parade is not only a personal triumph but also a source of pride for her family, school, and the church she represents. We commend Cashelle for her remarkable achievements and her unwavering commitment to promoting the values and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

You will enjoy her talent by clicking the link below.

[Cultural Worship -Cashelle Challenger - YouTube](#)



Cashelle Challenger



## "THROUGH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE."

Kim Harris, Parent  
Barbados SDA Schools

I have been profoundly blessed with two beautiful children, who have been guided by the principles of the Adventist faith and the nurturing environment of the SDA Primary and Secondary School. It was a divine intervention when a young lady, seemingly sent by the Lord, crossed my path at work. Her unwavering discipline, respect, confidence, and exemplary conduct captivated me from the start, leading us to form a close bond. As our friendship grew, she shared her experiences from the SDA Secondary School, igniting my desire for my children to receive the same education. Despite being a single parent with apprehensions, I was determined to make it happen.

My son Matthew flourished in the loving embrace of the Primary School, finding guidance in spiritual teachings that enriched his school life. Meanwhile, my elder son, Michael, entered the SDA Secondary School at the age of 11. It was during his 4th year, when he expressed

a keen interest in attending the Adventist Church. Eager to understand his newfound passion, I delved into the teachings myself, leading to a transformative experience for both of us, which culminated in our joint baptism.

I am deeply grateful to the Almighty for the SDA Secondary School and the dedicated educators who not only inspired my son but also empowered him to realize his true potential. Their selfless efforts included providing him with essential learning materials, textbooks, and unwavering support for his educational and spiritual growth. Notably, teachers like Mr. Hardy, Mrs. Cashier, Mrs. Haynes, Mrs. Jones, and Mrs. Maughn, the art teacher, played instrumental roles in his journey. Mrs. Maughn recognized his hidden talents early on and has continued to mentor and guide him to this day. From creating simple cartoon characters to mastering complex still life, images, and landscapes, my once average student has now embarked on a promising academic path. Currently, he is pursuing a degree in Fine Arts with a specialization in Graphic Design at the esteemed Barbados Community College, having recently completed his Associate degree.

Reflecting on our journey, I cannot help but offer unending gratitude to God for welcoming me and my children into His family, a testament to the transformative power of faith and education.



## ARTHUR WALDRON SDA ACADEMY EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS

Jeanette Barry

**T**he Arthur Waldron Seventh-day Adventist Academy staff in Dominica praise God for exceeding their expectations in the enrollment numbers for the new school year.

“Academic excellence in a spiritually charged environment” is the mantra at this noble institution where staff and students continuously put God to the test. At the end of last school year, 20% fewer students sat the grade 6 national assessment and the competition from other prestigious schools on the island posed a threat to the target registration goals of the school. As a result, there became a greater need to meet the quota for enrollment, and it became a pressing matter brought to God daily.

Registration opened on June 1, 2023, with a sporadic trickling in of students, while some expressed their interests using pre-registration Google documents forwarded by the staff. The team of dedicated educators presented this matter to God for the entire month during staff devotions and Wednesday noontime prayer sessions. Enrollment, marketing strategies and divine selection of the new

batch of students were among the items on that prayer list.

Given the odds, the school’s administrative assistant Mrs Mirium Leslie, expressed her lack of enthusiasm about the target number of 40 students and confessed, “At first I only prepared 40 folders as I awaited the registration of new entrants.”

Meanwhile, the Principal, Mrs Carlotta Challenger, decided to put God to the test, prepared for 50 students and later expressed, “It was evident God took charge of our registration this year.”

Initially, registration was set to close on July 15; however, On July 10, 62 students were registered, and registration was closed early for the first time in years. However, six students were later added to that number, bringing the total to 68.

The realization that God had exceeded their expectations brought great exhilaration and renewed energy among the school family as they pledged their dedication for another school year. On orientation day, August 31, parents and new students alike arrived with excitement as they saw their dream realized.

Sandy Lockhart, an ardent supporter of SDA education, was among the excited parents who walked through the gates that morning. She shared her satisfaction with the school and confidence in its ability to care for her child.

"I am a first time parent at the Arthur Waldron SDA Academy, and this school will always be my first choice for my daughter. From the day I enrolled her, my heart was in place knowing she is now in the hands of Godly, warm-hearted, kind and caring people." She stated

Arriving a few moments later, Darneel Leblanc, a new student and one of the top performers on the island, shared his excitement at a dream come true for himself and his family. "I am honoured to be enrolled at this school. I have always looked forward to this opportunity, and I am elated to be here, and the time spent there thus far has filled my heart with excitement and pride to be part of this noble institution."

This testimony of answered prayer was the springboard for the school's annual consecration service and inspired the new school year's theme, "Rooted and Grounded in Christ."

The aim is to continue to encourage every staff member, student and parent to draw closer to God so they can be used for his glory. The student population now stands at 249, and the institution continues to aggressively market and promote its programs and looks forward to expanding the facilities to accommodate more students.

To God be the glory.

## BVI SDA SCHOOL EMBARKS ON E-TESTING WITH ISPERA

Ysanna John

**B**VI SDA School, located in the British Virgin Islands, has recently embarked on a new chapter in education by introducing e-testing with Inspera. This innovative move is set to revolutionize the way students take tests and assessments, and it's generating a buzz among educators and students alike.

Gone are the days of traditional pen-and-paper exams, as e-testing allows students to take exams online using their laptops or tablets. This means that students can take exams from anywhere with an internet connection, making it easier for them to study and prepare for tests. Additionally, this method of testing is eco-friendly, reducing the amount of paper used for exams.

The use of Inspera e-testing software provides a range of benefits for both teachers and students. Teachers can create and administer tests quickly and easily, while also having access to a range of tools to monitor and evaluate student performance. The software also enables teachers to generate reports that provide detailed analysis of student performance, which can be used to identify areas where additional support may be needed.

For students, e-testing offers a more interactive and engaging experience than traditional testing methods. The software includes features such as audio and video clips, drag-and-drop exercises, and multiple-choice questions, which help to keep students engaged and focused during the test. Additionally,



BVI School - E-Testing

e-testing eliminates the possibility of errors caused by handwriting, ensuring that all answers are legible and easy to read.

Another benefit of this mode of testing is the potential to reduce the time taken to grade exams, allowing teachers to provide feedback to students more quickly. This not only helps students to improve their performance but also reduces the workload for teachers, enabling them to focus on other important tasks such as lesson planning and curriculum development.

Overall, the introduction of e-testing with Inspera is a significant step forward for BVI SDA School and education as a whole. This platform prepares the students for the CSEC experience, as it is the same one used by CXC for external examinations.

This innovative approach to testing is expected to enhance the learning experience for students, while also providing teachers with a range of tools to help them monitor and evaluate student performance. With e-testing, the future of education is bright, engaging, and eco-friendly.



# ARTHUR WALDRON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ACADEMY WINS THE NATIONAL GIRLS IN ICT CONTEST

Xanique Challenger & Mrs Jeannette Barry

**G**irls can play games too!" was the reaction of a female staff member of the Arthur Waldron Seventh-day Adventist Academy while celebrating the victory of the team of female students who represented the school at the Girls in ICT tournament on April 4, 2023, at the NTRC building in Roseau.

Xanique Challenger, Devina Telemacque, Mahalia Francis, Malia Bertrand and Evanna Magloire faced their competitors in a 2-hour coding battle as they played Infinite Inferno using the Code Combat platform. They

attribute their success to their technique of perfecting their coding skills before facing their competitors.

The competition was created in observance of Girls in ICT Day 2023. It aimed to increase the interest of females in computer science to fill the shortage in the field. The team was applauded for their interest and passion in Information Technology.

The girls are grateful for the opportunity to represent their school and thank God for His inspiration and their coach Mrs Michelle Valmond, for her support

and guidance.

"Our team was very proud of one another. We had outdone ourselves; our teamwork and sportsmanship had paid off", expressed Xanique Challenger.



Arthur Waldron won the National Girls in ICT contest



## AHEAD OF THE CURVE WITH THEIR NUTRITION POLICY: THE BRIDGETOWN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Karen E. Nurse

**W**hen the Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training released information about its new National School Nutrition Policy in Barbados, in April 2023, there was an overwhelming response of satisfaction, vindication and praise at the Bridgetown Seventh-day Adventist Primary School. Why? Because there was nothing in the government's policy that was unfamiliar to the institution, as it had already been implementing most of the same measures for many years!

In fact, while the nation's children were expressing a collective groan and many parents and teachers across the island were lamenting the extra effort to be

undertaken in implementing the government's policy, those at the S.D.A. schools in Barbados were praising God for the health message, as outlined by Mrs. Ellen G. White in 1863. Many of the healthy eating practices that the school usually requires of its students, were taken from the Spirit of Prophecy and have continued as part of the school's position on health reform, for its more than 100 years of existence.

"They teach us to avoid sweet snacks and drinks," one student stated, "No soda is allowed at our school...it's against the rules!"

Parents of the S.D.A Primary school were generally pleased that there was little change to the lunches of their children since

all of the students are already taught to choose healthy options on a daily basis. Additionally, as part of their requirements, the Ministry of Education has now added special days when only fruit and water are allowed as snack and drink on all school campuses. Yet the S.D.A school has already been having its very own Fruit and Water Day for about ten years! The school has been ahead of the curve in its unique policy on nutrition and the students have seen the benefits from these healthy measures.

This has been a strong testimony regarding the power of quality Adventist education to transform the lives of students, especially when it is paired with the wonderful principles of health.

# WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

Clara Buckmire-Bhola

Students support others with down syndrome wearing mismatched socks



Mt. Rose SDA students celebrate World Down Syndrome Day

**W**orld Down Syndrome Day is globally celebrated on March 21st each year. But what exactly is Down Syndrome? Down syndrome, also referred to as Down's syndrome, is a genetic condition characterized by the presence of an extra copy of the 21st chromosome, known as trisomy 21.

When a child is born with Down syndrome, it is often due to a failure of one of the chromosomes to separate properly during development. As a result, the child has three copies, or an additional partial copy, of chromosome 21, leading to challenges in both the physical and cognitive development of the brain and body. Typically, individuals with Down syndrome experience varying degrees of developmental disability, which can manifest as delays in both physical and mental growth, often falling within the mild to moderate range.

The cognitive and social development delays commonly result in impulsive behaviour,

reduced judgment, a shorter attention span, and a slower learning pace. In addition to these developmental challenges, people with Down syndrome are more susceptible to various medical complications, often facing issues such as respiratory, urinary tract, and skin infections.

Despite these hurdles, it has been observed that individuals with Down syndrome frequently achieve age-related milestones, albeit at a slower pace than their peers. Education plays a crucial role in the lives of these children, providing valuable opportunities for socialization and the development of essential life skills. It is essential to enroll them

in special schools tailored to their specific needs.

Children with Down syndrome are, in many ways, no different from their peers. They experience the same emotions, enjoy learning, playing, and engaging with life. They have a love for music and are highly sociable. It is crucial to treat individuals with Down syndrome with the same respect afforded to others, avoiding condescension, offensive language, or derogatory name-calling.

For parents and teachers caring for children with Down syndrome, providing opportunities for independent activities with proper guidance can significantly contribute to their development into capable and self-sufficient adults. While they may encounter unique challenges, a strong support network and understanding of their needs can help them thrive. Understanding, compassion, and a demonstration of God's love are pivotal in their journey towards a fulfilling life.

We are delighted to witness the supportive gesture of St. George's SDA Primary School students, who have displayed their solidarity with these individuals by wearing colourful socks, symbolizing the celebration of diversity and inclusivity.



St. Georges SDA Primary celebrates Down Syndrome Day

# THE SCENIC RAILWAY EXCURSION, ST. KITTS



**O**n the evening preceding the midterm break, Thursday, October 27th, 2022, a spirited group of 430 staff members, parents, and eager students embarked on a captivating railway excursion around the island. The expedition was divided into two parts: the initial leg involved a delightful

bus ride, while the latter segment offered a picturesque journey aboard the scenic railway train.

Amidst the awe-inspiring natural splendour, the students were particularly enthralled, their enthusiasm palpable as they immersed themselves in the breathtaking surroundings. This excursion

served as a unique learning opportunity, with our knowledgeable tour guides enriching the experience by imparting a wealth of information about our illustrious history. Undoubtedly, the entire endeavour left an indelible mark, etching cherished memories in the hearts of all those who participated."



# STUDENTS FROM NCC SCHOOLS IMPACT THEIR COMMUNITIES FOR CHRIST

The schools in the North Caribbean Conference continue to transform lives and impact communities for Christ. The St. Thomas/St. John SDA School embraced the challenge of sharing the gospel by distributing 165 copies of the book *The Great Controversy* to the community. This was a part of the Schools' Day of Prayer activities.

In addition, the St. Thomas/St. John SDA Future Farmers of America Club presented vertical planter systems to residents of the Celestino White Senior Residence Facility. Seven vertical planter systems complete with wheels for easy mobility were given to the residents. Planters were supplied with compost augmented potting soil, tomato seedlings, bunching onions, carrot and beet seeds and dwarf cucumber seedlings. Funding for this project was obtained from a Year Long Living to Serve Grant from the Future Farmers of America organization, of which the St. Thomas/St. John SDA School is a member.



SXM - GRADE 6 - Ministry to Seniors

Commendably, the St. Maarten SDA Class of 2023, along with their teachers, prepared, packaged and served food to the Seniors at the Red Cross Seniors Dwelling. They also capitalized on the opportunity to sing songs and read scripture to the residents. Not to be outdone, the St. Croix Senior Class of 2023 provided a hot meal for the nurses in the Pediatric Unit of the Juan Luis Medical Center. This gesture was highly appreciated.

Meanwhile, the St. Eustatius SDA School impacted the community by cultivating and selling organic agricultural produce. Their harvest, which included watermelons, sweet potatoes and sweet peppers, was insufficient to meet the demand of the general public who were eager to support our school, while at the time enjoying healthy organic locally grown produce.

Notably, the St. Croix SDA School



St. Thomas School distribution of the Great Controversy



St. Croix School Agri Fair Winner



St. Croix School Agri Fair Winner



St. Croix School Agri Fair Winner

participated in the 51st Annual Agricultural and Food Fair of the U.S. Virgin Islands and left an insatiable taste for excellence in the hearts of patrons, by their amazing and innovative creations. This year the school distinguished itself by clinching top places in the Poetry, Art, Essay and Booth

Display segments of the Fair.

As a result of an impactful Week of Prayer, conducted at the British Virgin Islands Seventh-day Adventist School, six (6) high school students gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized. That school also continues with its

weekly AJY Program nurturing young lives for Christ.

Congratulations to all our principals for making community service in their schools, priority.



St Eustatius School Garden Market



St. Croix Agri Fair Winner



St. Croix Agri Fair Winner



St Thomas School Students distribute vertical planters to seniors

# GLORY DAYS IN THE GARDEN AT ST. KITTS SDA PRIMARY SCHOOL

St. Kitts SDA Primary School



Cultivating agricultural products has long been a persistent objective of our institution, yet achieving success in this endeavour has presented formidable challenges. The relentless tropical heat, coupled with prolonged drought periods, has significantly impeded our cash crop yields, resulting in modest harvests. Compounding this issue is the escalating monkey population, posing as a primary menace, voraciously consuming the fruits of our diligent cultivation efforts.

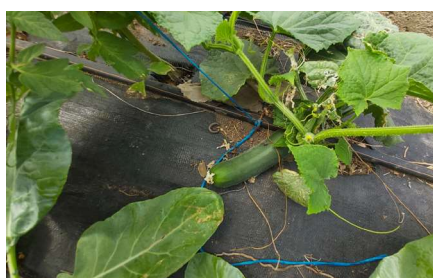
In January 2023, Mr. Elliott, a committed parent and ardent supporter of our school, offered

invaluable advice on effectively managing the threat posed by the monkeys. Consequently, we procured fencing wire, encompassing a land area measuring approximately fifteen meters in length and four meters in width. To further fortify our defenses, we implemented overhead fencing, thwarting any attempts by the monkeys to infiltrate our crops. Additionally, a drip irrigation system was installed, ensuring optimal soil moisture levels for our cultivated plants.

In April 2023, the fruits of our labor began to materialize, as our garden yielded an impressive array of produce, including sweet

corn, sweet peppers, broccoli, cucumbers, eggplant, cauliflower, and lettuce. Much of this bountiful harvest was made available for purchase by our dedicated staff members, resulting in sales exceeding three hundred dollars. Furthermore, a portion of the produce was channeled into our cafeteria, enhancing the quality of meals prepared for both our students and staff."

The school is resolute in its commitment to expanding our garden project in the upcoming academic year, allocating a larger plot of land to further our agricultural pursuits.





## VALUE-ADDED AT HARMON SCHOOL OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS, TOBAGO

Shennel Ross-Ottley,  
Principal of Harmon School



**A**t Harmon School of Seventh-day Adventists, we firmly believe that it is our duty to contribute to God's cause by providing immense value to the lives of young people and their families. For over seventy years, our school in Tobago has utilized its limited resources to assist students in making significant strides in both their spiritual and academic journeys. This unwavering commitment to excellence has not gone unnoticed, as it has been recognized and highlighted by the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Education Secondary School Value-added Programme.

The national value-added programme is led by a dedicated research team at the Ministry of Education. This team meticulously measures the progress made by each student at Harmon School, from the moment they join our institution until they are assessed using the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate Examination (CSEC). By comparing this progress to that of similar students, we are able to accurately gauge the value we

add to their educational journey.

Our dedication to providing value-added education sets us apart from other institutions. We understand that education is not solely about imparting knowledge, but also about nurturing the spiritual growth and overall development of our students. Thus, through our limited resources, we have created an environment that fosters both academic and spiritual growth, enabling our students to excel in all aspects of their lives.

It was indeed a milestone and a privilege, as a principal, to have been recognized and acknowledged by the Ministry, in the presence of the principals of the other schools on the island. I was elated to be afforded the opportunity to share with these school leaders the methods used by the school to achieve this goal. I embraced this opportunity to give God all the praise and glory because this recognition from the Ministry of Education is a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence. It

serves as validation that our efforts to add value to the lives of our students have not gone unnoticed. We are proud to be acknowledged for our dedication and the positive impact we have on the educational journeys of our students.

As we continue to move forward, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide value-added education to the young minds entrusted to our care. We strive to equip them with the necessary tools and knowledge to succeed academically, spiritually, and in their future endeavors. God's name continues to be praised!



Shennel Ross-Ottley



STEM TEAM at the Wesport SDA Primary School



STEM Virtual Expo

## STEM IN THE SOUTH CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE

Casford Francis and Juliet St. Rose Wong Chong

Leo Tolstoy, the wise philosopher, once remarked, "Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself." This saying resonates deeply with our journey of introducing STEM education at Wesport SDA Primary. It all began during a regular professional

learning community (PLC) meeting in the midst of the tumultuous year that was 2020, where we faced the formidable challenge of addressing learning gaps, particularly in problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity.

As a solution, our PLC, brimming with determination, embarked on a mission to leverage problem-based learning and the STEM approach. Now, what is STEM, you may ask? STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math – subjects tightly knit by their shared commitment to innovation, problem-solving, and the use of the scientific method.

The benefits of STEM are nothing short of extraordinary. It nurtures innovative thinking, encourages curiosity, and inspires creativity and ingenuity. It fosters collaboration and communication skills, builds confidence, and teaches the invaluable lesson that failure is a stepping stone to success. Moreover, it equips our students for the high-demand careers of tomorrow.

Our school wholeheartedly embraced the STEM approach, with every student engaging in diverse science projects. Even amid the challenges of online learning, STEM became the glue that bound students, parents, and teachers together. The remarkable success of this initiative did not go unnoticed. The Education Department of the South Caribbean Conference recognized its potential and decided to extend project-based learning to other schools.

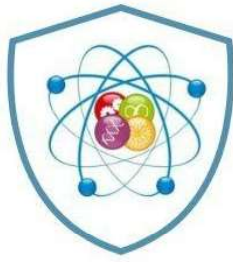
The apex of this endeavour was the STEM Agriscience Expo on December 9th, 2021, where Rio Claro SDA, Wesport SDA, Port of Spain SDA, and Pinehaven SDA came together for a webinar with space for 500 eager participants. STEM projects continued to flourish, permeating subjects like science, social studies, and music, enriching our children's creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.

Pivotal figures in this journey were our dedicated STEM Education coordinators. Their



STEM- Student project at the Wesport SDA Primary School





WESPORT S.D.A PRIMARY

**STEM**

Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

**EXPO**

Wed 8th March 2023

1pm

STEM poster - Wesport SDA Primary SCC

unwavering support inspired teachers, leading to fresh ideas and innovative solutions. Surprisingly, it was the most challenging moments that proved most fruitful, prompting the creation of new teaching tools and strategies to make STEM education more accessible.

This venture did not just elevate teacher confidence; it also left parents thoroughly satisfied and they too, started participating in STEM projects alongside their children. As a result, many students not only improved their performance across the curriculum but also discovered how STEM connected them to the broader world beyond the classroom.

Tolstoy's wisdom is really embedded in God's wisdom which facilitates positive changes at the individual and collective levels. We have not only strived to change the world but also to change ourselves. STEM education at Wesport SDA Primary has not just been a programme; it has been a transformative journey of growth, collaboration, and boundless possibilities.

## "HATS OFF TO READING" IGNITES LITERARY PASSION AT MT. ROSE SDA PRIMARY SCHOOL, GRENADA



Hats off to Reading Mt. Rose

In an era where digital screens often dominate, Mt. Rose SDA Primary School reaffirms its steadfast commitment to nurturing a spiritually invigorating environment and an academically enriched one for its students. This initiative was especially evident during the 2022-2023 school year when the Language Department spearheaded several ingenious reading initiatives. These activities, including the "Boys Can Read" and "Girls Can Read" competitions, were designed to

enhance literacy skills and foster a love for reading among students.

Perhaps the most intriguing of these initiatives was a special event titled "Hats Off to Reading." This uniquely crafted reading day was centred on encouraging all students to immerse themselves in the beautiful world of books. In addition to embedding fun into the noble act of reading, this event also served as a platform for students and staff to showcase their creativity.



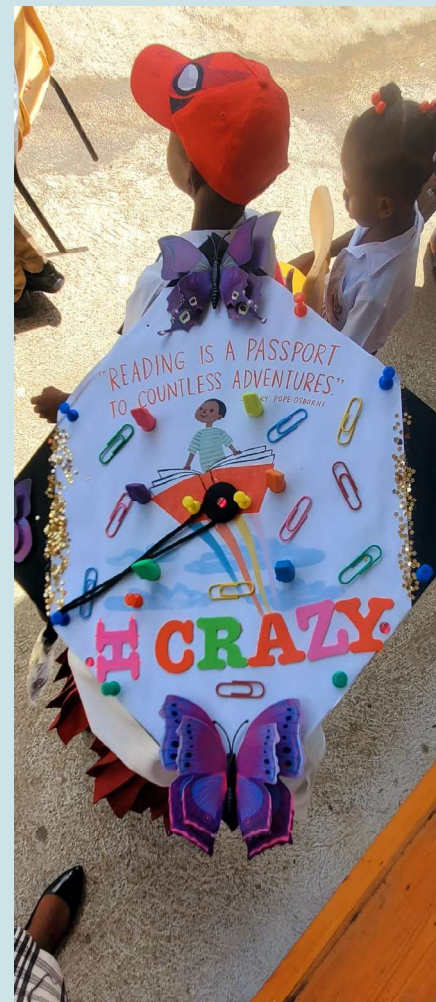
Hats off to Reading Mt. Rose

On the event day, there was a bustle of excitement as students and staff members put on decorative hats, each adorned with inspiring reading messages, showcasing their artistic flair and support for the literary cause. The hats became more than just accessories; they were symbolic affirmations of the collective commitment to promote reading. Students were free to select books of their choice, diving into diverse worlds and adventures through the pages of each book. The joyous echo of pages turning and excited whispers about plot twists and intriguing characters filled the air as each participant was engrossed in their chosen literary journey.



The “Hats Off to Reading” day was more than just an event; it embodied Mt. Rose SDA Primary School’s holistic approach to education. By marrying creativity with literacy, the school promoted academic excellence and provided a nurturing space where students could explore, learn, and grow

multi-dimensionally. This innovative initiative affirmed that Mt. Rose SDA Primary School remains an institution that prides itself on forging paths that cater to the all-encompassing development of its students



## BVI SDA SCHOOL’S ENGLISH TEACHER, YSANNA JOHN, LEADS TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION

NCC Staff

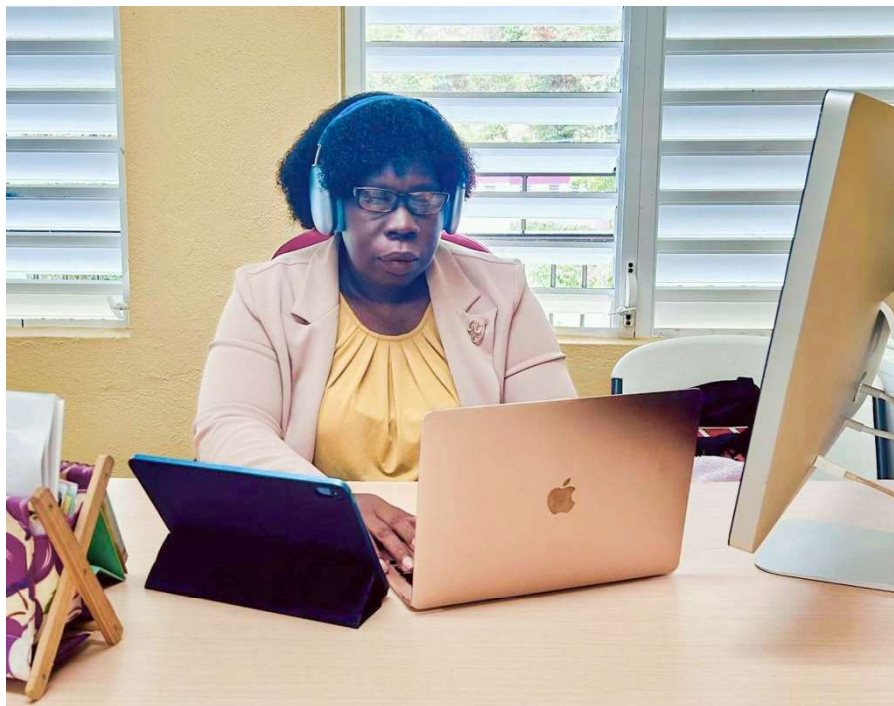
**B**ritish Virgin Islands (BVI), September 25, 2023 - In the picturesque landscape of the British Virgin Islands, where the turquoise waters meet the azure skies, a teacher has been making waves of a different kind. Mrs. Ysanna John, an English teacher at the BVI SDA School, has not only embraced the world of artificial intelligence (AI), Python coding, robotics, and e-commerce but has also become a trailblazer in integrating technology into education. Mrs. John’s remarkable journey from teaching English to becoming a certified educator in AI, robotics, and Python is nothing short of inspiring.

As the Chair of the Technology department at the BVI SDA School, Mrs. John has been instrumental in driving innovation and empowering both students and faculty members to harness the potential of current technology tools. Her passion for technology led her to recently complete an international boot camp with Stempedia, where she gained expertise in robotics, AI, and Python coding. Mrs. John has not only interacted with the python language of coding, but also has experience in HTML and CSS, and has recently participated, along with five of her students in a regional boot camp focused

on cybersecurity, AI, coding, e-commerce, web development, and app development, further expanding her technological skill set. Mrs. John is no stranger to technological devices, and attributed her blossoming interest in coding to her son, Soneé, who started his technological journey in Primary school and is now an accomplished Software Engineer iOS/macOS/watchOS).

One of her proudest accomplishments is earning the title of a certified AI, robotics, and Python educator, capturing the coveted badge of distinction from Stempedia that she proudly displays. Mrs. John is a

firm believer in the importance of staying current in the ever-evolving field of technology, and she considers herself a lifelong learner, and gives all praise to God for equipping her with the skills, will and ability to expand in this field. Mrs. John also extends gratitude to The Board of Management, Principal Wade Tobin, the faculty and staff, students and parents of The British Virgin Islands Seventh-day Adventist School for their support and encouragement. She attributes her tenacity to lifelong learning to her late father, Ezekiel Arthur, who passed away last March, and endeavors to continue learning to embrace the legacy which he has bequeathed to her.



Ysanna John - BVI Teacher who Excel in IT

A native of St. Vincent and The Grenadines, and originally hired by the North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventist as an English teacher, Mrs. John's journey into the technological world is a testament to her dedication and adaptability. Currently the lead advisor of Alpha Chi Rho, the school's local chapter of The US-based National English Honor Society for Secondary Schools, Mrs. John has demonstrated that learning is indeed an integration of many facets of one's existence. Her transition from teaching literature to exploring the world of AI and robotics has not only transformed her own career but has also revolutionized the educational experience for her students.

During the challenging COVID-19 pandemic, Mrs. John demonstrated exceptional leadership skills. She led her team in equipping students and staff with the necessary tools in Google Suite for Education, making the BVI SDA School the first in the territory to be fully online just three days into the

lockdown period. Her proactive approach ensured that learning continued uninterrupted, even in the face of adversity. Mrs. John believes that when everyone is encouraged to "think outside of the box", she repurposes the box into something useful.

Mrs. John's innovative spirit extends beyond the realm of AI and robotics. She is a proponent of augmented reality and has leveraged technology to enhance students' writing skills. Thanks to her guidance, the school can proudly claim 17 published authors among its students, and all Grade 8 students are currently building their own websites as part of their curriculum. Additionally, a class podcast, Literature Circles (A Cow Called Boy), which she developed, is still available on Amazon Music, Spotify and Anchor. This podcast has beamed the voice of The BVI SDA School to over 20 countries, including The US, Spain, France and Egypt. It is her desire to secure sponsorship to expand the podcast, and to implement a robust technology program not only in her school, but across

The North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and possibly beyond.

Her dedication to embracing technology and her unwavering commitment to the holistic development of her students and fellow educators have made Mrs. Ysanna John a true pioneer in the field of education. Her story serves as an inspiration not only to her school community but also to educators worldwide who aim to harness the power of technology for the betterment of education. Due to her outstanding ability to navigate technology within her school environment, Mrs. John has been nicknamed "Ms. GPS" by her students.

As Mrs. John continues her journey of exploration and learning in the world of technology, her impact on education in the British Virgin Islands and beyond is sure to be profound and lasting. She stands as a shining example of the transformative power of innovation and dedication in the field of education.

# NCC TEACHERS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Mrs. Gerene Joseph



Kiene-Ann Philip  
NCC High School Teacher of the Year



Josephine Thomas-Lewis  
NCC Primary School Teacher of the Year

The North Caribbean Conference Education Department embraces a paramount strategic aspiration: to honor and elevate excellence within the realm of education. In pursuit of this noble objective, the department inaugurated the Teacher of the Year Award in the year 2020. This accolade stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment and remarkable contributions of educators to the realm of Adventist Education.

In the resplendent ceremony that unfolded on April 27th of this year, a sense of grandeur and significance prevailed. The virtual stage was graced by three illustrious primary school nominees and three equally outstanding high school nominees, each poised to claim the prestigious title of Teacher of the Year in their respective echelons.

The virtual realm was electrified by the stirring performance of Ms. Coleen Liburd, a parent hailing from the St. Croix SDA School, whose powerful rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner resonated with unparalleled

vigor. Then came Mr. Gulchrist Sprauve, an esteemed alumnus of the St. Thomas/St. John SDA School, whose original musical composition, “I Could Learn if you Teach Me,” captivated the audience’s hearts. Lastly, Ms. Karis George, a former educator of the St. Thomas/St. John SDA School, captivated the gathering with her eloquent spoken word piece titled “We Teach.”

The ceremony brimmed with congratulatory messages from esteemed individuals, including Dr. Daphney Magloire, the Caribbean Union Education Director, and Pastor Desmond James, President of the North Caribbean Conference. Dr. Magloire’s commendations extended beyond the nominees to encompass all teachers within the NCC, recognizing them as the very backbone of the educational system. She hailed the nominees’ dedication and hard work, emphasizing their inspirational role and expressing excitement for their future endeavors.

President James, in a similar vein, paid homage not only to the nominees but to the entire teaching profession.

He underscored the profound influence teachers wield in shaping the future of the church and the broader generation. His gratitude was palpable as he acknowledged their pervasive impact through their unwavering dedication to inspiring others to learn.

The keynote address, delivered by Mrs. Lisa Boucaud-Bramble, Assistant Education Director and Director of ECCE at the South Caribbean Conference, centered on “Jesus the Teacher Par Excellence.” She fervently challenged educators to emulate the example set by Jesus, the Master Teacher, by meeting students where they are, providing education for life rather than abstract training, fostering person-centered education, honoring both established truth and innovation, and nurturing a sense of community. Mrs. Bramble underscored that the influence of a great teacher leaves an indelible mark, shaping young minds not only through the knowledge imparted but also by serving as an inspirational role model.

As the evening culminated, Mrs. Josephine Thomas-Lewis from the St. Croix SDA School claimed the coveted title of the 2023 NCC Primary School Teacher of the Year, while Mrs. Kiene-Ann Philip from the St. Thomas/St. John SDA High School earned the distinguished honor of being named the 2023 NCC High School Teacher of the Year. Each recipient was bestowed with a \$1,000 cash prize and a Certificate of Achievement.

Additionally, the event celebrated other remarkable nominees, including Mrs. Ysanna John of the British Virgin Islands SDA School, Mrs. Hester Philbert of the St. Croix SDA School, Mrs. Debora Hinckson of the St. Eustatius SDA School, and Mrs. Yasheika Hunter

of the St. Maarten SDA Primary School, each of whom received a \$300 cash award and a Certificate of Achievement, recognizing their outstanding contributions to Adventist Education.

We wholeheartedly express our deepest gratitude to the exceptional principals of our esteemed schools, whose unwavering support has been the bedrock of this year's Teacher of the Year Award program. Their dedication and commitment have illuminated the path to excellence, ensuring the success of this significant endeavor.

Mr. Wade Tobin, the embodiment of warmth and hospitality, graced us with his heartfelt welcome, setting the tone for the evening's festivities. Ms. Renee Hodge, a vibrant force of energy,

introduced our esteemed keynote speaker with an exuberance that electrified the atmosphere, igniting our spirits.

The virtual stage was graced by the eloquence of Ms. Jacinta Berthier, who artfully presented the profiles of our high school nominees, weaving their stories into a tapestry of inspiration. Ms. Vera Illidge, a creative virtuoso, skillfully introduced our primary school nominees, bringing their unique qualities to life with eloquent strokes of description.

A special moment of reverence and connection was led by Ms. Laverne David, whose fervent prayer of blessing enveloped all the teachers of the North Caribbean Conference in a mantle of divine grace and guidance.

To the esteemed leadership of the North Caribbean Conference, including President Desmond James, Executive Secretary Pastor Wilmoth James, and Treasurer Sanida McKenzie, we extend our profound gratitude. Your visionary guidance and unwavering support have been instrumental in the realization of this remarkable event, reflecting the conference's commitment to excellence in education.

Lastly, we offer heartfelt thanks to Pastor Earl Esdaile, the Board Chair of the St. Croix SDA School for his invaluable contribution, which has enriched the fabric of this auspicious occasion. Together, we have celebrated the dedicated educators who shape the future with their wisdom, compassion, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

## ST. KITTS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL BLITZ

**O**n a Sabbath in June, 2023, more than three hundred individuals, including staff, students, and parents, embarked on a journey to eight different congregations with the purpose of joining the regular members of these churches in their worship sessions.

The group of students had been eagerly anticipating the chance to organize a program in one of the local churches. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the

usual routines, preventing them from realizing this opportunity.

On that sabbath, Students from all classes, even those in Kindergarten, enthusiastically embraced the chance to learn their roles and dedicated themselves to consistent practice in order to master their assigned parts.

Remarkably, over 30 non-Adventist parents enthusiastically participated in this unique experience.



# ECC'S KIDS CAN COOK

Andrea Hudson-Hoyte

The Education Department of the East Caribbean Conference has undertaken a remarkable initiative reflecting our ongoing commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles among children. We are excited to introduce “Kids Can Cook,” a virtual cooking class that has taken our efforts to a new level.

Its inaugural series, “Kids Can Cook”, aimed to empower young participants with culinary skills and encourage them to embrace a nutritious lifestyle. Hosted by our visionary Education Director, Andrea Hudson-Hoyte, who conceptualised this programme, these Sunday afternoon sessions were more than just cooking classes. They provided attendees with diverse recipes, including breakfast, lunch, and desserts. Moreover, each session included valuable nutritional insights about the dishes prepared and essential cooking guidelines. The dishes prepared in the first series are Overnight Oats, Pinwheel



Nia Sealy ECC Kids Can Cook Project

Sandwiches, Fruit Smoothie, Hummus, Oat Protein Balls, Banana Ice Cream, Parfait, and Tossed Salad.

Beyond the culinary aspect, “Kids Can Cook” also nurtures another important goal—instilling a sense of responsibility and helpfulness in children within their homes. As they gain independence in the kitchen, these young chefs can actively contribute to meal preparation, thus fostering valuable life skills.

Notably, this program aligns seamlessly with the Barbados Ministry of Education’s recent rollout of its Nutritional Policy, which underscores the importance of healthy eating practices in our nation’s

schools. “Kids Can Cook” plays an instrumental role in complementing these efforts and promoting a culture of well-being among our youth.

One of the most remarkable aspects of “Kids Can Cook” is its global reach. We were thrilled to welcome participants from our local region and diverse corners of the world, including Zambia, England, the USA, Canada, and our regional neighbours such as Guyana, Trinidad, Jamaica, Grenada, and the Virgin Islands. This international engagement underscores the universal importance of fostering culinary and nutritional literacy among the youth.

During the inaugural session, the President of ECC, Ps Anthony Hall, shared his insights with our young chefs. He emphasised the significance of both girls and boys learning to cook and commended our Education Director for her proactive approach to educating children about healthy eating. Ps. Hall also expressed his commitment to demonstrate creative ways of using vegetables to create wholesome and delicious dishes.

We are genuinely proud of the success and impact of “Kids Can Cook” and look forward to further enriching the lives of children through culinary education and healthy living.



Nia Sealy participating in ECC Kids Can Cook

# GRANT PROPOSAL WRITING

**O**n April 25, 2023, the first cohort of trainees began their six-week journey writing grant proposals. The strategy aimed to train at least two school employees by December 2023. The thrust of the initiative is to develop sustainable income for the schools and expand the technical, vocational,

and technology opportunities. On September 28, 2023, twenty-three participants from the first cohort graduated from the programme after completing a grant proposal ready for submission. Another 25 participants will graduate from the second cohort later this year.

Additionally, three participants completed the grant writing training with the Adventist Development Relief Agency department of the Caribbean Union Conference in September 2023.



Grant Writing Proposal 2023 Graduates

## SUCCESSFUL GRANTS

**W**e are pleased to announce that St. Lucia SDA Academy, Arthur Waldron SDA Academy, and Temple SDA Primary School have each been awarded a grant of US\$10,000 from a United States-based foundation. These funds will be utilised to enhance various aspects of education - aquaponics, STEM Education, and agriculture. We congratulate each of these institutions on their remarkable achievement and look forward to witnessing these initiatives' positive impact on the schools.





Elias Zabala

## FINANCE ADVISORY AND FINANCIAL OFFICERS' COMMUNITY

Education Department, CARU

Capacity building remains a critical strategic objective, forming the bedrock of the development and empowerment of individuals within our professional work environment.

In pursuit of this goal, the department has initiated a comprehensive series of monthly professional development sessions aimed at enriching our Business Managers and Treasurers. These sessions have already commenced, covering a diverse spectrum of crucial topics. Notably, Sherlene Edwards

spearheaded an enlightening presentation on 'Preparing for Audit,' where she generously offered her expertise to assist schools with their audit records as needed. Following this, Avionne Parris and her team delivered a compelling presentation on 'Developing Realistic Projects and Programmes for Income Generation.' Additionally, we were privileged to host Dr. Elias Zabala from the Atlantic Union Conference in North America, whose valuable insights have contributed significantly to the expansion of our knowledge base. Dr. Zabala's guidance is

paramount in our ongoing efforts to refine the practices within our department.

Moreover, the Finance Advisory Committee has conscientiously convened to provide guidance and oversight during the current period. It has meticulously charted a strategic roadmap, which, upon ratification by the Education Board, will be disseminated for implementation. This roadmap stands as an integral tool in steering our department toward the achievement of long-term financial sustainability.

## CHAPLAINS' WORKSHOP

Education Department, CARU

On February 9, 2023, Dr. Ivan Omana, the General Conference Chaplaincy Director conducted a chaplaincy workshop with chaplains across the Caribbean Union Conference.

The session was facilitated To enhance the skills and knowledge of school chaplains with an aim was to empower them with the tools and insights

they need to excel in their vital roles. Dr. Omana, renowned for his expertise and leadership in the field of chaplaincy brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the session, resulting in an immensely successful training. The eagerly anticipated event exceeded expectations as it unfolded with remarkable enthusiasm and engagement.

This chaplaincy training session emphasizes the dedication of the Education Department to fostering excellent school chaplaincy. As these dedicated professionals continue their essential work in nurturing students' spiritual and emotional well-being, their enhanced skills and knowledge will undoubtedly have a positive and lasting impact on the educational experience.



# STRATEGY IS KEY!

Allison Baird and Jamila Nicholls, Tobago Mission

We are counseled, in the book *Child Guidance* that “Children of eight, ten and twelve years are old enough to be addressed on the subject of personal religion. . . If properly instructed, very young children may have correct views . . . of the way to salvation” (pp.490-491). This is why the Tobago Mission of Seventh-day Adventists sees the area of Bible Instruction as the most important aspect of the school’s curriculum.

At each of the five schools, students are taught from the Word of God daily. This practice is hinged on the aim to introduce the little ones to Jesus to eventually make a decision for baptism. To accomplish this goal, Chaplain Allison Baird has developed a structured program within the last few years, which has yielded many souls for the Kingdom. At the primary school, beginning at the Infant and Standard 1 level, Bible stories come alive, as the lessons that can be learned from each Bible character are highlighted. At the higher levels, eight and nine year old students are introduced to a series called “The Children’s Bible Lessons”. It comprises 14, simple and easy to read, lessons that introduce the

students to some of the Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in a very simple way. These lessons have proven to be very exciting for the students and are repeated with the aim of deepening the truths found in the Word of God.

When approached on the subject of baptism, by the chaplain, students who desire to follow the example of Jesus are invited to join the baptismal class, where extra time is spent on fielding questions and teaching more about the beliefs of the church and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The students are encouraged to have conversations with their parents once they show interest in baptism. This is followed by a call from the principal and the chaplain to the parents of interested students, and then a visit to said parents.

At these visits, parents are encouraged to support, pray with and for their children. Students are then baptized, only after their parents and guardians give consent. There is always great rejoicing by the school family when a student makes such a decision, however not every student is allowed, by their parents, to be baptized in the first instance. In



Tobago Mission School Baptism

these cases, the students remain in the baptismal class, where they continue to learn from God’s word until they are allowed to.

Tobago Mission has seen the fruit of this strategic approach, especially in its last baptismal blitz. In comparison to years gone by our baptismal numbers have tripled. In the last school year we had a total of 30 students being baptized as compared to ten (10) in the last. To God be the glory as we strive to see all our children in heaven!



Scarborough Primary Students Ready for Baptism



**GOAL:**  
Refocus on the distinctiveness of Seventh-day Adventism at the schools and encourage the church members to embrace Adventist education.

# RENEWED FAITH AND COMMITMENT AT GRENADA'S MT. ROSE SDA PRIMARY SCHOOL: TUCK-SHOP MATRON EMBRACES A SPIRITED JOURNEY

**Mrs. Roberts, Principal, Mt. Rose SDA School**

In the embrace of the academic and spiritual nurturing environment of Mt. Rose SDA Primary School, the 2022-2023 school year witnessed a soul-stirring journey of recommitment to God. Mrs. Trina Wellington, the beloved tuck-shop matron, illuminated the school's corridors with her renewed faith and surrender to a life steeped in Christ's teachings.

Throughout the successful school year, the divine presence permeated every nook and cranny of the institution, unfurling its grace upon the academic and spiritual domains of school life.

Students and staff experienced an enriching environment where educational pursuits and spiritual growth harmoniously intertwined, fostering a community where each member thrived holistically. Mrs. Wellington, who had once distanced herself from a whole-hearted life with Christ, gracefully chose to embark on a transformative journey back into His welcoming arms. Her story of drifting and returning wove an inspiring tapestry of faith, redemption, and hope, demonstrating that it is never too late to seek a path back to spiritual nourishment.



Trina Wellington

## NURTURING FAITH-BASED EDUCATION THROUGH INNOVATIVE PRACTICES: THE HYBRID EXPERIENCE SERIES

**Casford Francis, School Supervisor  
South Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventist**

In the ever-evolving landscape of education in the twenty-first century, the Seventh-day Adventist system stands firm in its belief that blending traditional faith-based teaching with cutting-edge research-based curriculum delivery is feasible and highly advantageous. This approach ensures that our students are well-prepared to confront today's complex educational, societal, and spiritual challenges.

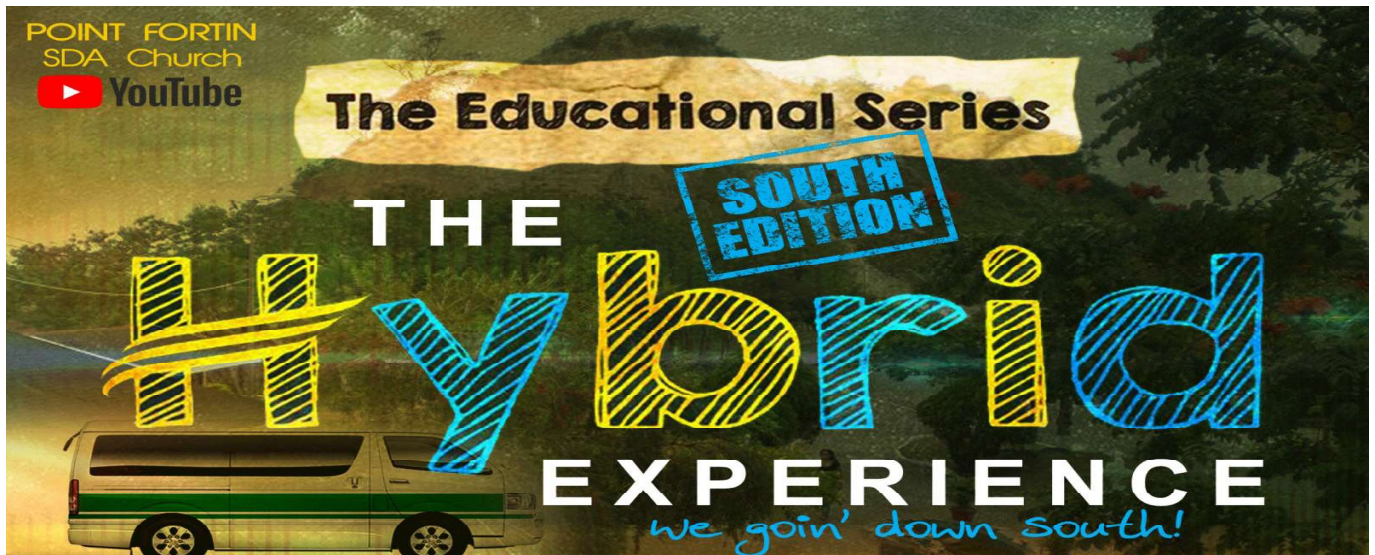
To disseminate and promote this educational philosophy, the Education Department of the South Caribbean Conference proudly presented the inaugural "Hybrid Experience" educational series in collaboration with

the Five Rivers Seventh-Day Adventist Church. This event, streamed live on the Five Rivers S.D.A. church YouTube channel from June 26 to June 27, 2021, showcased the educational prowess of the South Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The primary objective of this series was to provide invaluable insights to parents and students navigating the challenges of education amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the rapidly evolving educational landscape. By doing so, we aimed to answer the global call for enhancing the teaching and learning processes, in line with Christ's mandate to Seventh-day Adventist educators,

who beckons us in the third angel's message, reminding us of His imminent return.

Continuing its mission, "The Hybrid Experience Series" returned from July 28 to July 30, 2023, hosted on the Point Fortin S.D.A. church YouTube channel. This edition placed a spotlight on the accomplishments of the South Caribbean Conference's Education Department, particularly highlighting the efforts of south-based schools, including Rio Claro S.D.A. primary school, Erin S.D.A. primary school, Point Fortin S.D.A. primary school, Siparia S.D.A. primary school, Southern Academy of S.D.A., and San Fernando S.D.A. primary school.



SCC Hybrid Experience Convention (South Edition)

The series maintained its commitment to presenting the Seventh-day Adventist education philosophy, complemented by soul-stirring musical performances by talented students from these institutions. Furthermore, it featured a dedicated segment on special needs education, emphasising inclusivity in our educational mission.

One of the notable moments of the series was the introduction of Dr. Daphney Magloire, the newly appointed Education Director of

the Caribbean Union Conference, who graciously consented to an insightful interview conducted by students of the primary school system.

Leveraging the power of social media as an effective means of communication and outreach, the first series garnered over 10,000 views, while the second edition received over 5,000 views. These impressive numbers serve as a testament to the effectiveness of this medium in raising awareness about the faith-based

education that the Seventh-Day Adventist Church offers in the South Caribbean Conference and throughout Trinidad. Through platforms like these, we ensure that the beacon of faith-based education continues to shine brightly, guiding the way for future generations.

This Conference comprises five early childhood centres, twelve primary schools, three secondary schools, and the esteemed University of the Southern Caribbean.



Principal of SCC Schools in South Trinidad Celebrate the Hybrid Experience

# SAINT LUCIA'S SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOLS UNITE IN FAITH WITH A PRAYER RALLY AND MARCH AGAINST CRIME

Geraine Georges

In the spirit of faith and community, the Seventh-day Adventist Schools in Saint Lucia came together for an annual event beyond education. The Day of Prayer, held on the second Wednesday of March, is a cherished tradition that underscores the importance of spiritual growth within the framework of Adventist education.

Drawing inspiration from 2 Chronicles 7:14, which calls for humility, prayer, and repentance to heal the land, students, staff, parents, and teachers gathered for a day of spiritual reflection and intercession. This year, on March 8, 2023, more than 370 students from four Adventist schools, namely Emmanuel SDA Combined, Eucharist Lewis SDA Primary, L'Abayee SDA Primary, and Saint Lucia SDA Academy, congregated at Constitution Park in Castries. The agenda for the day encompassed various spiritual activities led entirely by the students. They included sessions of praise, scripture reading, prayer, and special musical performances.

The focal point of the event was the earnest supplication for Saint



St. Lucia SDA Schools on Drug March



Lucia. Prayers ascended for the nation, its leaders, and its youth, and a plea to end the escalating crime rate. Following the prayer rally, the Adventist students took to the streets of Castries, determined to make their voices heard in the fight against crime. Holding placards high and chanting slogans like "Say no to crime, put Jesus in your life" and "Thou shall not kill," they boldly called upon all, especially the youth, to renounce violence and embrace faith.

Their impassioned march sent a powerful message throughout the Capital. Sergeant Zachary Hippolyte of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, attached to the Community Relations Branch, expressed gratitude and praised the organising team and students for

their initiative. He urged everyone to raise their voices and lead by example against crime in Saint Lucia.

The response from the public was overwhelmingly positive. Many residents and onlookers commended the powerful message the Seventh-day Adventist Schools conveyed, emphasising such initiatives' impact on society. One individual remarked, "I commend whoever planned this. What a powerful message to our society!" Another commented, "Great march today. Well done!" Clearly, the demonstration of faith and unity had left a lasting impression.

While one group of students marched through the streets of Castries, others engaged in prayer



St. Lucia SDA Schools on Drug March





St. Lucia SDA Schools on Drug March

walks and community outreach activities in their respective school communities. L'Abayee visited the elderly, Emmanuel SDA Combined organised prayer walks, the SDA Academy marched through Sunny Acres, and Eucharist Lewis SDA Primary lifted their school family and nation in prayer.

These community service and outreach programmes testify to Saint Lucia's Seventh-day Adventist schools' commitment to mission and service. They instill in students the values of compassion, empathy, and purposeful living, mirroring the life of Jesus, who dedicated Himself to serving others. Through events like

the Day of Prayer and the March Against Crime, Seventh-day Adventist Schools continue to inspire faith, hope, and positive change within their communities and beyond.



Ms. Geraine Georges

## CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE SCHOOLS EMBRACE GOD-CENTERED HUMAN SEXUALITY EDUCATION

### Education Department, CARU

In a commitment to uphold values rooted in faith and promote a comprehensive understanding of human sexuality, the Caribbean union Conference Education Department has mandated the incorporation of the "Human Sexuality Series" into the education curriculum of all SDA schools.

This significant step forward is in line with the Inter-American Division's endorsement, whose goal is to equip students with a well-informed understanding of God's plan for human sexuality.

The "Human Sexuality" series is set to become a cornerstone of education within the Caribbean Union Conference. These educational resources, tailored for ages 6-12, are now readily available at the Adventist Book Centre, ensuring accessibility for both educators and parents. The materials for older students

are currently in development and should be available in 2024, allowing a comprehensive approach to this vital aspect of education. Schools are required to teach Human sexuality during one Bible period each week.

The introduction of this educational series serves as a deliberate and strategic response to contemporary challenges. It is a resolute effort to present the biblical perspective on sexuality, countering prevailing narratives that deviate from God's intended plan for human relationships. The "Human Sexuality" series embraces a God-centered approach, emphasizing the importance of faith-based values in human relationships. It provides students with a solid foundation based on biblical principles and equips them with the knowledge and understanding necessary to navigate the complexities of human sexuality with wisdom and discernment.

As this initiative gains momentum, the Caribbean Union Conference envisions a generation of young individuals who are well-informed, morally grounded, and equipped to make sound choices in human relationships. It is a testament to the Conference's dedication to nurturing academic excellence and the holistic development of its students.

Adopting the "Human Sexuality" series is a significant milestone in the ongoing commitment of the Caribbean Union Conference to provide quality education that aligns with its faith-based values. By instilling a strong moral and spiritual foundation, the Conference aims to empower its students to make choices honouring God's plan for human sexuality.

# MT. ROSE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL IN GRENADA CELEBRATES 113 YEARS

Clara Bhola

One hundred and thirteen years represent a profound journey filled with historical significance and progressive achievements at Mt. Rose S.D.A Primary School. This venerable institution stands today as a distinguished monument, proudly representing Adventist and Christian education on the picturesque island of Grenada.

In the year 1910, the visionaries of the Mt. Rose S.D.A Church recognised the paramount need to provide holistic education to the island’s young minds. Thus, they embarked on a noble mission of establishing the Mt. Rose S.D.A Primary School. This educational sanctuary was established to nurture not only the spiritual dimension of our youth, but also their intellectual, artistic, and physical potential.

Over the decades, the walls of the Mt. Rose S.D.A Primary School have witnessed the passage of countless students who have, in

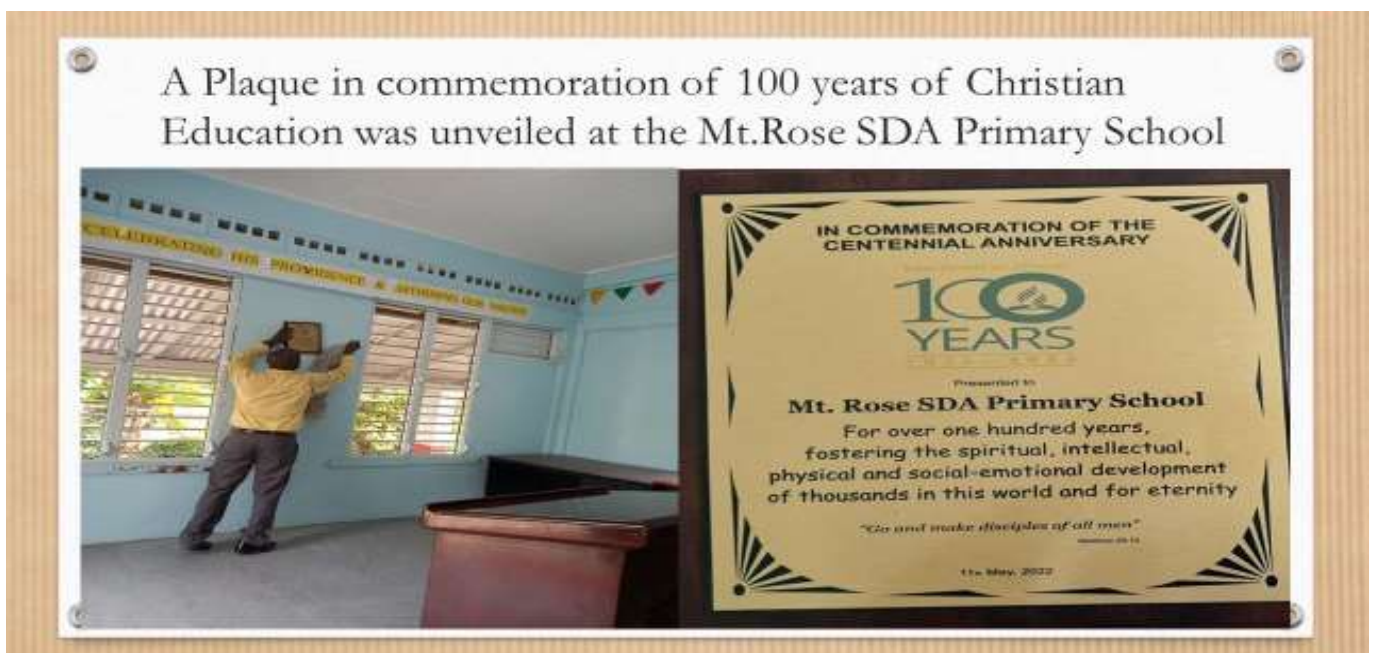


Principal, Director, and School Manager of Mt. Rose SDA Primary School celebrates 100 years

turn, served their churches and communities with distinction. The institution’s track record of academic excellence is a testament to its commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals.

Many of our alumni have ascended to prominent roles as doctors, engineers, teachers, professors, pastors, agriculturists, and more, within the church and the broader community. Additionally, the varied spiritual enrichment initiatives have led countless individuals to embrace the Saviour and commit to him in baptism.

In keeping with its motto, “WE LEARN NOT FOR SCHOOL BUT FOR LIFE,” the Mt. Rose S.D.A Primary School continues to shine as a beacon in the community. Its enduring legacy reflects its unwavering dedication to imparting knowledge, values, character, and a deep sense of purpose to the generations that have passed through its doors. As we celebrate the remarkable journey of the past 113 years, we look forward to a future filled with even greater accomplishments and contributions to society.



Mt. Rose SDA Primary School 100th Anniversary Plaque

# FOOD HAMPERS DISTRIBUTED TO ELDERLY CITIZENS BY MT. ROSE SDA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs. Adeltris Roberts, Principal, Mt. Rose SDA Primary School



In our fast-paced world, it is all too common for the elderly citizens who have faithfully served our community and churches to be overlooked and forgotten. However, during the month dedicated to honouring our seniors, our staff and students made a concerted effort to create a positive impact in their lives.

To achieve this, students from each class generously donated specific food items and essential toiletries. The collective contributions resulted in the assembling of care packages,

which were distributed to twenty seniors residing in the Basseterre community, as well as seven senior members of our church community.

On the memorable date of Monday, October 24th, these much-needed food hampers were distributed to our esteemed elderly citizens. The recipients not only expressed deep appreciation for the tangible gifts they received but were also genuinely touched by the warm greetings and prayers offered by our students. This meaningful

interaction left a lasting impression on both the givers and the receivers, highlighting the significance of recognizing and cherishing our precious seniors in our community.



Adeltris Roberts

## GROUND BREAKING PRINCIPALS' CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME

Education Department, CARU

On October 14, 2023, seventy-five principals and senior teachers in the Caribbean Union Conference commenced a ten-month certification of educational leaders launched by the Inter-American Division. The initiative aims to train servant leaders capable of forming cohesive and committed work teams that are sufficiently motivated to achieve the organ-

isation's objectives. During this period, they will complete the following courses in weekly sessions.

- Adventist Education Philosophy and Faith Integration
- Strategic Management
- Christian Foundations of Educational Administration and Effectiveness
- Talent Management and Servant Leadership
- ICTs for Strategic Management (ICTs: Information and Communication Technologies)
- Service Management
- Financial Management and Investment Projects
- Legislation and Educational Organisations
- Marketing for Adventist Educational Institutions
- Management Competencies

# JERRY, THE TIME CAPSULE

Ms. Antonia Samuel, Teacher  
Ebenezer SDA Primary School

To kick off the new school year, Antonia Samuel, a Grade 3 teacher at the Ebenezer S.D.A. Primary School introduced an engaging activity to her students—a time capsule.

This idea was inspired during the last weekend of the 2022 summer holidays, when a presenter at a function spoke passionately about a ‘time capsule’ activity that she had done with a group of children.

Eagerly, a small, cookie-sized box was prepared, adorned with vibrant gift paper. Each person, including Ms. Samuel and the school chaplain, Pastor Albert Matthew, was handed slips of paper. They were instructed to pen their aspirations for the term, including personal struggles, desires for positive outcomes, academic goals, and traits they admired in Jesus. As the slips were dropped into the box, a student named Zyane Woodman proposed the name “JERRY” for the time capsule, which was wholeheartedly embraced by the class.

During the term, two students, though willing, confessed their uncertainty about what to pray for. Seizing this as a teachable moment, Ms. Samuel patiently guided them in the art of prayer. These students volunteered to pray for the contents of the box several times a week. Visiting pastors and the Principal were also briefed on the class’s initiative, and prayers were offered on behalf of the students.

The end of the term approached swiftly, and the plan was to unveil JERRY at a Thanksgiving



tea party where students would receive their papers and share testimonies of answered prayers. However, Ms. Samuel, grappling with her hyperthyroid condition, found it challenging to reconcile her fervent prayers with the disappointing medical results. Thus, she delayed the event.

But as the new term commenced, the students arrived, eager to open JERRY and celebrate with a tea party. Sensing the diverse emotions in the room, Ms. Samuel presented the students with two choices. Seven students signalled to open JERRY, satisfied with their progress, while eleven students chose to keep it closed, indicating their resolve to continue praying.

Amidst this, young Sarah Barker’s earnest interruption halted the proceedings. Despite the decision to keep JERRY closed, Sarah expressed her gratitude, sharing how her reading skills had improved—a heartfelt acknowledgment that sparked a chain of testimonies from her classmates. They recounted fulfilled wishes and answered prayers, including academic

achievements, family reunions, and newfound companionship.

The students’ collective gratitude was palpable, prompting Ms. Samuel to offer a prayer of thanksgiving, witnessing first-hand the essence of the scripture in Mark 9:23 taking root in her students’ lives.

Last term, JERRY, the Time Capsule, was finally opened during school hours, unveiling a multitude of blessings, each one a testament to the power of faith and the resilience of hope.



Antonia Samuel





Dremani George

## DREMANI GEORGE - AN ENDURING LEGACY OF FAITH AND LOVE

Anita Kirk, Chaplain  
Harmon School of SDA

An absolute inspiration, an extraordinary gem," Miss Racine Dalrymple, our former art teacher, exulted as she spoke of Dremani George, a remarkable student at Harmon School of Seventh-day Adventists in Tobago. Miss Ferdinand, his English teacher, added, "To know Dremani was to fall in love with him." She cherished his genuine kindness, unmarred by pretense or facade.

Dremani's entrance into our school in his first year was nothing short of captivating. It felt as though God had guided him to us to bestow His love upon him. I can still vividly recall the day when I first saw him, impeccably dressed and gracefully maneuvering the halls on crutches. As our eyes met, he offered a smile and softly murmured, "Miss, it's been a painful day. Just came from the doctor!" It was only later that we learned of his battle with cancer. Nevertheless, the students and staff were determined to envelop him in our care and affection.

As Dremani's condition worsened, the entire school rallied to support him. Both staff and students generously contributed funds, and a kind parent who owned a juice business ensured Dremani received a bottle of

fresh juice daily. Miss Ferdinand recounted her bittersweet visits to the hospital, where Dremani remained hopeful despite his circumstances. We would gather around him, offering prayers and words of encouragement. Dremani even managed to video call us during school hours, eagerly greeting his friends and teachers.

Visiting Dremani in the hospital was an emotional rollercoaster for Miss Dalrymple and Mrs. Wilson. It was a mix of sorrow and hardship, yet also filled with an indescribable spirit that left an enduring impression. Despite the challenges, we arrived armed not just with medical supplies, but also with an arsenal of positive energy. We sought to pour out our love and faith into Dremani, reciprocating the strength he had shown us.

Miss Redhead-Kennedy encapsulated her experience with Dremani succinctly, describing him as a young man who placed unwavering trust in God even during his illness. Dremani often declared, "I know God will heal me. I know He will make me whole again." Perhaps God did heal Dremani, not physically, but in the depths of his spirit, freeing him from the battles of life.

When this incredible man passed away, tears flowed freely from our eyes, yet we found solace in the belief of a grand reunion. His unwavering faith serves as a powerful reminder to all of us, encouraging us to hold onto God's promises, even when our vision is blurred.

Dremani's legacy of faith lives on through the promise he cherished, expertly edited into a voice message by our skilled technician, Sir Roberts. You can listen to this incredible promise from John 14:1-3 on our YouTube channel, Harmon inspirational (Tobago), beautifully narrated by Dremani George.

Let us celebrate the incredible journey of faith that Dremani embarked upon and eagerly anticipate the glorious reunion that awaits us all.



Chaplain Anita Kirk



## THE RESILIENT PLANT

Mrs. Clara Buckmire-Bhola

In the wake of a global pandemic, the emergence of a novel virus, the Covid-19 CoronaVirus, sent shockwaves worldwide. Its rapid spread and devastating consequences gripped humanity with fear and concern. As the virus neared, our serene island of Grenada was not spared. The grim news finally arrived, necessitating a swift and drastic response - the closure of all Conference offices and the implementation of a total lockdown.

The announcement sent shockwaves through the community, plunging us into collective panic. Within hours, we were directed to pack our belongings and leave our familiar workspaces, with detailed instructions on transitioning to a remote work setup. As I gathered my belongings, bid heartfelt goodbyes to my colleagues, and whispered a prayer for divine protection, I couldn't help but gaze at the small oasis of greenery in my office.

Amid the hustle and bustle of evacuation, I had inadvertently left behind a couple of plants thriving in a water-filled vase. These plants infused my workspace with tranquillity and connection to nature. In my haste to depart, I had overlooked their needs, pondering their fate as I ventured into the uncertainty of

remote work. Days turned into weeks, and weeks into months, as we remained confined in our homes.

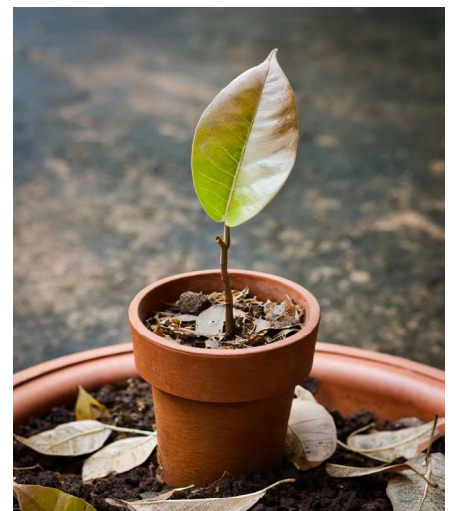
During this period of self-isolation, my thoughts often drifted back to those plants. I imagined their withered leaves and parched roots, with no means to replenish their vital sustenance without regular care. Each day, my anxiety grew, and I wondered if they had succumbed to the arduous conditions.

Then, in the fourth month, a glimmer of hope beckoned us back to our offices as the lockdown measures were relaxed. Stepping into my workspace, I braced myself for the sight of lifeless, dried vegetation. My heart sank as I beheld the wilted, brown remains. However, a solitary green leaf emerged amidst the desolation, symbolizing resilience and tenacity in adversity.

Overjoyed by this unexpected display of vitality, I carefully removed the lone green leaf from its dried companions. A debate ensued: should I discard this single, fragile sign of life, or should I nurture it, believing in the possibility of resurgence? Ultimately, I chose hope, placing it in a vase of its own, a daily reminder of the power of perseverance.

That single green leaf revealed its indomitable spirit in the days that followed. It sprouted new roots, unfurled fresh leaves, and was a testament to resilience. Eagerly, I shared its story with my colleagues, emphasizing the profound lessons it had imparted during these challenging times.

As the months passed, that once solitary leaf burgeoned into a flourishing plant, an embodiment of the strength within us all. The plant's enduring journey served as a reminder that even in adverse circumstances, survival is possible, and hope is a beacon that should never be extinguished. It reinforced the importance of trust in God as we weathered the storm together, emerging stronger and more resilient than ever.



# ACCREDITATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS, OCTOBER 2023

Education Department, CARU

In a significant leap towards enhancing professionalism within the Caribbean Union Conference Education Department, it adopted the Inter-American pioneering approach to accreditation. The introduction of Cutting-Edge Accreditation Software (CALED) marks a transformative shift in the accreditation process, streamlining and modernising the assessment of educational institutions. CALED, the innovative software at the heart of this transformation, has revolutionised accreditation within the Caribbean Union Conference. This advanced software platform has been meticulously designed to facilitate a hybrid assessment model, combining physical and

virtual evaluations. This approach ensures efficiency and adapts to the evolving needs of educational institutions. It also provides a more efficient accreditation process and positions the region's schools to meet the dynamic demands of the contemporary academic landscape.

Under this ground-breaking system, the following esteemed educational institutions achieved accreditation status in October 2023:

- British Virgin Island (BVI) Secondary School
- Caribbean Union College Secondary School
- Bates Memorial High School
- Southern Academy of Seventh-day Adventists



These schools are renowned for their unwavering commitment to providing quality education and readiness to meet the challenges of the 21st century. They are indicative of the dedication of faculty and staff and have affirmed their status as beacons of light in the region. The schools have met the rigorous accreditation standards of the Adventist Accreditation Association (AAA), and we commend them for their unrelenting efforts.

## ARTHUR WALDRON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ACADEMY EMERGED CHAMPION OF THE 2023 SECONDARY SCHOOL DEBATE CONTEST

Mrs. Jeanette Barry

The Arthur Waldron Seventh-day Adventist Academy (AWSDAA) is the champion of the 2023 Inter-Secondary Schools Debate competition. The AWSDAA defeated the Orion Academy in the finals held on April 4 2023, at Emerald Movies Theater after a long journey spanning four debate tournaments against four schools over three months.

The debaters, Burzha Bertrand and Shereen Carbon, opposed the moot, "The laws, policies and institutions aimed at protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse are adequate", and amassed 689 points, while the proposing team finished with 615 points.

The coach and students attributed their success to the favour of God, hard work and commitment, and parental and staff support. The students also appreciated the opportunity to represent the school and are grateful for the skills acquired during the process.

The staff is already preparing for next year's competition and aims to use debates to engender confidence, research and analytical skills and create an atmosphere of respectful, academic discourse among students.



Arthur Waldron emerged winner of the Inter-Secondary Schools Debate competition

# SAINT LUCIA MISSION OF SDA EDUCATION BLITZ: EDUCATION FOR ETERNITY

Mr. Nathaniel Emilien



Eucharist Lewis SDA Primary - Education Blitz



Dr. Kern Tobias - Education Blitz

In celebration of Christian Education Day, the Education Director of CARU, Dr. Daphney Magloire and the local field director of the Saint Lucia Mission, Mrs. Priscilla Stephen organized a national Education Blitz Impact on April 29, 2023.

Six sites were organized into convention centers where members from the various churches congregated as the message of Christian Education was promulgated. Castries SDA Church, Marc SDA Church, Marisule SDA Church, Soufriere Comprehensive School, Ti-Rocher SDA Church, and the Vieux Fort SDA Church were the churches selected to host the conventions while other members gathered in their home churches.

The theme for this Education Blitz, "Education for Eternity," enveloped the various segments

of the day's program as the children lead through singing, reading, preaching and dramatizations.

Union officials from CARU, Dr. Kern Tobias, Ps Bertie Henry, Dr. Daphney Magloire, Ps. Tony Mapp (former president of the Tobago Mission) were speakers at these convention sites as well as local administrators, Pr. Roger Stephen & Pr. Lucius Philip, President & Executive Secretary of the Saint Lucia Mission respectively. Other pastors and lay leaders all joined as advocates for Adventist education on that day.

Our four SDA Schools were integrally involved in the execution of the Sabbath school program under the leadership of principals Mr. Vidal Philip, Mrs. Pamela Leon-Modest, Mrs. Bessie Augustin, and Ms. Ucretia Hippolyte. Esteemed staff

members were instrumental in preparing the students for the execution of the program. The churches were very supportive and responsive to the program and the parents and supporters came out in their numbers as the children ministered excellently.

The sermon for the day focused on the Bible Character, Nehemiah, who clearly understood the importance of the mission. The sermon highlighted Nehemiah's strong sense of mission which led to his undaunted passion, forfeiting his honorable position in the King's palace in exchange for preserving the Jewish heritage. It was important to him that the great work of God be an enduring influence among the Jews for generations.

Just as Nehemiah built a strong wall that lasted and shaped the future of the Jews and



Abayee SDA Primary - Education Blitz



Emmanuel SDA Combined - Education Blitz

Christianity, so we are called to a similar mission, where the stakes are high, but the rewards are eternal. Walls built in the kingdom of God are walls that will last forever.

In a world where morals and values have dwindled to nothing, except professional and academic success, the Christian Education Blitz stood out as a testament to the importance and power of holistic education. As we nurture young minds entrusted to our care, we understand that we are preparing the leaders of tomorrow, armed not only with knowledge, but also with a strong moral and spiritual compass that will prepare them for life now and for the world to come.

On that day, an Education Endowment Plan was launched giving all members an opportunity to financially support Seventh-day Adventist education in Saint Lucia. We praise God for the many members who pledged their support to the endowment plan on that day. Members and friends choose one of the following plans:

1. \$1.00 per day/\$30.00 per month
2. \$2.00 per day/\$60.00 per month
3. \$100.00 per month
4. Once in a lifetime contribution in cash or kind.

From all accounts, the Education Blitz made an indelible impact



Emmanuel SDA Combined School - Grade 1

across the island which has resulted in many persons demonstrating their support to Adventist education and their participation in the endowment plan. Feedback and testimonials received from parents and other church members about the program also testified to its effectiveness.

Ellen White, in her book *Child Guidance*, says, "In planning for the education of their children outside of the home, parents should recognize that it is no longer safe to send their children to public schools, and should endeavour to send them to schools where they will obtain an education based on a biblical foundation."

The SDA Schools remain committed to delivering academic excellence in a

spiritually charged environment, where high moral, ethical and spiritual values are nurtured, embraced and respected. It continues to produce students and graduates who reflect Christ's character, cultivate a culture of academic rigor and give competent service to God and man in preparation for eternity. Education Blitz 2023 was a collaboration between the Union & the Saint Lucia Mission of Seventh-day Adventist.

The commitment of SDA members to support SDA Education and to enroll their child or ward has also been a sure indicator of the Holy Spirit's working in the lives of our members. This was realized with an increase in enrolment at our schools for the new academic year September 2023 – 2024.



SDA Academy - Education Blitz



Mr. Nathaniel Emilien

# BRIEF HISTORY OF CUMANA SDA PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Cumana Seventh Day Adventist Primary School is located in the mountainous coastal village of Cumana, surrounded by the picturesque northern range and the deep, aquamarine waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Born out of a desire for Christocentric, holistic education for their charges, the then members of the Cumana SDA Church successfully opened the doors of the Cumana SDA School in September 1945.

Classes were first conducted in the little church building located at the corner of Hutton and Wheeler Streets in Cumana. Ms. Edith Ephraim proudly served as the first Head Teacher. Every Sunday the little church was prepared for classes by placing the heavy wooden benches in a corner and replacing them with desks for students' use. On Friday afternoon, the students excitedly replaced the church benches to facilitate Sabbath Service.

While the academic curriculum was not neglected, faith was meticulously integrated into the learning experience. The Bible was the main textbook and learning focused on the development of the head, hands and heart. Cumana SDA Primary operated as a private institution until 1952.

After much lobbying, the Cumana SDA Primary School was officially opened as a State-aided institution on 1st October 1952 with an enrolment of twenty – seven students and a staff of a husband and wife team, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Thorpe.

In 1950 a new structure was erected and dedicated at the corner of Anglais Road and Haynes Trace where the School



Cumana S.D.A. Primary School, Praying Together



Republic Day



remained until 1978 when it was deemed unfit for use by the Ministry of Education. The school was moved to its current location at Punch Street in Cumana Village that very year.

The School has experienced several leadership changes over the years.

- Mr. James Barker Scott - 1958
- Mr. Richard Dyett - 1974
- Mrs. Victoria Inez Pritchard - 1982
- Mr. Bunny Kronberg - 1985
- Mr. Earlington McClatchie - 1995
- Mrs. Glenda Harry – Nero - 2000
- Mrs. Wendy Saunders – Soo Tim- 2018 and continuing

Cumana S.D.A. Primary School has experienced several challenges over the years, the most recent being the impact of the Covid – 19 pandemic on students'



Cumana SDA Primary School

# PRINCIPALS' WORKSHOP

Education Department, CARU

**C**aribbean Union Conference Education Department's unwavering commitment to fostering excellence and professionalism in education continues to drive its efforts. With a steadfast dedication to innovation and quality, the Department aims to elevate educational standards and empower our human resources. In this spirit of continuous improvement, the Department hosted virtual Principals workshops on March 16 and 20, 2023 under the theme, "I Will Go, Excellence in Leadership."

This transformative event,

facilitated by esteemed educators Johnson Frederick and Dr. Cletus Bertin, focused on Strategic Thinking and Strategic Planning. Participants were equipped with the tools and knowledge to lead their institutions with purpose and vision. The Department's Strategic plan was also introduced and discussed.

Dr. Faye Patterson's insightful presentation on accreditation shed light on the critical role that accreditation plays in improving the quality of our schools. Principals gained valuable insights into the accreditation process, its significance, and the standards

that must be met to ensure excellence in education.

Dr. Samuel Telemaque, Dr. James Daniel and Dr. Leonard Johnson also led different aspects of the workshop.

As we reflect on the success of the Principals' workshop, it is evident that the Caribbean Union Conference is taking significant strides towards elevating education in the region. We are grateful for our educational leaders' dedication and commitment to continuous improvement.



Cumana SDA Primary School Church Day



Cumana SDA Primary School Acting Principal



**GOAL:**  
Create a culture of excellence where school employees are committed to providing exceptional service to students, parents, and the community.

learning though this has not daunted the spirits of educators. The Staff continues to present education with a difference to the community as it seeks to fulfil its mission of creating and sustaining a fun-filled learning environment in which the employment of spiritual values, technology and academics, will unearth and harness students' abilities and skills. The unearthing of these abilities enables students to become all-round individuals equipped for higher education, life in society and in the hereafter.



Cumana SDA Primary School



Cumana SDA Primary School Graduation 2023



# THE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL AND THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN ARE FORGING A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Hayden McKenna

**O**n Sunday 17th September 2023, The Community Hospital of Seventh-day Adventist (TCH), in partnership with The University of the Southern Caribbean (USC), formally opened the TCH-USC Urgent Care Clinic, located opposite Gate 2 of the USC Main Campus on Maracas Royal Road, St. Joseph Trinidad. The opening was a significant community event for the people of Maracas Valley and environs and further afield. It involved an open-house type health fair where community and other attendees received the benefits of free vision and health screenings, consultations and nutrition and health and wellness counselling.

On the surface of it, this is a simple, seemingly non-news-worthy matter of a local private hospital becoming the operator of the university's primary health care service. It is that, but in this case, it is so much more. What this joint-venture represents, is the first public showing of an emerging strategic, functional and sociable partnership between

two aged and very experienced, community oriented, Seventh-day Adventist institutions in Trinidad and Tobago and by extension, the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The University of the Southern Caribbean, through its various names and stages, has been in existence since August 27th 1927. The Community Hospital - though officially opened on December 02, 1962, first admitted patients a few months before on September 17th 1962, seventeen days after Trinidad and Tobago became an independent nation. TCH is therefore the oldest existing private hospital in Trinidad and Tobago and September 17th, the date chosen for the opening of this clinic, is an important date in TCH's history. USC and TCH when combined, can boast of a service legacy of more than 150 years in Trinidad and Tobago. The value of aggregating 150 years of multi-sector service experience in a society as diverse as Trinidad and Tobago is hard to overstate. This is what this emerging partnership brings to the market.

USC and TCH also have a shared philosophy, value-system and worldview. They are both Seventh-day Adventist institutions. Adventism at its core, teaches that education is inextricably connected to human redemption and restoration. It also teaches and health and wellness are the "right hand of the gospel" – no offense intended to the south-pawed. Education and health and wellness are inseparable parts to the human-redemption and restoration project in the Adventist worldview. This fundamental combination is a tried and tested formula. In the very Adventist-influenced Loma Linda University community in San Bernardino, California for instance, research shows that where these factors are strongly combined, residents on average, live for up to ten years longer than the national average. Loma Linda for this reason, is the sole blue zone community in the USA. Can the USC-TCH partnership in Maracas Valley be nascent brush-strokes-of-blue-zoning in miracle valley? Maybe.



The presence of a well-staffed first-class medical clinic, backed by the resources of TCH, offers to USC students, faculty and staff and the communities of the Maracas Valley and its environs, the security of a readily accessible urgent and preventative healthcare facility. According to TCH's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Stephen Carryl, the location and context of this Maracas Valley clinic, have already attracted meaningful discussions with the Ministry of Health about the provision of services to special niches of the wider population of the country.

Apart from the clinic, the USC-TCH partnership will also result in the strengthening of the practical

elements of USC's existing and emerging curricula in the areas of Nurse Education, Allied Health, Occupational Therapy, Social Work, Business Management and even Computer Science, through the offer of internships to USC students and other forms of mutually beneficial engagements. This has already begun and will be deepened in the medium and the long terms. Referencing TCH's present efforts to digitize all of their medical records for instance, Dr. Carryl pointed out that a project such as this, would be a fertile place for students of Computer Science and IT to see such a process play-out and to participate in the same. Dr. Carryl envisions TCH and USC having a

strategic relationship where "USC students would have a home at TCH where they could come here and rotate". TCH can emerge as a teaching hospital for USC students.

The USC-TCH partnership will also create a robust research ecosystem on matters of interest to both institutions, the nation and the region. Building capacity in this area, is critically important to a post-colonial region of the world, whose populations continue to present live artefacts of a difficult past, manifested in epidemics of obesity, chronic non-communicable diseases, high rates of alcohol consumption and endangered mental wellbeing.

## BACKSTORY: GOD'S WILL AND A CEDAR HALL 'BROMANCE'



Dr. Colwick Wilson (left) and Dr. Stephen Carryl (right) in conversation at the formal opening of the TCH-USC Urgent Care Clinic

With all of these compelling reasons for co-operation, the question of why this is happening now and not before, is difficult to dodge. The default answer for people of our faith tradition, is that nothing good happens outside of God's willing and out of sequence with the fullness of time.

In July of 2021 and June of 2022

respectively, while the world, our region and nation were still grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, both USC and TCH experienced transitions in top leadership. Dr. Colwick Wilson was appointed President of USC and Dr. Stephen Carryl was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of TCH. These two visionary leaders have a long 'bromantic' history with each other.

The back-story is that they have maintained a close mutually supportive friendship for more than forty years. They both entered Caribbean Union College (now the University of the Southern Caribbean) in 1979 as Theology Majors and lodged together, at the famous Cedar Hall. As "Noble Spartans" of that famous residence hall, their early friendship would most probably have been negotiated over shared meals and sack-lunches, worship services, chapels and weeks of prayer, and a miscellany of other joys and irritants of dorm life. Indeed, it was at a Graduation Ceremony they witnessed together that Colwick intimated to Stephen his special attraction to the President's regalia, especially the gown with its unique four-stripped festooning on its sleeve. Hmmm.

Though these classmates were separated when Dr. Carryl switched his focus to Biology and departed for Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in 1981, they both sustained their mutual friendship and never lost touch,

despite their divergent career paths. Dr. Wilson graduated from CUC with his Theology degree in 1983, pastored briefly in Guyana and in 1986 migrated to the United States to further his education in the Social Sciences. This he did to the level of a terminal PhD degree, which he received from the University of Michigan. Dr. Wilson has enjoyed a fruitful academic and leadership career at prestigious institutions in the US, including the University of Michigan, Loma Linda University, The Kettering Health Network and most recently, he held the Provostship at Oakwood University.

Dr Carryl, after completing his baccalaureate degree at Oakwood, went on to Loma Linda University School of Medicine, where he earned an MD. His education and career journey also includes a Master of Health Administration (MHA) from the University of Southern California, Surgical Internship and Residency at the Brookdale University Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. Dr Carryl is a board-certified

surgeon with expertise in Laparoscopic Surgery, Bariatric Surgery and Robotic Surgery. He rose to the position of Chairman of Surgery, Chief of Perioperative Services and Director of Bariatric Surgery at Harlem Hospital Center, before taking on the less lucrative job as CEO of TCH. When directly asked about what prompted the partnership between USC and TCH at this moment, Dr Carryl characterised it as “divinely inspired”. Referring to his enduring friendship of over forty years with Dr. Wilson and the coincidence of both of them being back in Trinidad and Tobago at the same time to lead two significant Adventist institutions, Dr. Carryl conceded that “we know we weren’t smart enough to orchestrate something like this”. Dr. Wilson in responding separately to the same question, said that “it was Spirit-led. I really think God’s Spirit was speaking to him as He was speaking to me at the same time”. Dr. Wilson shared that when Dr. Carryl came to Trinidad to take up duty at TCH, they were house-mates at the

President’s Residence on the campus of USC. They would almost nightly have dinner together – Dr. Wilson doing most of the cooking – and they would talk about the challenges and opportunities facing their organizations. This led to a clarity that co-operation could create a whole that was greater than the sum of the parts. They began with the easier things. TCH was engaged to run USC’s health care service. This partnership would later become more organized and focused. There was the selection of a joint leadership team and a thoughtful expansion of the menu of services to be offered. Informal conversations at a cricket tournament organized by USC for the Maracas Valley community and the expression by villagers of the need for an accessible clinic in the area, added collective confirmation to the rectitude of the plan in train. The TCH-USC Urgent Care Clinic is the maturation of a idea that most probably began with dinner-talk between two friends over a meal that Dr. Wilson claims to have cooked.

## TCH’S PRESENT TRAJECTORY

Dr. Carryl speaks with a persuasive passion of the intention to aggressively pursue initiatives to re-establish TCH as “a premier provider of quality healthcare in Trinidad”. According to Dr. Carryl, there are three deliverables that form the basis of TCH’s present focus They are: Quality healthcare, good patient experience and affordability.

TCH medical staff boasts of highly qualified surgeons, specialists and physicians. The Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Damaris Baptiste-Sylvester for instance is a Consultant Obstetrician-Gynaecologist and Gynaecologist-Oncologist trained in the Caribbean, North America,

and the UK. For good measure, she is also a USC alumna.

TCH is one of only a few hospitals in the Caribbean that now operates an in-patient rehabilitation clinic, particularly directed at victims of stroke. This service is led by US-trained and certified Trinidadian Dr. Gerard Antoine. With several decades of experience with the US military, Dr. Antoine is the only rehabilitation physician in Trinidad.

There is also a drive to ensure that TCH is on the cutting edge of modern diagnostic and medical technology. Dr. Carryl said that if there are 100 things you

should expect from a modern hospital, TCH must be able to do no less than 90 of those things. Significant capital investments are being made to upgrade the hospital’s capacity in this area.

Under Dr. Carryl’s leadership, TCH developed and implemented a programme that is unique among private hospitals in the country and perhaps the anglophone Caribbean. Through a Behavioural and Mental Health Department, every patient that visits TCH gets a psycho-social assessment to ascertain what else is happening in their lives that needs to be addressed apart from their medical condition. This programme is led

by Dr. Joanne Williams-Carryl a Social Worker and Therapist and the spouse of Dr. Stephen Carryl. This special department and unique programme have created valuable opportunities for internships for USC's Social Work Majors. This approach will also be brought to the TCH-USC Urgent Care Clinic.

Dr. Carryl describes the healthcare sector in Trinidad and Tobago as a "productive place" for private operators. He pointed out that the costing of services at TCH is consistently below prevailing market rates. This allows for TCH to price its services in a way to achieve profitability and growth without taking away affordability from customers. "We are not mercenaries. We are not in the business of losing money but we do not have to make the most money" he said. This approach has attracted insurance companies that are excited to work with TCH and benchmark some of their products based on TCH's pricing structures. TCH is also unashamed of its Adventist ethos and sees it as a differential advantage that sets it apart from its competitors.

Commenting specifically on the TCH-USC Urgent Care Clinic and what it means, Dr. Carryl said he sees the clinic as an extension of the main hospital into the valley. It is consistent with TCH's strategy to expand its footprint in Trinidad and Tobago. He described the clinic as "the down-payment on an investment in this community".

As USC moves towards marking the first 100 years of its existence in 2027, it is delighted that at this critical time of its own transformation, it has found in TCH, an equally progressive, values-compatible, well-led partner. The TCH-USC Urgent Care Clinic is a signal manifestation of great things to come for both institutions and the publics they serve.



The Community Hospital of Seventh-day Adventists, Cocorite, Port of Spain

## ARTHUR WALDRON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ACADEMY EMERGED AS CHAMPION OF THE BUSINESS INVESTMENT CONTEST

Mrs. Jeanette Barry



The Arthur Waldron SDA Academy in the island of Dominica emerged as the winner of the Inter-Country portion of the Regional Schools Investment Competition among four other secondary schools. The competition occurred from February 27 through March 3, 2023.

The team of 4th and 5th formers was led by the coach and Business Studies teacher Mrs Emelda Bacchus. The students Shawn Moses, Jayda Boston, Melody Francis, Jahiem Sylvester and Ershelle George

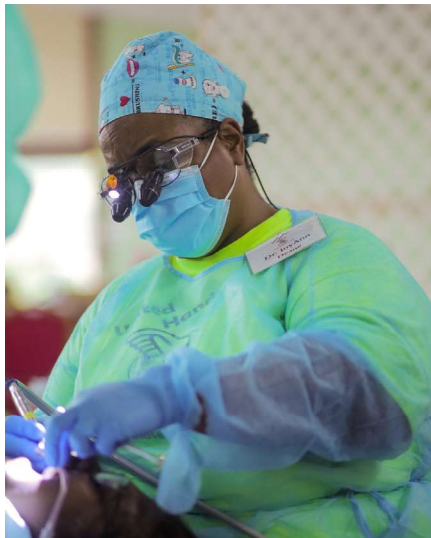
led their company "Gifted Profits" to victory with their investments in the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange.

The school later progressed to the next phase of the competition, in which eight schools, one from each of the eight member countries of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union, competed for the overall Regional Champion.

The students and teacher are grateful for the experience and the exposure and hope to win the regional title at the next competition.



A Mission of Hope & Healing



## THE FREEDOM CLINIC AT USC

Simone Augustus, Corporate Communications Officer, USC

In collaboration with the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) and the Community Hospital of Seventh-day Adventists, United Hands Inc. hosted the FreeDOM Clinic. From March 13-16, 2023 members of the public were able to access free Dental, Optical and Medical care at the USC Auditorium on USC's Main Campus in Maracas Valley, St. Joseph.

With doors opening at 6:30am daily, patients were lined up as early as 2:00am in anticipation of being served by FreeDOM Clinic's team of 15 volunteer Dentists, Optometrists and Medical Doctors.

Doing business as FreeDOM Clinic USA, over the past seven (7) years, United Hands has delivered

the same care to thousands of uninsured or underinsured patients in the USA, Antigua, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, South Africa, Suriname and previously in Trinidad & Tobago.

On Wednesday, March 15, 2023 The FreeDOM Clinic was visited by Dr. the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, Minister of Education and Member of Parliament for St. Ann's East; His Excellency Arthur H.W. Williams, High Commissioner for Jamaica; His Worship the Mayor Alderman, Joel Martinez, Mayor of the City of Port of Spain; the Honourable Esmond Forde, Member of Parliament for Tunapuna, the Honorable Corey Selvon, Councillor for Maracas/Santa

Margarita, and Dr. Colwick Wilson, President of the University of the Southern Caribbean.

Additional partners and sponsors of the FreeDOM Clinic include the Rotary Club of Port of Spain, MP Esmond Forde, Councillor Corey Selvon, the South Caribbean Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, and the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists.

The FreeDOM Clinic completed its final day of service on Thursday, March 16, 2023.

We express gratitude to all who volunteered and lent their time and support to ensure the FreeDOM Clinic's tremendous success.



A Mission of Hope & Healing





## THE PRESUMPTIVE USC CLASS OF 2027

The University of the Southern Caribbean

The intricacies of life’s uncertainties, from serendipity to the agency of fate, pose existential puzzles that underscore the significance of faith in the pursuit of meaning. However, amidst this philosophical contemplation, the focus remains on the approaching centennial celebration of the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) in 2027, coinciding with the graduation of the Class of 2027.

Dr. Colwick Wilson, the university president, expresses his excitement for the milestone, emphasizing the historical significance attached to various past classes and milestones within USC’s narrative. The

anticipation of the centennial year prompts a comprehensive plan for development and enhancement across the campus.

The university’s roadmap for the future involves a series of initiatives, including the integration of research into the curriculum, campus infrastructure improvements, and the establishment of a state-of-the-art health and wellness center. Notably, the focus extends beyond the main campus to encompass satellite sites and the broader community, reflecting a commitment to holistic growth and engagement.

A concerted effort is directed towards nurturing leadership

potential among faculty and staff, with the introduction of a dedicated leadership academy and specialized training opportunities. Driven by a strong faith in the university’s continued progress, USC’s centennial vision represents a bold and ambitious commitment to sustained growth and community enrichment.

The Class of 2027 embodies a unique chapter in the university’s history, carrying the promise of leaving an indelible mark. Encouraged to seize every opportunity for excellence, students are urged to embrace their journey at USC wholeheartedly, contributing to the legacy of this esteemed institution.



A Mission of Hope & Healing





# UNIVERSITY *of the* SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN

## USC CELEBRATES ITS 90TH GRADUATION

Simone Augustus, Corporate Communications Officer & Hayden McKenna



**T**he University of the Southern Caribbean hosted its 90th Graduation from June 30th – July 1st 2023.

Buoyed by their chosen theme, “Fueled by Passion, Driven by Perseverance”, the 445 graduates of USC’s Class of 2023 crossed the stage to receive undergraduate and postgraduate diplomas in more than 30 academic disciplines.

Representing USC’s seven campuses in Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua, Barbados, Guyana and St. Lucia, these USCian Men and Women were charged as they left our halls to take up their mantles as extraordinary servants of God to humanity.

In testament to the lasting bonds of USC’s rich history, members of the Gold (1973) and Silver (1998) classes stood in solidarity and welcome as the Class of 2023 transitioned from student to proud alumni in USC’s legacy of service and excellence.

This weekend of celebration was glittered with featured addresses from some of USC’s distinguished alumni – Pastor Marvyn Smith, Director of Youth, Chaplaincy and Public Campus Ministries, Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Dr. Curtis Fox, Senior Pastor, Conyers Seventh-day Adventist Church Atlanta Georgia, USA and Dr. David R. Williams, Chair, Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Cambridge Massachusetts USA.

Former USC President, Dr. Vernon E. Andrews was awarded the Doctor of Arts honouris causa, while Ms. Norma Greaves and Mrs. Shirley Baptiste were recipients of the Spirit of USC Award in recognition of their service and contributions going well “Beyond Excellence”.

The Class of 2023 joins a community of more than 30,000 globally dispersed alumni of USC, who productively populate a wide range of professions. Our 95-year legacy of holistic, transformative education rests firmly on pillars of excellence in Intellectual Curiosity, Cultural Diversity, Moral Integrity and Spiritual Nurture – all to build an institution that is indeed #USCSTRONG!

Click the links below to view our graduation photo albums:

[Consecration Service Photo Album \(Friday June 30, 2023\)](#)

[Baccalaureate Photo Album \(Saturday July 1, 2023\)](#)

[Commencement Ceremony Photo Album \(Sunday July 2, 2023\)](#)

[Graduation Highlights Photo Album](#)

# ST. GEORGE'S SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL IN GRENADA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Clara Bhola

The St. George's Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, a venerable institution dedicated to the holistic development of its students, proudly marked its official inauguration on September 17th, 1973. This momentous occasion was heralded as nothing short of "a real modern miracle" under the visionary leadership of Ms. Winnifred Granger, who served as the esteemed Principal. Alongside her were five dedicated staff members: Mrs. Gertrude Moore, Ms. Carol Jones, Ms. Claudia Morgan, Mr. Joel Hypolite, and Mr. James Finlay. With their collective efforts, the school embarked on its journey of educational excellence with an initial enrollment of 207 students, housed on the lower floor of the St. Georges Seventh-day Adventist Church.

One of the earliest accomplishments of this emerging institution was the composition of its school anthem, crafted by Ms. Winnifred Granger and Ms. Mavis Maxwell, with musical arrangements orchestrated by Dr. Phillip Findley. This artistic creation embodied the school's commitment to fostering not just intellectual growth, but also the spiritual, physical, and social dimensions of each student's development.

St. George's Seventh-day Adventist Primary School upheld the philosophy that education extends beyond the classroom. Students were provided with opportunities for decision-making exercises, teaching responsibilities, and the cultivation of self-discipline. Various groups and programs, such as the Adventurers, Red Cross, and Sunshine Band, were established to empower students and equip them with the skills and values necessary to become conscientious and productive citizens.

Throughout its illustrious history, the school has remained steadfast in its mission to nurture the spiritual life of its students. This dedication has been evident through regular assemblies, days and weeks of prayer, and Adventist Youth (AY) services, all designed to deepen the students' spiritual connection and understanding.

Academic excellence has been a hallmark of the institution, with students consistently excelling in both internal and external examinations. This steadfast commitment to educational quality has paved the way for countless graduates to achieve remarkable success in various facets of the church and society.

As the school proudly celebrates



its 50th anniversary, it stands as a testament to the enduring vision and values that have guided it throughout the years. While it remains located on the lower floor of the St. Georges Seventh-day Adventist Church, the dream of a new, state-of-the-art facility lingers on the horizon, a symbol of the institution's unwavering commitment to progress and growth.

Today, the St. George's Seventh-day Adventist Primary School continues to shine as a beacon of light within the community. With a dedicated faculty of 14 teachers and a vibrant student body of 350, the school remains a stronghold of excellence, impacting generations of learners with its enduring values and dedication to holistic education.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to St. George's Seventh-day Adventist Primary School in commemorating 50 years of unparalleled service and achievement. May its legacy endure throughout eternity, continuing to shape the hearts and minds of future generations, and may it ever remain a source of pride for the church and society it serves.



**ST. GEORGE'S**  
SDA PRIMARY SCHOOL

# SAN FERNANDO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL - 70 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE!

San Fernando SDA Primary School in Trinidad and Tobago, celebrated 70 years of excellence on January 9th, 2023. This platinum jubilee event was commemorated under the theme “Thus Far by Faith: A God Ordained Milestone” and was marked by reflection on their journey and acknowledging growth, challenges and triumphs. This remarkable institution continues to shape young minds for service with unwavering dedication.

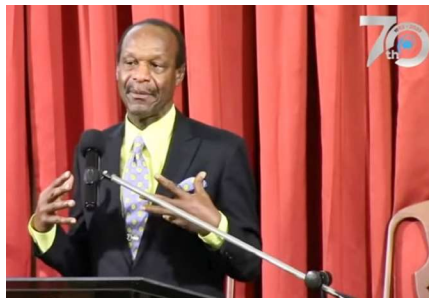
In 1953, Pastor Carrington founded San Fernando SDA Primary School with just 40 students. Guided by Mr. Joseph Grimshaw, the school, which was housed in four rooms at San Fernando SDA Church, quickly grew to 106 students. In 1970, Pastor Samuel L. Gadsby secured their current building, with support from then Minister of Education, Roy Joseph. Today, in 2023, they educate 282 students.

In 1996, the new building provided vital space, and despite challenges and a temporary relocation, faith drove them to return in January 2018. The journey from 40 to 282 students reflects faith, determination and community support. Their commitment remains strong, offering true Seventh-day Adventist Christian education to more children in the future.

Over the past 70 years, San Fernando SDA Primary School’s journey has been characterized by faith, dedication and an unyielding commitment to providing quality Seventh-day Adventist education. Challenges have come their way but their faith in God has sustained them, leading to numerous milestones. To mark their platinum jubilee anniversary,



San Fernando SDA Primary 70th Anniversary



Feature Speaker at San Fernando SDA 70th Anniversary - Dr. Sherwin Jack



San Fernando Principal - Mrs. Glenda Cottoy-McEachrane.jpg



San Fernando SDA Primary 70th Anniversary March



San Fernando SDA Primary Choir at Anniversary Concert

sary, the current staff organized a seven-month series of events, including a Parade, Thanksgiving Service, Sports and Family Day, Afternoon Tea Party and a grand We Give Thanks Concert.

Looking ahead, San Fernando SDA Primary School maintains confidence in the promise of Philippians 1:6, ‘Being confident of this very thing, that He who has

begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.’ Their unwavering faith in God will continue to guide them toward more milestones, ensuring they remain a beacon in educating their students for service and exemplifying faith in the heart of San Fernando for generations to come. Happy 70th anniversary, San Fernando SDA Primary School!



# BATES MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Adriel Bailey-King



BMHS 75th Anniversary Alumni



Bates Memorial High School 75th Anniversary Alumni Choir

**B**ates Memorial High School in Sangre Grande marked its 75th anniversary on September 9, 2023, with a jubilant celebration held at the SDA Church on Ojoe Road, Sangre Grande, Trinidad. The commemorative event not only recognized the significant milestone but also paid homage to the unwavering faith and perseverance of those instrumental in the establishment and survival of this esteemed institution.

Jessica Cunningham, the Education Director for the South Caribbean Conference of SDA, set the tone for the celebration by acknowledging the divine inspiration that guided the school's founders. "The people instrumental in the establishment and survival of Bates Memorial High School were inspired by God and fuelled by faith," she remarked during the event.

Dr. Daphney Magloire, Caribbean Union Conference expounded on the anniversary theme, "Inspired by God, Fuelled by Faith," emphasizing its encapsulation of the school's journey and

rebirth. She commended the pioneers, pastors, school board members, principals, teachers, parents, and alumni who, over the years, embodied this faith and contributed to the school's enduring legacy of perseverance.

"The celebration of 75 years of SDA education is profoundly meaningful," Dr. Magloire asserted. "Your vision for SDA education and deep faith have kept your hopes alive, and today we celebrate this milestone."

Principal Jones, in her address to the attendees, underscored the day's primary focus—to give thanks to God for the remarkable journey the school has undertaken. She extended special recognition to past principals and longstanding supporters, recognizing their pivotal roles in shaping the institution.

The celebratory atmosphere resonated throughout the day with performances from the Alumni Choir and an ensemble featuring the children of alumni and current teachers. These musical tributes echoed the theme of the day, providing

a melodic backdrop that truly seemed inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The morning's proceedings reached a pinnacle with an inspirational message from Pastor Leslie Moses, the President of the South Caribbean Conference of SDA. His words resonated with the essence of the occasion, further affirming the enduring spirit and faith that have sustained Bates Memorial High School for three-quarters of a century.

As the day unfolded, alumni and patrons reconvened for an inspirational evening filled with cherished memories and uplifting music, underscoring the deep sense of community and shared history that defines Bates Memorial High School.

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Authored by Adriel Bailey-King, a dedicated teacher at Bates Memorial High, this reflection captures the essence of an institution that stands as a testament to faith, resilience, and the enduring pursuit of educational excellence.



# SOUTHERN ACADEMY CELEBRATES SEVEN DECADES OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST EDUCATION

**Osric James, Principal  
Southern Academy of SDA**



Southern Academy of SDA Cultural Diversity Display



Southern Academy - Multipurpose Hall Project Under Construction



Southern Academy of SDA Professional Development



Southern Academy of SDA Female Football Team in action

**O**n Thursday, April 13th 2023, staff and students joined in joyful celebration for the platinum jubilee anniversary of the Southern Academy of SDA themed 'Excellence in Motion'.

The journey for this noble institution began in 1953 with the efforts of early pioneers Elder Charles Manoram and Joseph Grimshaw, who acted on their vision to start a Seventh-day Adventist school in San Fernando. Throughout these 70 years, God's faithfulness and favor was evident in the Academy's growth and transition from the humble beginning with three members of staff and 57 students to having a staff of thirty with 352 students.

The principal, Mr Osric James, in his remarks, expressed sincere appreciation to all stakeholders for their support over the years, and attributes the success of the institution to God and his provision. "It gives me great pleasure to usher in this very significant milestone by expressing sincere appreciation. One of the biggest drivers for our continued growth is our firm belief in God's ability to provide all we need. This enables us to accomplish our strategic

goals: Building Faith – Building Character – Building Excellence."

Several events were organized to commemorate this auspicious occasion, with the goal of reconnecting with all stakeholders. The students and staff and their families enjoyed a grand convention, sports and family day, 6K run, Honors Convocation, Republic Day celebration and a church visit, among other activities.

In an effort to foster a greater impact of the school in the community it serves, the institution looks forward to four upcoming outreach events; The Black and white Fundraising Gala, School Beautification Project, Adopt a Home and Drama Production.

Cognizant of the enormity of the task facing them as an SDA school, the administration and staff pledge to continue to strive to honour their commitment to God as outlined in the mission statement; 'Southern Academy of SDA is a secondary school dedicated to transforming students in heart and mind, preparing them to serve God, the church and the world.'



Southern Academy of SDA School at Chapel



Southern Academy of SDA Tug-of-War

# PORT OF SPAIN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES 110 YEARS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST EDUCATION

Seventh-day Adventist education was built on three historical pillars that bring the past, the present and the future together. Such would have been the vision of the early pioneers as they established the second church school located at, No, 31 Dundonald Street, in the heart of Port of Spain, Trinidad.

It was September 29th 1913, one year before the start of World War 1, and eighteen years after the establishment of the first Seventh-Day Adventist Church in the British Crown Colony of Trinidad and Tobago.

The School began with its humble enrolment of approximately 12 pupils, and so, began a journey leading to a century and a decade of Christian Education, equipping children for life, along with rendering service to the immediate Community.

The Port of Spain S.D.A. School was registered with the Ministry of Education in the year 1940, 33 years later, and formally became the Port of Spain Seventh -Day Adventist School. It was in the year 1966, that it was relocated to the present site, and now proudly sits on an elevated, vantage point, with the all familiar address at-#47 A Belmont Circular Road, Belmont, Port of Spain.

The increased evangelistic fervor of the E.E. Cleveland crusade, the installation of the first local president of the South Caribbean Conference, Pastor Samuel L. Gadsby, and the move to Belmont, all positively impacted the School.

The dynamic environment of the school created a unique mission and mission field and today, the School, under God, continues to be motivated along similar paths, via our curriculum, as we strive for Academic excellence in a spiritually charged environment.

Many illustrious individuals have answered the call and rallied round this historic institution. Although records about the many Headmasters and Mistresses of the school from its early inception are limited, we take this opportunity to honour all those who have gone before.

The first recorded Principal was, Dr. Lindrey Niles who is now deceased, but became an outstanding Educator in the SDA Educational landscape.

Mrs. Una Forbes, is another outstanding teacher, who penned the words of the School song "Preparation for service the rule for our life here and life up above."

The Port of Spain SDA Primary school stands united, having reached the milestone of 110 years by the grace of God.

As we face the future, Port of Spain SDA Primary School remains committed to our motto of preparing its pupils for service in this world, and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come. We will continue to honour the past, and celebrate the present, as we embrace the future of this dynamic institution.

Congratulations on the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

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Port of Spain SDA Primary 109th Anniversary Tree Planting



Port of Spain SDA Primary Students in 2023



Port of Spain SDA Primary Students from the early years



Port of Spain SDA Primary Anniversary Convention

# USC HOSTS INTERNATIONAL SECURITY CONFERENCE

On June 12 and 13 2023, the International Conference on Security, Intelligence and Defense assembled key academics, strategists and practitioners from different parts of the world for two days of intensive presentations and debates at the University of the Southern Caribbean. The Conference focused on seven main themes, namely:

1. The Crime Challenge. (Including review of Regional Crime Symposium)
2. Gangs, Violence and Crime
3. Reintegration and Rehabilitation of FTFs, Women and Children
4. Radicalization, De-radicalization and CVE
5. Illegal Migration and Border Management
6. Elements of Transnational Crime-illegal drugs, illegal weapons and human trafficking.
7. Examination of Regional Security Institutions including CARICOM IMPACS, RSS and JRCC)

There were five rounds of Q&A and highly interactive discussions

with an aim of finding solutions to our crime problems. The Conference featured over 30 speakers including:

- Professor Muqtedar Khan (University of Delaware)
- Professor Fabiana Perera (William J Perry Centre)
- Professor Celina Realuyo (William J Perry Centre)
- Dr. Raghunath Mahabir (USC)
- Ambassador Dr. Manorma Soeknandan (Former Deputy Secretary General of CARICOM)
- Dr. Randy Seepersad (UWI)
- Dr. Wendell Wallace (UWI)
- Pastor Clive Dottin
- Ms. Casandra Seetahal (Ministry of the Attorney General, TnT)
- Commander Garvin Heerah
- Mr. Keron Ganpat (former Deputy Director SSA)
- Ms. Alana Wheeler (former Director, CTU)
- Dr. Andre Clarke (IMPACS)
- Mr. Callixtus Joseph (IMPACS)
- Mr. Stevenson Byng (USC)

The conference provided a timely opportunity to discuss many of the most difficult, and often uncomfortable questions

on current security dynamics. From the need to quell the crime surge in Trinidad and Tobago and other CARICOM countries to the need to understand the impact of returning women and children from previously ISIS held strongholds. It also explored the need to provide strong and effective recommendations to the Region in dealing with Transnational Crime. The imperatives of ensuring stronger border management, the need to challenge the elements of radicalization and extremism and the imperatives of reviewing our security institutions for the purpose of making them stronger and more effective were also points of discussion on that day. As always, a detailed agenda was not published until the eve of the conference.

For further details and registration kindly visit: <https://usc.edu.tt/icsisd/>

Email: Dr. Raghunath Mahabir: [mahabir@usc.edu.tt](mailto:mahabir@usc.edu.tt)



# STOP 'N' THINK

Mr. Matthew Hunte, Teacher  
Saint Lucia SDA Academy

**D**uring the second term of the 2022-23 school year, the students of the Saint Lucia Seventh-day Adventist Academy participated in a series of sessions with acclaimed crime reduction expert Dr. Neals Chitan, as part of a social skills program known as 'Project Stop 'n' Think'.

The sessions were organized by Dr. Caius Alfred, the Family Ministries Director of the Saint Lucia Mission of Seventh-day Adventist. These sessions were at first offered to a select group of students but soon the school administration determined that the opportunity to attend the sessions should be expanded to include both the Form Four and Five students. Thereafter, students met with Dr. Chitan every Thursday for approximately one hour and fifteen minutes.

The students who participated in the session particularly remember Dr. Chitan's various aphorisms and one-liners. One that stuck out is "Respect is the oil for society." Students interpreted this to mean that mutual respect is what keeps the community running smoothly and when the lubricant of respect is gone, the society quickly corrodes and breaks down.

Dr. Chitan also emphasized the importance of making good decisions since those they make



St. Lucia SDA Academy Graduates from the Stop 'N' Think Training

at this point in their life will have repercussions for the rest of their lives.

He further expressed the importance of having high self-esteem, "People who do not think they are worth anything are often those who engage in destructive behavior because what they feel matters and they are lashing out against a society they believe does not care about them."

Several students recalled Dr. Chitan imploring them to be leaders in their peer groups and that each of them could make a difference.

On April 22nd, at the end of the program, 60 students from the Academy participated in a grand graduation ceremony in the village of Dennerly, along with students from five other

secondary schools: Clendon Mason Memorial Secondary School, Grande Riviere Secondary School, Beanfield Secondary School, Entrepot Secondary, Bocage Secondary School. There were also participants from other institutions, including the Bordelais Correctional Facility. There were 400 graduates overall.



Mr. Matthew Hunte



## SAINT LUCIA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ACADEMY

# CRIME, OBESITY AND ALCOHOLISM FEATURE IN USC GRADUATION COMMENCEMENT



Dr. David Williams delivers commencement address

**Y**ou hardly ever encounter a commencement address at a graduation ceremony that is data rich, but moving, scholarly yet practical, perfect in its rhythm with national regional and global conversations, honest about dark challenges but brilliant in its offer of solutions, motivational, engaging and highly entertaining and complete with a galvanizing appeal to positive action and personal responsibility. These boxes are seldom ever checked together – especially these days, when public speakers have to struggle with the conflict between meaningfulness and reel-worthiness. Harvard University Professor, Dr. David Williams – a compatriot of luminaries of the Nobel ilk like the late Derek Walcott and the late Sir Arthur Lewis – gave the perfect commencement address at the main auditorium of the University of the Southern Caribbean last Sunday.

Invited by his alma mater to deliver valedictory counsel to the

445 members of the Class of 2023, the St. Lucian born professor began his address by declaring that “I am proud to be an alumnus of the University of the Southern Caribbean...it is USC/CUC that has made me who I am today.”

Dr. Williams pointed out that the graduands were now part of the 7 percent of the world’s population that has achieved the minimum of a bachelor’s degree. He further stated that the Class of 2023 was graduating at an unprecedented time when the Caribbean region and the world is faced with great challenges and enormous opportunities to make a difference. It is here that this renowned sociologist, public health expert and black studies scholar went to crime obesity and the consumption of alcohol as ‘for-instances’ to concretize some of the challenges that confront us and to recruit conscious change agents to face them with courage, passion and perseverance.

Describing homicide and violent

crime as a serious public health crisis in the Caribbean region and a problem that attracts a non-trivial spend of the limited financial resources our governments have, Williams pointed to a 2023 study that revealed that the rate of violent death in CARICOM member states is almost 3 times higher than the average for the rest of the world. Professor Williams also shared that research indicates that children of the incarcerated and those who are struggling in elementary school and devoid of positive role models are likely to commit more than 50 percent of future crimes according to some estimates by criminologists. He pointed to a successful long term prevention strategy that has shown promising results in the US. The US Dream Academy, established 25 years ago by Trinidad-born pastor and musician Dr. Wintley Phipps, focusses on inspiring and investing in children of the incarcerated and those struggling academically in elementary school. Believing that “a child with a dream is a child

with a future”, the US Dream Academy has developed a robust curriculum of academics, social values enrichment and mentoring to at risk children in underserved communities in 10 cities in the US.

Turning to the epidemic of overweight and obesity, professor Williams revealed that the rates of overweight and obesity ranged in our region from 19 percent in the population of Antigua and Barbuda to a high of 32 percent in the Bahamas. More alarmingly, our region also grapples with increasing rates of childhood obesity. In the population of children aged 5 to 9, the overweight and obese ranged from 26 percent in St. Lucia to 40 percent in the Bahamas. Referring to what he called the “obesogenic environment” in which we live, Williams averred that merely going with the flow puts us at risk for gaining weight in an environment where unhealthy choices are easier to make than healthy ones.

Like he did when he discussed crime, professor Williams also identified innovative solutions that are available to fight overweight and obesity and encouraged the Class of 2023 to use their resolve and creativity to join the fight.

Alcoholism is another global public health challenge that confronts us. Professor Williams shared “alcohol consumption is strongly associated with more than 200 diseases and injury conditions. In 2016, 2,8 million deaths (an average of almost 8000 per day) were related to alcohol consumption.”

Drawing on 2020 consumption patterns in Latin America and the Caribbean, Williams showed that

Uruguay, St. Lucia, Argentina and Barbados were the nations with the highest rates of consumption, with Trinidad and Tobago showing a 25 percent increase in per capita use in recent years. Professor Williams also presented numbers and percentages that showed that frequent heavy or binge drinking was very far from uncommon and there was a very high correlation between alcohol consumption and road accidents (1:3 for men and 1:5 for women).

Professor Williams called out the wines and spirits industry – whose profits depend on alcohol consumption – for dishonestly highlighting research data that support their interests but being silent with the data that does not. He further pointed to a raging debate in the scientific literature on the apparent benefits to health of moderate alcohol consumption and showed that these benefits are more confounding than causal. Moreover, he revealed that current research now shows that alcohol consumption had no identifiable benefits to persons under the age of 40 – who make up a large proportion of the market for wines and spirits.

Professor Williams then counselled the graduating class and his wider audience to “treat each child of humanity with dignity and respect”. On this matter he courageously pronounced that Christians may need to apologize to the LGBT community. “They have not experienced the love of Jesus in the way we treat them,” he said.

Conceding that making a positive difference is often expensive in financial terms, he submitted that money ought not to be an obstacle to pursuing purpose.

Find out what God wants you to do and God would hold Himself responsible for your success he advised, with a quality of conviction that could only come from personal experience.

He shared that he graduated from USC/CUC in 1976 and left for Canada with only US\$15. He was determined to further his studies. With his mother’s wise words that “no honest work is degrading” encoded in his mind he worked hard in sometimes difficult conditions and God never let him down. He confidently declared that “what God has done for me; He is prepared to do for the Class of 2023!”

Finally, he encouraged the class to own their world with the good and the bad in it. “Learn lessons from it, understand, struggle, invest, improve, rectify, eradicate, heal, serve, love and preserve it. Do not be discouraged by naysayers or paralyzed by tradition,” he warned.

“Go Class of 2023... create solutions, meet the needs of suffering humanity, turn dark nights into bright tomorrows, transform communities of despair into new oases of hope. You can make a difference. You have an extraordinary future. May God bless each of you and may God bless USC.”

View the full video of Professor David Williams’ address here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eQWPv6l6eA>



STITS - Presentation to Participants



Staff Members of the NBA and ASDAP - STITS

## SYSTEMIC TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION TRAINING SERIES

The Systemic Technology Integration Training Series or STITS program; is designed to train teachers in the use of Tech Tools that will enhance the whole education process. The STITS program aims to equip teachers with hands on experience during a two week long online session. Under the leadership of Miss Mako Williams and her team several of the Seventh-day Adventist Primary School teachers were engaged in the STITS training program held in April 2022. during their Easter break these dedicated teachers to include Mrs Jasmin on Underwood- Joseph, Mrs Marion Brown, Mrs Calesia Thibou, Mrs Janelle Johnson and Mrs Yanel Abram.

These teachers and were engaged in an online Zoom training

program that better equip them to return to school after the Easter break ready to integrate technology into their classroom. These teachers demonstrated dedication and perseverance as the Endeavor to not only complete the course but to submit various assignments. One of which includes evidence of the integration of Technology into their classroom in their class work

As a result of having participated in this program three of the before mentioned teachers were rewarded for the efforts and for the outstanding work. They subsequently received 15 laptops each and a projector. Mrs. Yanel Abram was also selected as a STITS champion and of such will be receiving a year subscription to one of the online tools used during the training. Mrs. Thibou

one of the teachers was selected to become a part of the training train the trainers of the STITS program. She was actively involved in the 2023 training. Mrs. Thibou was also instrumental in acquiring an additional 15 laptops to revive the computer lab at the Antigua Seventh-day Adventist Primary School.

The New Bethel Academy can also celebrate at two of their teachers, Ms. Neshia Harrigan and Mrs. Lorre Patrick they too were chosen as STITS champions and received 15 laptops and projectors. This is a testament to the dedication of the teachers across our school here in Antigua. We say congratulations to our hard-working teachers and wish them many more successes on their journey of Education.



New Bethel Academy - STITS - Ms. Harrigan receiving certificate



Antigua SDA Primary - STITS - Mrs. Underwood Joseph receiving certificate



New Bethel Academy - STITS - Mrs. Patrick receiving certificate



# ANTIGUA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOLS' EXCEL IN TECHNOLOGY



Antigua SDA Secondary School Students - Fintech Challenge - Students and Teacher

**L**emario Clarke-Damier, Rive'Yea Brown, Reanna Christopher, and Ajani Edwards, students from the Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School, were selected as participants in the recently concluded Bright Hack Fintech Challenge. This event, organised by the U.S. embassy in Bridgetown, took place at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus in Antigua from the 6th to the 8th of September, 2023.

Following the first pleasantries and introductory statements, the students were then exposed to a pair of enlightening talks. Mr. Marcus Kennedy, the representative of the United States embassy, delivered the initial address. The speaker presented statistical data about financial literacy during the session. The second address was from the ABBA (Antigua and Barbuda Bankers Association). The presenter engaged the students in a discussion about digital marketing, various modalities of monetary transactions, and the diverse array of financial services supplied by the bank in which they are employed. The workshop was highly engaging and fostered enthusiastic participation. By the end of the presentations, eight distinct challenges were brought to the student's attention. After

careful consideration, the team decided to focus their efforts on devising a solution to address the issue of financial literacy.

During the subsequent day, the team dedicated their efforts to developing their application, which they named Green Sprouts. The Green Sprouts application is designed to foster positive financial behaviours, starting from early childhood at age five and continuing throughout one's working years until retirement. The objective is to cultivate a culture with a comprehensive understanding of global financial concerns, driven by the fundamental belief that "Knowledge is power," to tackle insufficient financial literacy levels.

On the third day, the students came before the program's commencement and imminent competition to make final changes and preparations. The team had a firm conviction in their capacity to achieve victory and maintain a positive outlook. The tournament consisted of sixteen teams comprising participants from high schools, Antigua State College and the University of the West Indies. The team was chosen to do the fourth presentation of our innovative proposal. Two team members effectively presented the proposal to the panel of

judges within the designated time frame of five minutes. The judges appreciated our concept based on its notable degree of practicality and marketability. During the allocated five-minute interval for inquiries, every team member actively and promptly addressed the questions presented by the panel of judges. The team skillfully discussed all queries raised by the judges, showcasing a comprehensive understanding of the problem and a precise explanation of how the application will rectify the issue of financial literacy. After completing the presentations by the remaining 12 teams, a declaration was made to announce the top three teams. Team Green Sprouts from the Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School attained first place.

The fact that the students were chosen champions indicates the significant amount of effort and time dedicated to their final project. Moreover, the findings suggest that individuals should refrain from underestimating their abilities, regardless of the perceived difficulty of the assignment. Undoubtedly, the scenario mentioned above exemplified the triumph of David over Goliath when, with God's help, a lesser-known secondary school surpassed even its collegiate counterparts to earn the coveted first place.

The students wish to convey their deep delight in achieving this milestone and express their appreciation to God, their parents, and their instructor, Mr. Mathurin, for their consistent support throughout the process. The aforementioned gives evidence to support the assertion frequently conveyed by their School: "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us."

## SHANNAH ROBIN



Shannah Robin Showing off his medal of Honour

**M**y name is Professor Shannah Robin, Esq. I was not always an outstanding person deserving a medal of honour. I was troublesome and rude and was always involved in trouble. I had a very rough beginning and hardly had the support of my parents. How God admitted me to the Dominica Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School, where I had a life-changing experience, is a testament to who God is. When one thinks there is no hope, the God of heaven comes through and directs the paths of the faithful.

I failed the Common Entrance Examinations twice. This failure meant that my chance of attending a secondary school was not great. I enrolled in the Junior Secondary school programme, a division in the Ministry of Education where under-performers were assigned. Before long, I fought with a teacher, and as would be expected, my tenure at that school ended immediately. In the quest for further knowledge, I begged for entrance to the Foundation High School. I was almost fifteen and could not read well, but my quest for knowledge drove me to seek admittance to the school. Foundation High School was a small high school near my home, which gave young people a second chance to attain their goals, and I was happy the principal admitted me. I felt confident that I was in the right place and that my educational pursuits would be realised.

However, as fate would have it, my educational dream was once more shattered. My father had refused to pay the forty-dollar tuition, so I had to fend for myself every day to pay my fees. I skipped school weekly to carry bananas for the farmers and cleaned pig and goat pens to earn enough to pay my fees. There were times when I went to school hungry, and the principal used to offer me bread and milk. However, because I had to skip school so frequently, I failed significant examinations and lost my opportunity to continue school there.

Dejected and embarrassed, I approached Mrs. Gloria Shillingford, principal at a high school in the next village. She explained that I had not passed Common Entrance and that her school could not admit me. I was heartbroken, but I continued to go to the school every day during the first week of school to ask her for a favour. Finally, she told me she would call a private school that may consider me.

The following week, I found myself at Dominica Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School. Since I had no money for bus fare, I rode from Marigot to Portsmouth on my bicycle. Fortunately, I convinced my mom to travel to Portsmouth to support me. Upon arrival, the principal, Ms.



Shannah Robin Receives his medal of Honour

Daphney Magloire, told me I had to take an entrance examination. I felt defeated. "Examinations!" I thought. "I will never make it." Then I heard her say, "But by the way, the third form has no space to admit you."

"I can go back to second form and work my way up," I blurted out. She agreed, and before long, I managed to report in uniform, all dressed up for school later that week.

The experience there was different. I did not immediately give up my troublesome ways, but the Lord worked for me. I worked several jobs to support myself. I managed two karate schools while in high school, and one became the largest Karate School in Dominica to this date, with over 100 students. My education gained a strong foundation, was nurtured in the way of the Lord, and provided me with a heart-changing experience. Upon graduation in 2001, I was head boy, school counsellor, prefect and House captain. That same year, I gained entrance at the Dominica State College and graduated with an Associate Degree in Architectural Design in 2004. I designed and

built my four-story building, and continued to manage a thriving karate school while serving as a secondary school teacher for the Government of Dominica for 12 years before migrating to Canada, where I have owned a successful construction firm for the last seven years. I was also privileged to volunteer my services to teach Technical Drawing at the Dominica SDA Secondary School and to assist the school in several ways.

Reflecting on my many achievements, I can testify that God has not failed me. I was and still am a massage therapist, a successful licensed farmer, and the Founder and owner of Universal Martial Arts Academy Robin Ryu karate and Jiu jitsu, which serves students internationally, with the Canada branch hosting sixty students. I am Seventh degree black belt Masters level, won karate champion seven times, won three (3) trip crown champion, and three three time martial Hall of fame in the Caribbean and USA.

Besides this I am a motivational speaker, author of "The Warrior's Journey", was featured on Netflix series, the 100, and led the

winning world champion team in Trinidad in 2010, winning 16 gold, nine silver and six bronze medals. I also won a silver medal in China in 2016 and was named best Sports Organizer in 2010.

Besides the transformation that the Lord made in my life, one of my most significant achievements is receiving a medal of honour from the President of the Commonwealth during the 2014 National rally as a National recognition of my contribution to the development of karate in the country.

I owe my success to the God of heaven and earth and the caring and dedicated principal and staff of Dominica Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School, now Arthur Waldron Seventh-day Adventist Academy. I am a transcript of God's transformation, and my experience indicates that God can mend broken people and exalt them. If he can transform a young man who was homeless twelve times, was troublesome and rude, slept on people's floors, stayed in a car for six to eight months and went hungry for long periods, he can transform you, too.



Shannah Robin, a Successful entrepreneur

# HOW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST EDUCATION HAS IMPACTED ME AS A TEACHER

Nicholas Bedford, teacher Barbados SDA secondary School

**M**y introduction to Seventh-day Adventist Education began when I embarked on my teaching career specializing in Industrial Technology and Technical Drawing for the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) at the Barbados Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School. This initial step proved to be a pivotal entry into a community of educators who embraced me wholeheartedly, they not only nurtured my innate teaching capabilities but also ignited within me a relentless pursuit of excellence.

The defining moment in my educational journey began when the deputy principal encouraged me to delve into the writings of Ellen G. White, particularly her book, "Education." These initial readings of White's literary works profoundly broadened my perspective on the multifaceted nature of education. These profound insights convinced me that education should serve as a

vessel for character development and the cultivation of a profound sense of purpose. Today, this philosophical foundation forms the bedrock of my pedagogical approach, empowering me to guide my students towards flourishing in every facet of their lives.

Our school provides a unique platform where students undergo a transformative journey, and embrace their faith and values with increasing conviction. As a teacher, I am acutely aware that I am not merely a disseminator of knowledge but also a living embodiment of the Christian values that we hold dear. This awareness has made me exceptionally conscientious, ensuring that I serve as a role model, exemplifying the core values that underpin our faith and educational mission.

In conclusion, my experience with Seventh-day Adventist Education has been nothing short of an extraordinary journey



Nicholas Bedford, Teacher Barbados SDA Secondary School

characterized by faith, growth, and profound self-discovery. I am profoundly grateful for the myriad of opportunities it has afforded me and the enduring impact it has left on countless students. It is a privilege to be a part of a community of educators committed to holistic development, and I look forward to continuing this journey of nurturing minds and souls, empowering future generations to thrive academically, spiritually, and personally.

## MY HARMON EXPERIENCE

Faith Pierre

**M**y experience at Harmon School of Seventh-day Adventists (SDA) has been transformative and enriching in more ways than I could have imagined. This educational institution, nestled in a serene environment conducive to learning, stands out as a beacon of holistic development and spiritual growth.

One of the defining features of Harmon is its commitment to providing a well-rounded education. The curriculum promotes not only academic excellence but also character development. Incorporating religious teachings and principles into daily life assists students in developing a solid foundation of ethics and spirituality. As a result, I have not only excelled

academically, but I have also grown as a person of integrity and compassion.

The supportive and close-knit community at Harmon School is another aspect that sets it apart. Teachers, other staff, and fellow students have all become like family to me. The atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual support has created a conducive learning

# MY HARMON EXPERIENCE

Joshua Potts

I am a former Head Male Prefect and alumnus of the Harmon School of SDA in Trinidad and Tobago. Storms are a part of life, just as they are a natural part of every ecosystem and these storms can bring both dark clouds and opportunities for rebirth and growth. My position as the head male prefect empowered me to become a great leader and cultivate discipline.

Throughout my tenure at Harmon there were weekly chapel sessions which allowed students to glorify God with their talents and gifts at a Seventh-day Adventist church nearby and engage in weekly devotions. Despite a fear of public speaking, a search for confidence emerged throughout my academic years. These chapel sessions enabled me to conquer my fear and

resulted in the shift from praying to preaching. I was at first afraid, but the Holy Spirit drove away my fear.

Harmon also facilitated many 'Week of Prayer' sessions with significant sermons from different preachers. These messages were very motivational. They reinforced the power of prayer while praying together as a school.

In Forms 1–2, before the COVID-19 pandemic, I had an academic storm. I did not push myself to be more than average. I prayed, asked God for guidance throughout the pandemic, and discovered my value. Prayer was perpetual for me. My academic performance eventually improved. Teachers imparted priceless life advice, enriching the Harmon experience.

Despite confronting many storms in high school, I have experienced significant growth and transformation. Harmon was a life-changing experience, revealing the power of God in education, evidenced by my CSEC results of seven (7) grade ones. I believed that "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" - Philippians 4:13.



Joshua Potts, writer of My Harmon Experience

environment. I have had the opportunity to engage in various extracurricular activities, from sports to community service, which have broadened my horizons and instilled a sense of responsibility and empathy.

Harmon's commitment to holistic development extends to physical well-being as well. This institution promotes a healthy

lifestyle through sports and fitness programs, and as a result, students become academically proficient and physically fit.

In conclusion, my experience at Harmon School of SDA has been exceptional. It has not only provided me with a solid academic foundation, but it has also fostered my spiritual and ethical development. The sense of

community and support has made my time here truly memorable. As I look to the future, I will carry the invaluable lessons and experiences gained at Harmon School, knowing that they will continue to shape my life in meaningful ways.

# MY JOURNEY TO ADVENTISM THROUGH ADVENTIST EDUCATION

Petranella M. Layne, Secretary of H.A.S.A  
Scarborough S.D.A. Primary School



Petranella Layne and her daughter at her baptism

**A**s a mother of six (6) beautiful children, I knew how imperative it is to raise them in a Christian household despite not having a strong religious background. Although my husband and I were baptized at a young age in different religious denominations, we were not “practicing Christians”.

One of my schoolmates was a teacher at the time, at the Scarborough Seventh-day Adventist Primary School and she encouraged me to enroll my children at the school when my husband and I decided to move to Tobago in search of a safe and tranquil environment to raise our family. I thought to myself, why not? After all, we got married at the Scarborough Seventh-day Adventist Church. Besides this, my aunt, (God rest her soul) was what we would describe in colloquial terms as a “staunch Adventist”. She was one of the most selfless, caring, humble and God fearing persons I knew and I secretly strove to be like her.

My husband and I explored the

pros and cons of enrolling our children in a Christian-based private school, and of course the pros outweigh the cons. The only setback for us was being able to afford paying school fees on time, but God provided a way every time!

Our first encounter at the school was meeting the then principal, now retired, Mrs. Maxine Job; a warm and helpful lady. She went out of her way to help us locate a seamstress so that our daughter would be able to commence school on time. As the months went by, my husband and I observed positive changes in our children. We saw them praying before each meal and every night before going to bed without being prompted to do so. We also observed them reciting scriptures taught at school and telling us about what they learned in their Bible classes.

However, the attributes that really warmed our hearts the most was seeing our eldest daughter Sapphire-Marie Layne assemble her siblings and attempting to welcome the Sabbath Day on Friday evenings. Seeing this great endeavor from a six year old child was enough to bring me to tears. Jesus was using our children to restore a renewal of faith in me! It was then and there I made the conscientious decision to get baptized in the Adventist faith. After all, it is our responsibility as parents to lead our children to Christ as the bible instructs us to “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” Proverbs 22:6.

Over time my husband and I,

along with our children began to fellowship at the Good News Seventh-day Adventist Church. I got re-baptized together with my husband on the 25th of March 2023 by Pastor Leslie Butcher and was received into the church on the 15th April 2023. Our three eldest daughters also got baptized a few weeks later, and our younger children are anxious to be baptized when they are of age.

Our journey to Adventism was definitely shaped by the Seventh-day Adventists beliefs and principles which are quite evident in their school’s structure and community by extension. I encourage parents to give their children a Christian based education because they will not regret that decision.

I applaud the Education Department of the Tobago Mission of Seventh-day Adventists for their hard work and dedication. Continue winning souls for our Lord and Savior, not only those of students but also parents through the school system.

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward” Psalms 127:3



Newly Converted Layne Family

## SOUTH CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ONLINE RESOURCES

<https://youtu.be/cgPaE3gomvE?si=MdKcWA-Q6HeZgnVR>  
Pinehaven SDA Pan Ensemble

[https://youtu.be/Gh0irnAhPuU?si=o0eHUmADXM\\_7r0to](https://youtu.be/Gh0irnAhPuU?si=o0eHUmADXM_7r0to)  
CUC Secondary Promotional Video

<https://youtu.be/jJrLvqHR6Kk?si=n9FAx8O-eArpPOzY>  
Singspiration – Maracas SDA Primary

[https://youtu.be/tw6wFQ\\_Xhco?si=ZChqAngzef9O1xjN](https://youtu.be/tw6wFQ_Xhco?si=ZChqAngzef9O1xjN)  
San Juan SDA Primary (Choral Speaking) – “These are the words of the Lord”

[https://www.youtube.com/live/S\\_r1gofgWvk?si=WxenKC44t5rEySlq](https://www.youtube.com/live/S_r1gofgWvk?si=WxenKC44t5rEySlq)  
Rio Claro SDA Primary – A Glimmer of Hope Concert

<https://youtu.be/rD3RIV8gkNQ?si=3KUUwuxih7rqBg8T>  
Point Fortin SDA Primary Promotional Video

<https://youtu.be/XXx82ESDZY0?si=vOle3xFFjo1h3Gu1>  
Siparia SDA Primary School Choir

<https://youtu.be/IPVvxuAyFTc?si=JfXa67X7XF6JOAi3>  
Sangre Grande SDA Primary Pan Ensemble

# THE RELEVANCE OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION

Devron A. Thomas, ThD

Adventist education is a consequential service-oriented phenomenon grounded on biblical revelation, which provides the qualitative difference between the sacred and secular. In a world distracted by corroding creeds and colliding philosophies, Adventist education is predicated upon some essential theological and philosophical presuppositions. Some of these include, but are not limited to: 1. The God described in the Christian Bible exists and 2. He created the world by His Word.

## Discourse

We live in a cultural milieu in which we are witnessing widespread secularisation and rapid gravitation towards atheistic philosophies. Adventist education is founded upon a theology of education, which provides the foundational and conceptual framework for developing a coherent worldview. An Adventist worldview begins with the Genesis declaration, “in the beginning God...” Gen.1:1. For Adventists, God is not a contingent being. He is a necessary Being because it is His very nature to exist. God is not derived, but all living things derive their existence from Him.

True education begins with an acknowledgment of God. If we are to know anything, we must begin with the presupposition of God’s existence. We must not forget that “God is and must be pre-eminent in all things, and that includes all knowledge;



it includes all university education whether biology or physics or chemistry or agriculture or business studies or engineering or medicine....” George Knight notes that “the health of Adventist education is dependent upon its ability to maintain its spiritual identity...” The spiritual identity alluded by Knight is conditional upon a coherent theological outlook suited to its contemporary context. In a highly charged, secularized culture, Adventist education serves as the catalyst for achieving this moral and ethical stability that is lacking in almost every facet of society. The presence of the theological dimension in education ensures that the moral fabric of society is kept alive.

Adventist education rejects the view that humans evolved from lower primate forms of life. They affirm that creation was an exclusive act of God. An accurate view of origins will assist in adequately answering the basic questions of life about identity, purpose, and destiny. Accurately responding to these questions will foster better self-image, define gender identity, improve gender equality and reduce poverty. Adventist education when appropriated in this context will create passion for political activism,

social justice, sustainable development, community needs, and become the voice of the voiceless.

## Conclusion

Ultimately, Adventist “education does not ignore the value of scientific knowledge or literary acquirements; but above information it values power; above power, goodness; above intellectual acquirements, character.”

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Pastor Devron Thomas



# ACHIEVING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Dr. Eulalie Semper



Student success is a crucial component of learning because it is considered an essential criterion for assessing the quality of educational institutions. “Academic achievement, satisfaction, acquisition of skills and competencies, persistence, attainment of learning objectives, and career success” are all components of academic success (York, Gibson, & Rankin, 2015).

The education process involves the student, family, the environment and teaching methodologies. Learning goals (“task involvement” or “mastery goals”) describe people’s willingness to improve their skills, learn new things, and develop their competencies. Therefore, to achieve academic success, students should believe in their competencies and become excited about learning. The practice of self-belief and having confidence in one’s ability to complete a task can

be foundational to academic success. Positive thinking fosters responsibility, and as students recognize that they are responsible for their learning, they will build good study habits and set small goals to achieve larger educational goals. Rodriguez and Guzman (2019) highlight the influence of academic goals and the variables of environment and support on academic performance. Therefore, we can reasonably conclude that factors such as intrinsic motivation, strong family support, excellent teaching methodologies, a safe school environment, and positive relationships are important factors in achieving academic success. Focusing more on the process and less on the grades will inspire students to become lifelong self-directed learners as they learn from mistakes, adjust goals, connect with the environment, manage time and experience the pure joy of learning.

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Eulalie Semper  
Education Director, SLC

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-GOD'S AGENCY TO PRESERVE HIS IMAGE IN THE NEXT GENERATION

Dr. Hamil Tobias

**E**ducation can be defined as the process of preparing one for living a purposeful, happy, enriching, and productive life in the here and now. It is intended to provide the tools that an individual needs to help in navigating through the various twists, turns, ups, and downs that life offers. Christian education, on the other hand, accomplishes all that education does but goes way beyond. It caters for the here and the now and places an even greater emphasis on the hereafter.

What constitutes Christian education? Let me declare very early in this piece that I have spent a significant portion of my life either being influenced by or influencing others through the medium of Christian education. So, when I define Christian education and the impact it has on me and on others, I will be drawing on my own experience as well.

Christian education is a major vehicle that God uses, or intends to use, to prepare boys and girls for a holistic, enriched life here, but more importantly, preparing them for the hereafter (Ellen G. White, 1903). The God who had to destroy the antediluvian world because of the impact that the daughters of men had on the sons of God, turning them away from God, chose to destroy the world by a flood (KJV 1769, Genesis 6). The same God also chose to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because the influence of those cities had completely corrupted His representative family living in that culture. Lot's whole family was destroyed by the corrupting lifestyles of the community in which he lived. Even righteous Lot suffered from the effects of

the very culture that led God to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah (See full story in KJV 1769, Genesis 18). This holy God understands the potency of evil even upon men and women who love God. He has therefore provided Christian education as a haven of protection for those planning to live eternally with Him. God, who understands mankind and the nature of mankind, has given to His church a system--Christian education-- that if effectively run, would aid in the development of sound characters in the next generation of church members and leaders.

Let me share my personal experience of how Christian education impacted me and other members of my family. I was born in Mason Hall, a little village in the center of Tobago. Our parents, Aldric and Caroline Tobias, had 11 children. There was no SDA primary school in our village. More so, the public school was a stone's throw from us. Our parents knew everything that went on in the school since they heard every bell to begin and end school the school day, and every bell in between. So, we all went to public school. The members of the Mason Hall SDA Church saw the need for a school and built a little SDA School. When the school was opened, many of the church members' children who were attending the public school, including all my siblings of primary school age, were immediately enrolled in the SDA school. Some families who had their children in other SDA schools transferred them to the newly opened SDA school. Many students, upon completing their studies at this village school, continued their studies at the Adventist high school, Harmon

School of SDA, even when they passed the exam for attendance to free public high schools.

My parents insisted that all their children attend the SDA high school, even when they had to borrow the money to pay the school tuition. After my siblings and I graduated and were ready for employment, our parents encouraged (even stronger than encouraged) all of us to work for the church even though salaries were much less than that offered by government or private employment. My mother would say "God's work needs good workers too." Of their 11 children, eight worked for the SDA organization in one form of employment or another. Oh, for the influence of committed parents and the impact of Christian education!

For me, the experience of attending SDA Christian schools was transformational. Before I began attending our Christian school, I did not do well in my studies. My spelling was poor. I had repeated a class. High school was not on my horizon. The founding teachers at the newly started school, Mr. Eglon Wilson and his wife Gwendolyn, were an embodiment of Christian virtue and care. We had daily morning worship and learned scripture verses. Mr. Wilson was patient, kind, encouraging and yet firm. I was personally transformed. My spelling skills improved. I became a better student, and I got stellar grades. The Wilsons demonstrated Christian love. That had a significant impact on me. The Adventist school, with only two teachers, was indeed transformational. The teachers visited our homes and shared with our parents how



we were doing. Mr. Wilson even encouraged my mother to take me from primary school and send me to the SDA high school.

So, what makes Seventh-day Adventist Christian education necessary and needed in an evil and corrupt world, especially today when anything goes, and when “fake news” is part of our daily fare? Tim Yarbrough (2023) notes, “The goal of education by the grace of God is to create self-governing people who live under the Law of God for the glory of Christ.” So SDA education helps to build character because the Bible is a staple in the school. Students learn Bible verses and they worship daily. Students learn to pray, attend regular weeks of prayer, and engage in prayers for real problems that students and others face. They have teachers who share the same values and religious beliefs as they do and therefore are not conflicted through divergent values and doctrines being advocated or taught. Students are encouraged to build a love relationship with Jesus and are guided in participating in outreach activities. Students learn to bond with each other, developing in the process healthy and wholesome relationships

based on principles and on the Word of God.

Let me share a few concepts that the school practiced while I was principal in one school or another. In one primary school, we taught children the principle of tithing. We had them work out the percent that was God’s and encouraged them to begin even with the small amounts that they earned or received as gifts. The church treasurer reported that students were paying their tithes even as small as ten cents. In other schools, students were taken to hospitals to visit the sick. Students visited shut-ins, and they distributed clothing, foodstuff, and other necessities. Students and teachers joined in cleaning homes and other properties for community folks in need. Some students distributed water freely. This was often coupled with some church pamphlets or other reading materials.

I remember teaching the students that God loves us and wants us to love one another. Students were taught that God forgives our sins, and He expects us to forgive others to the extent that we need forgiveness. How inspiring and heartwarming it was

to see students who had conflicts with others taking time to thrash out their differences and to seek forgiveness as they themselves offered forgiveness to the offending party! Students learned of the need to make restitution and they made restitution to those they had robbed.

Finally, humans tend to fall in love and marry those with whom they associate. The Bible demands that we be not unequally yoked. When our children attend SDA schools, they tend to form associations which ultimately could lead to lifelong relationships. Our schools are given by God as a bastion of hope and as a place of safety for our young people. God always provides a place of safety for His people. For our young people, that place of safety is the Seventh-day Adventist Christian school.

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## NURTURING MENTAL WELLNESS IN CHILDREN: A 10-POINT GUIDE TO RAISING MENTALLY HEALTHY KIDS

Dr. Patricia Hudson-Henry

**R**aising mentally healthy children has become a top priority for parents in today's fast-paced world.

Mental well-being is as important as physical health; nurturing it from a young age can pave the way for a fulfilling and successful life. The USA has seen a steady rise in teen mental health problems since 2009. In 2022, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported that the levels rose to 44%, the highest ever seen, and this number is steadily rising. This alarming data points to a larger global problem that should not be ignored. Indeed, more and more high school students report

feelings of hopelessness. Interestingly, it is seen across every teen demographic (race, gender, socioeconomic, chaste vs. promiscuous, sexual orientation, religion, etc.). We cannot ignore these mental health concerns as they are part of our congregation. We have hurting young people sitting in our pews. Our Heavenly Father desires that we "... prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers," 3 John 1:2. So what can we do to ensure the appropriate care for our youth beyond praying with families? Yes, professional help is always recommended, but we can take an offensive stance and preemptively ensure that our

kids grow up strong mentally and emotionally. Here are some essential strategies to help parents raise mentally healthy children.

### **1. Create a Loving and Supportive Environment:**

Children thrive in an environment where they feel loved, valued, and secure. Foster a strong emotional bond by spending quality time with them, expressing affection, and actively listening to their thoughts and feelings. Find time during the week to let them know you love them and how proud you are of them. Find things that you can celebrate about them.

## **2. Encourage Open Communication:**

Encourage your children to express their emotions freely. Be their confidant and listen without judgment. Validate their feelings and help them navigate challenges by offering loving guidance and support. In communicating, always seek to connect with more than you correct your children. Avoid being seen as scrutinising; aim for nurturing.

## **3. Teach Emotional Intelligence:**

Educate your children about emotions and teach them how to manage their feelings effectively. Emotional intelligence helps in understanding oneself and others, fostering empathy, and building strong relationships are essential skills for mental well-being.

## **4. Promote Healthy Lifestyle Choices:**

A balanced diet, regular exercise, and adequate sleep are crucial for physical health and play a significant role in the health of our brains and, thus, our mental well-being. Encourage outdoor activities, limit screen time, and promote healthy eating habits to ensure overall wellness.

## **5. Set Realistic Expectations:**

Help your children set achievable goals and celebrate their successes, no matter how small. Avoid excessive pressure and unrealistic expectations, as they can lead to stress and anxiety. Encourage a growth mindset, where failures are viewed as opportunities to explore other options.

## **6. Foster Resilience:**

Resilience is the ability to bounce back from setbacks. Teach your children that failures are a natural part of life and give them the tools to cope with challenges. Encourage problem-solving skills



and a positive outlook towards adversity.

## **7. Promote Social Connections:**

Healthy relationships are fundamental to mental well-being. Encourage your children to build friendships, interact with peers, and participate in group activities. Positive social connections provide emotional support and a sense of belonging as they engage socially and teach them to set boundaries in their relationships.

## **8. Be a Positive Role Model:**

Children often emulate their parents' behaviour. Demonstrate healthy coping mechanisms, positive communication, and effective stress management techniques. Your actions speak louder than words and can significantly influence your child's mental well-being.

## **9. Seek Professional Help When Needed:**

If you notice persistent signs of emotional distress, don't hesitate to seek professional help. A mental health professional can provide appropriate guidance and support tailored to your child's needs.

## **10. Pray with and for Your Children**

We pray for our kids in our private devotion and during worship.

Praying with and for your children goes a step further. Pray 'with and for your children' individually about that child's specific needs. Let your tone be excited to celebrate the wonders in your child, their achievement, and the amazing person that they are. Then, pray for their journey through and toward heaven. Finally, ask God to help you to be the parent your child needs to be who he created them to be. In conclusion, raising mentally healthy children requires a combination of love, support, education, and access to appropriate resources. By creating a nurturing environment, promoting emotional intelligence, and fostering resilience, parents can empower their children to navigate life's challenges confidently and gracefully, laying the foundation for a mentally healthy and fulfilling future.



Patricia Hudson-Henry



## TOBAGO MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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August 17, 2023

### **Administrators**

Caribbean Union Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists  
Rookery Nook  
Maraval  
TRINIDAD

### **Dear Administrators,**

Christian Greetings.

This letter is to formally indicate that the Executive Committee of the Tobago Mission has voted to have our Regular Mission Session on November 20-21, 2023, at the Scarborough Seventh-day Adventist Church. During such time delegates will receive reports, elect directors and members of the executive committee, submit plans and recommendations and transact any other business as stipulated in the operating policies of the Tobago Mission of Seventh-day Adventists.

On November 20, 2023, the Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. followed by the commencement of the Session at 9:00 a.m. at the aforementioned venue.

Please see accompanying confirmation notice from officers of the Mission.

Thank you.

Yours respectfully,

Martin Cunningham  
**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

## SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST (SDA) EDUCATION

Adrianna Peterson, Anais Abdul-Haqq, Azarea Frank, Julius Mentore,  
Ka'jai Serrant (Std. 5 students) Maracas SDA Primary

### 1. It's SDA Education

It does not feel like you're in probation.  
It helps you to have discipline  
And to know you are loved  
Despite who's your kin.

### 2. It's S.D.A. Education!

Where the teachers teach and show how we  
should be  
And what we should know.  
Our faithful and diligent teachers  
Are just like Jesus' preachers.

### 3. It's S.D.A. Education!

It always gives you inspiration.  
Children from every denomination  
Are welcomed to be together as one nation,  
To admire the fireworks of God's creation.

### 4. It's S.D.A. Education!

Where we embrace our culture,  
With no hesitation.  
We honour our heritage,  
And represent villages  
In a Godly image.

### 5. Yes! It's S.D.A. Education!

Children can join in the celebration.  
Parents need not to worry,  
Because these schools are not in a hurry,  
With God as our Guide,  
We will be on an endless joy ride!



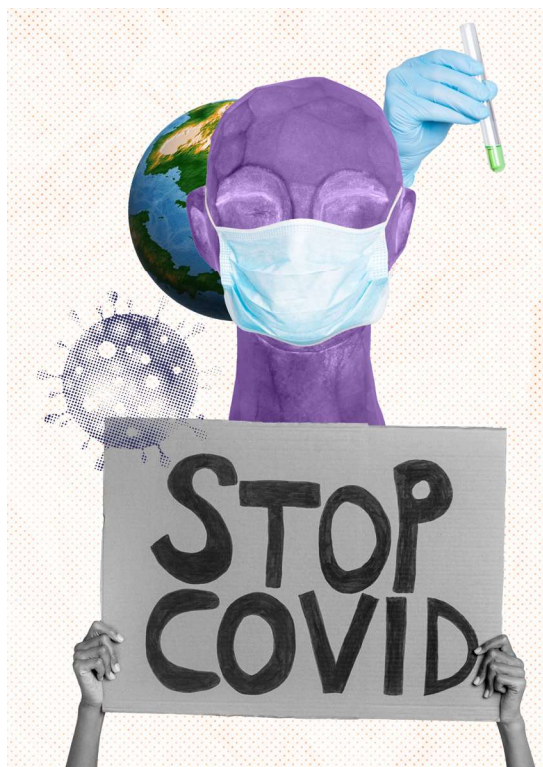
## THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

**Kai Watkins**  
**Barbados SDA Secondary School**

I am sure no one was ready for this day  
When a global pandemic would attack us  
And make us pay  
For not going outside and wearing a  
mask.

We can bring this virtue home to play  
We must stay six feet apart at all cost  
And protect our friends and family  
without a loss

With God's help we can win it all  
So wear your mask and sanitize your  
hands  
And let us fight COVID together



## DRUG ABUSE - THE REAL PANDEMIC

Alyssa James

5th Form, Arthur Waldron SDA Academy

Heroin, marijuana, fentanyl and cocaine  
All these poisons steal your dreams, rob health and fry your brain  
But the drug pushers don't have a care  
It's the quickest way for them to become a millionaire

They stack bricks, to make the chips  
While drug addicts look for their next killer hit  
It's a crisis, drug crisis, everywhere!  
Just look at the scene in Kensington, Philadelphia

Once a residential city now turned into zombieland  
Sober civilians trained to walk around with narcan  
Drug addicts lose their jobs, homes, families then hope  
To smother their cries for help, they shoot up dope

Needle, needle false hope goes in their veins  
Getting high off a dose of heroin to ease the pain  
In the streets, their lifeless bodies drop like flies  
While drug dealers go on vacation in private jets flying high  
"Don't take it personal, we're just businessmen."  
"We got a family to feed, we're just making ends"

The government is at their wits end, how do we save them?  
What's the plan?  
Rehab centers, drug treatments to stop this evil contraband?  
The addicts just escape and go to the dopeman  
Just to sell their soul for another half a gram

Stumped by this drug epidemic, what's the next step?  
Undercover sting operations to intercept  
But the product keeps coming and the addicts keep rising  
As the drug territory moves from one to another kingpin





When will this drug epidemic end?  
Drug dealers have no conscience as their pockets deepen  
Children are fear stricken as they just standby  
And watch their parents morph into a monster as they get their next high

This drug life is one that leaves everyone shackled in chains  
Whether you're the dealer or the one frying your brains  
Slave to a gun to avoid getting hit through a scope  
Slave to a needle, or spoon for a shot of dope

Homeless or mansion they both represent jail  
In this drug industry, no man is spared from its assail  
So children stay away, stay focused in school  
Don't end up in a casket or behind bars like a fool

Now people listen and listen well  
Whether you're a drug user or whether you sell  
It's time we put an end to this and take a firm stand  
And speak pro-life to save our fellow man

Users stop selling yourselves short for a high  
Drug pushers, that could be your family member, would you help them die?  
No amount of money is worth destroying a soul  
Cause in the end we are all worth much more than gold.



## PANDEMIC REVERIE

Leah Nurse

Barbados SDA Secondary School

I leaned out of my window  
Allowing my thoughts to flow  
Like water after Summer rain  
Like freshly dyed silks  
With hues of grey and taupe

People pass on the streets below  
Its tapestry dotted with telltale specks of blue  
That represents protection safety  
Hiding their features from my prying eyes.

Pandemic

What does it mean? What should I learn  
that I haven't learned?  
That it drags on and on and on  
Locking me in the prison of my home

I hold up my head  
I am now over my bout of self-pity  
Pandemic is reality  
Life goes on  
Chores to do  
The swish of a broom  
The rhythmic thump as I knead my bread  
Hobbies to enjoy  
Scrapbooking, crochet, books  
Delicious books that transport me  
Far from the dismal reality I live in

Twilight has fallen  
Its palette paints the formerly grey sky  
With tints of gold and yellow  
And auburn to keep me warm.

I can't do anything about it  
So I do must do my best to keep me happy  
Life has many joys  
That the pandemic cannot mask from me.

## HOW COVID IMPACTED ME

Tobia Blenman

Barbados SDA Secondary School

How COVID impacted me?  
What an essay topic, let me see...  
My house was a place of refuge  
While I became the refuge.

Year round challenges

Like volcano ash blown across the sea,  
And those constant lockdowns "sigh",  
But just because we have lows  
Doesn't mean we do not have highs.

Though friends and family were near,  
While independence was on line.  
We still shed some tears  
Jug jug and bakes was on somebody's plate,  
Doctors and nurses are trusted because of our state.

How COVID-19 has affected me?  
An easy topic, let me see.

## MY LIFE AND COVID-19

Mikayah Willoughby

Barbados SDA Secondary School

COVID-19 don't make me laugh  
Or that is what I would say two years in the past.

2019 done and 202 come,  
Now we stuck in the house and can't do no more  
School on line but I am fine  
And everybody is vacation  
To my bed I am bound.

At some point though I got tired  
From seeing the same wall all the time,  
Each morning I woke up in the same sunshine  
And each morning I say the same rhyme  
"COVID, COVID go away and come again another day  
All us children hate to stay inside every day."

For all those viewing this let it be known  
That if you say this little rhyme  
COVID may just go home.

# ART PIECES FROM BARBADOS SDA SECONDARY SCHOOL



**Michael Harris**  
Acrylic on Canvas Portrait



**Aren Gilkes**  
Batik Print on bag & scarf



**Celine Casher**  
Colored Pencil on paper



**Nathaniel Gibson**  
Stencil Print on Fabric



**Nathaniel Gibson**  
Collage on Canvas



**Connor Harris**  
Visual Art

## THE BURN

Sapphire A. Cornibert, Grade 6 Student  
Eucharist Lewis SDA Primary School



I screamed in agony as I looked at my hand. “Click, Click, Crash!” the cutlery dropped to the floor. My mother dashed in only to stop in her tracks and stare in horror.

That Sunday while lunch was being transformed from its raw state to a scrumptious meal, I was tempted to steal a bite, but I held my horses. After exercising much patience, lunch was finally ready.

“Finally!” I said as I thought about how delightful the food would be. “Saphy, can you please place the forks, knives and spoons on the table?” my father inquired as I drooled thinking about the food.

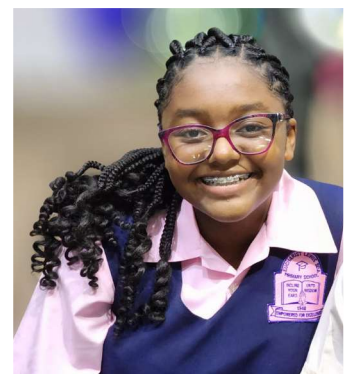
“Finee,” I groaned since I felt like he interrupted my thoughts. Everyone moved like ants around the kitchen and dining area as they were cleaning up and placing the food in presentable dishes that no one dared to speculate what I was up to. I sluggishly went to complete my duty. As I wrapped the

cutlery, my father placed the pots and plates on the tables. I focused and daydreamed about the taste of the food to distract me from my annoying duty. I was completely oblivious of the sweltering hot pan that was near my arm. My arm unconsciously crawled closer to the pan. I recalled the moment the pan kissed the inner part of my right arm, setting off an alarm to activate my mouth. “Ahh!” I screamed bringing instant attention to myself.

My father dashed over to me, grabbed my arm, and dipped it in bone-chilling water. I gasped in trepidation as I examined my arm. Within a few minutes it is uncontrollably squirting a yellow-colored liquid. My caring mother dressed the burn then wrapped my arm in gauze. As she revolved the gauze around my arm, I winced in pain because it hurt terribly. Even in all my pain I was thinking about my carelessness and impatience.

While the burn began healing, it created a scar which grew bigger and bigger. Eventually the burn made a vertical line across the inner part of my arm. Soon after the incident, I was brought to a local dermatologist to get it examined. It turned out that I got a second-degree burn. After the diagnosis, I was given instructions for my new diet.

My arm eventually healed, but the scar remained. As much as I felt the intense pain during this entire ordeal, every time I look at the scar, it reminds me that I need to be patient and more aware of my surroundings.



Sapphire A. Cornibert

## CREATIVE THINKING

Answer the following questions as creatively as you can.

1. In which battle did Napoleon die?
2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
3. In which state does the Mississippi River flow?
4. What is the main reason for divorce?
5. What is the main reason for failure?
6. What can you never have for supper?
7. If you throw a red stone into the blue sea, what will it become?
8. How can you lift an elephant with one hand?
9. If it took eight men ten hours to build a house, how long will it take four men to build it?
10. How can you drop a raw egg on a concrete floor without cracking it?

## RIDDLES

1. There's a one-story house where everything is yellow. The walls are yellow. The doors are yellow. All the furniture is yellow. The house has yellow beds and yellow couches. What color are the stairs?
2. A girl fell off a 20-foot ladder. She wasn't hurt. How?
3. What four-letter word can be written forward, backward, or upside down, and can still be read from left to right?
4. What is at the end of the rainbow?
5. Name three consecutive days without naming any of the seven days of the week.
6. You are in a dark room with a box of matches. On a table are a candle, an oil lamp, and a log of firewood. What do you light first?
7. What two words, added together, contain the most letters?
8. What do these words all have in common? polish, job, herb

## ANSWERS

### *Creative Thinking*

1. His last battle
2. At the bottom of the page
3. Liquid
4. Marriage
5. Examinations
6. Lunch and dinner
7. It will simply become wet
8. You will never find an elephant with only one hand.
9. No time at all, the wall is already built.
10. Any way you want, concrete floors are very hard to crack

### *Riddles*

1. There are no stairs—it's a one-story house!
2. She fell off the bottom step.
3. NOON.
4. The letter W!
5. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow.
6. The match! Can't light any of those things without a lit match.
7. Post office.
8. They are all pronounced differently when capitalized.

## FUN FACTS

1. There are no muscles in your fingers: Their function is controlled by muscles in your palms and arms.
2. All of an adult human's blood vessels, if laid out end to end, would be about 100,000 miles, so they could encircle the earth four times.
3. According to recent research, the human nose can distinguish at least a trillion different odors.

## DR. HILARY BOWMAN



Retired Education Director,  
CARU

In November 2022, Dr. Hilary Bowman, an icon of Seventh-day Adventist Education, ended active service after serving in the Education department for 42 years. He served as Principal of Mountain View SDA Academy in St. Vincent and Education Director of the East Caribbean Conference and Caribbean Union Conference. We thank God for Dr. Bowman's firm foundation for CARU's Education Department.

To celebrate this significant milestone, the CARU Education Directors hosted an impressive retirement function for him in Orlando, Florida, where his family and friends shared in celebrating his valuable contribution to the development of Seventh-day Adventist Education in the Caribbean Union Conference.

## MRS. MARGARET RAMSARRAN



Guyana Conference

United with the remnant church and God's people for the last 55 years, Pastor Margaret Ramsarran, former Education Director for the Guyana Conference retired from active service after serving in several capacities in the Conference. Pastor Ramsarran is the first East Indian woman to be commissioned by the Inter American Division (IAD), and the third woman in the IAD to have received this special ordinance from God. This spiritual leader fondly called a woman of simplicity, humility and servitude served the church for thirty-five (35) years of unbroken service to her Lord and the people of Guyana. We pray God will continue to bestow his graces on this woman of worth.

## MRS. LAVERNE MIKE



North Caribbean Conference

Mrs. Laverne Mike retired from active service on August 31, 2023. She was a classroom teacher at the St. Croix SDA School for 17 years. Subsequently, she served as Business Manager at the same institution for 11 years, a position from which she is retiring. We thank her for her twenty-eight (28) years of dedicated service and wish her God's continued blessings as she commences the next chapter of her life.

## MS. LELIA NELSON



St Lucia Mission

Ms. Lelia Nelson, an exceptional educator, committed over four decades to the Teaching Ministry at the L'Abayee SDA Primary School. With a remarkable career spanning from January 1982 to August 2023, she left an indelible impression on many generations with an impressive 41 years of lifelong service. Her passion for teaching, commitment and inspiration has positively impacted countless students and colleagues throughout her tenure.

Ms. Nelson's dedication to her profession extended beyond the classroom. She demonstrated strong love and fostered a nurturing learning environment for all her students. Her students felt valued and supported in their academic journey at the L'Abayee SDA Primary School. She was visible at every school activity, whether it was school concerts, outreach programs in the community, Education Blitz or church visits.

Ms. Nelson retired as an icon in the teaching profession at the L'Abayee SDA Primary School, leaving behind a legacy that will be cherished and celebrated for years. According to Catherine Pulsifer, "Retirement is a time to enjoy all the things you never had time for."

## CECILE LOVELACE



Cecile Lovelace reflects on her journey of leadership, recognizing the truth in the statement "God's biddings are His enabling." When she accepted the role of principal in 2010, the task initially seemed daunting, yet she persevered, trusting in the Lord's guidance despite financial challenges.

As she embraced her faith, she found solace in the assurance of God's plan, fostering a closer relationship with Him and making Him her guiding force through the trials of leadership. As time progressed, her faith in God grew and she learned to see hidden blessings and witnessed the impact of entrusting everything to God even amidst unmet requests.

Overtime, her school experienced improved staff relations, enhanced student performance, and the construction of two additional buildings and a guard booth. Notably, the school's financial situation improved, allowing for essential savings.

Grateful for the opportunity to serve and bless others, Cecile acknowledges God's faithfulness and gives Him all the honour, praise, and glory. This journey has strengthened her faith and deepened her understanding that God's ways are beyond human comprehension.



## **MRS. SHELLY-ANN MENZIE**

Sadly, we bid farewell to a brave soldier of the cross who passed from this life. Mrs. Shelly-Ann Menzie, an educator from the St. Maarten SDA School, was laid to rest on July 27, 2022. Her pleasant personality, unparalleled professionalism, and Christ-like character left an indelible mark on our educational system. The St. Maarten SDA School has benefited immensely from her selfless service, as she has positively impacted the lives of hundreds of students throughout her illustrious ten-year teaching career. May her soul rest in peace.







## **MS. RHOLDA JOSEPH**

On November 26, 2022, Ms. Rholda Joseph, an educator at the British Virgin Islands SDA School, was laid to rest in her homeland Grenada. She was a missionary in our field for one year. Commendably, her short stint has left giant footprints on the educational landscape of our Conference and, more particularly, on the institution at which she served. Her immediate supervisor, Principal Wade Tobin, often applauded her professionalism, spirituality, sound work ethic, and giftedness. May her soul rest in peace.



## **MRS. CECILIA WILLIAMS**

Mrs. Cecillia Williams began her dedicated service to Dominica Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School Adventist School, now known as Arthur Waldron Seventh-day Adventist Academy, on September 1, 1988. Her enduring commitment to education and her role as an educator in Food and Nutrition, Clothing and Textiles, and Bible instruction left an indelible mark on the institution and the lives she touched.

Throughout her tenure at the school, Mrs. Williams exemplified the values and principles of the Seventh-day Adventist faith, demonstrating unwavering dedication to her calling as a teacher. Her passion for education and commitment to nurturing her students' minds were evident to all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Tragically, Mrs. Williams peacefully departed from this life on July 19, 2023, after a brief illness. Her absence leaves a void in the hearts of all who had the privilege of working alongside her, learning from her, and benefiting from her wisdom and guidance.



## THRISIA MORANCIE

Mrs. Tricia Morancie, originally hailing from St. Vincent, embarked on her distinguished career within the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, commencing her journey at Temple Seventh-day Adventist Primary School in 2002. One year later, she became an integral part of the institution now recognised as Arthur Waldron Seventh-day Adventist Academy, previously known as Dominica Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School.

Mrs. Morancie was not merely a teacher but a paragon of excellence in her profession. Her exceptional abilities shone brightly within the Language Department, where she grew and engineered numerous enriching activities. Her dedication to her role was unwavering, and her students benefited immensely from her guidance. In addition to her prowess as an educator, Mrs. Morancie was an efficient host, extending her warm hospitality to all who crossed her path. She embodied the values of her calling, leaving an indelible impression on the hearts and minds of those fortunate enough to have known her.

She departed from this life on October 15, 2022, but her legacy will forever serve as a testament to the power of dedicated teaching and the lasting impact one individual can have on an educational community.





## **DREMANI GEORGE**

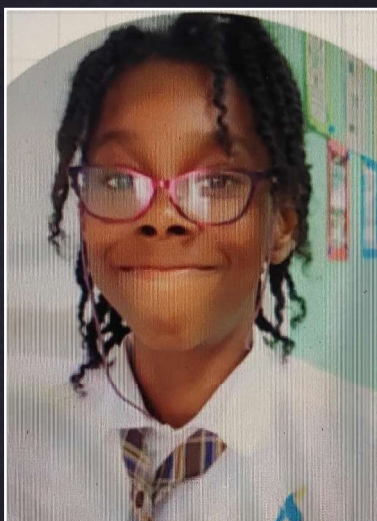
**July 27, 2006 - June 1, 2023**

On June 14, 2023, family and friends gathered to celebrate the life of Dremani George of the Harmon Seventh Day Adventist High School in Tobago.

Dremani, was a fifth form student who after a valiant battle with illness, succumbed to his medical condition on June 1, 2023. He was a remarkable young individual, who left an enduring mark on all those who had the privilege of knowing him, especially during his trying times.

Dremani's life demonstrated his unwavering commitment and strength of character. Even in the face of adversity, he continued to shine as a beacon of hope and resilience. His musical talents, as evidenced by the beautiful songs he sang, and the scriptures he recited in the days before his death, spoke volumes about his deep faith and spiritual conviction. These moments have left indelible imprints on the hearts and minds of his family and friends.

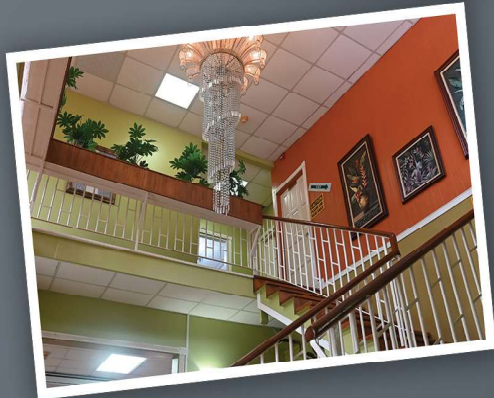
As we mourn the loss of Dremani George, let us also celebrate the impact he had on our lives. His memory will forever serve as a reminder of the and the importance of cherishing every moment.



## **SARAH SANDY**

It is with profound sadness that we mourn the loss of Sarah Sandy, a twelve-year-old second former student of Caribbean Union College Secondary School. She was a member of the Mt. Dor Seventh-day Adventist Church. Sarah departed from this life on September, 25, 2023, leaving a void that will be deeply felt by her family, friends, teachers, and the entire school community.

As we come to terms with the untimely and sudden loss of this young student, we take solace in the belief that we will one day be reunited with Sarah in heaven. Her memory will forever live in our hearts, and look forward to the day when death itself will die.



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