



October 7, 2016

TO BE READ IN ALL CHURCHES IN JAMAICA UNION CONFERENCE

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

I greet you in the name of our God who protects and spares.

Hurricane Matthew, the most powerful storm to form in the Caribbean for nearly a decade, was on a path to hit Jamaica earlier this week, through the grace of God, the system veered to the east and we were spared the ravages of a category 4 storm. Haiti, Bahamas, Cuba, and parts of the USA were not as fortunate.

Haiti, our neighbour to the north received the full blunt of Hurricane Matthew, and it is reported that over 572 persons have lost their lives and nearly 350,000 persons, mainly in the southern coast of the country, are in need of assistance.

As a church, we empathize with the people of Haiti in their time of need and despair. Therefore, I call upon the Constituency to do two things:

1. To use this Sabbath, October 8, as a Day of Thanksgiving. We have been spared the onslaught of hurricane Matthew, and when we think of what could have been, we lift our hands and hearts in praise to a most gracious God. In expressing our thanks to God, I ask each congregation to spend time this Sabbath in moments of thanksgiving and praise. Let us also place before God, the people of our neighbouring countries, who lost family members and property as a result of the passing of Matthew.
2. Plan and lift a thanksgiving and humanitarian offering on Sabbath, October 15, 2016, in all our Churches for our brothers and sisters in Haiti, Cuba and the Bahamas, who have lost family members and properties.

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Office of the President

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SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST®
CHURCH

Jamaica Union Conference
(formerly West Indies Union Conference)

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We would also like to encourage our members and friends that are able to make donation to the Haiti Fund at this time, to join us in contributing to the Fund.

For companies or individuals wishing to have your donations tax-deductible, please make your cheque payable to **GSI Foundation**, a registered Charitable Organization (CA100-456C), at 125 Manchester Road, Mandeville and indicate **Haiti Hurricane Relief**. Please send same to the Jamaica Union office, where a receipt will be issued.

My brothers and sisters, thanks for your continued support of each other during times of difficulty, and let us remain faithful to our Heavenly Father, as we trust Him to take us through our challenges.

In His Service

Everett E. Brown (Pastor)
President