

JAMAICA UNION visitor

Vol. 1, Issue 2

Small Groups:

The way forward for
Evangelism, Nurturing and
Membership Conservation

INSIDE

Near suicide victim baptized
through small group

Many lives touched during
24-hour prayerthon

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Jamaica Union Visitor
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Jamaica Union—Radio, TV & Cable TV Schedule

Jamaica Union Conference

Word of Hope

Pastor Glen O. Samuels
TVJ – Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Love TV – Fridays 7:00 p.m.

“Voice of Prophecy”

Fred Kinsey
RJR – Sundays 10:45 p.m.

Central Jamaica Conference

“Heralds of Hope”

Love FM – Saturdays 2:15 p.m.

“Morning Manna”

Pastor Dudley Mullings
Love FM – Fridays 5:45 a.m.

“Life Line”

Love FM – Sundays 5:30 p.m.

Hope TV & Local Programmes

Bless TV Cable Channel 65– Daily 24 hrs.

East Jamaica Conference

Word from Heaven

Pastor Enroy Ferguson
RJR – Tuesdays 5:45 a.m.

Northern Caribbean University

FLOW Cable TV– Channel 188, Local Programmes & Others – Daily 24 hrs.

“Local Radio and Music”

NCU Radio 91.1, 91.3 FM – Daily 24 hrs.

West Jamaica Conference

3ABN, Local Programmes

Cable Channel 57 WCCN – Daily 24 hrs.

“Behold He Cometh”

Pastor Robert Vassell
TVJ – Sundays 7:30 a.m.

Where Available

Hope TV

FLOW –Channel 655– Daily 24 hrs.

3ABN

FLOW –Channel 656– Daily 24 hrs.



Editorial

by Glen O. Samuels

Jon Paulien, in his book, “Everlasting Gospel Ever-Changing World – introducing Jesus to a Skeptical Generation,” shares a theological platform for the issue of Small Groups in the very first chapter.

The author argues that “the incarnation of Jesus demonstrates the depth of God’s commitment to meeting human beings where they are in their specific times, places, languages and circumstances.” This is the Theological principle for the operations of the Small Groups concept of evangelism. It is taking the message of Gods love, of hope, repentance, salvation, and survival for families of the upper, middle, and lower strata of society, in Small Groups, meeting each sector where they are.

The Small Group principle of evangelism when effectively implemented, has the potential to significantly reduce the cost of our traditional methods, strengthening and improving the issues of conservation and nurture, and expanding the harvest.

Divine inspiration provides us with three critical issues to consider – (1) That the small group principle is of God, (2) That we must organize our churches both large and small into working groups and (3) That small groups must be used for evangelistic soul winning and nurture.

The Jamaica Union accepts whole heartedly this method, while not abandoning other methods that can be used efficiently and effectively for the finishing of the work.

Vision One Million

The Jamaica Union is an integral part of the World Church. On September 3, 2011, the Inter-American Division officially launches Vision One Million in all its territories.

What is **Vision One Million**?

Vision One Million is a programme that:

1. Recruits, trains and challenges at least 1,000,000 Seventh-day Adventist church members across the Inter-American Division territory to become passionate disciples, actively involved in small groups and other diversified outreach ministries.
2. These individuals will participate in such activities as: Prayer and Fasting, Bible Study, Spirit of Prophecy Study, and the general Inreach and Outreach initiatives devised by the organization as well as those initiatives generated within the Small Groups.
3. **Vision One Million** members will be the chief proponents throughout the Division. Some of them will serve as the leaders of Small Groups.

4. Every administrator and departmental director at the Division, Union, and Conference/Mission levels shall organize promotional materials and strategize for members of the Church to be involved in **Vision One Million** through their areas of responsibility and departmental initiatives.
5. **Vision One Million** members shall function as the principal soul-winning agents of the Inter-American Division during the quinquennium 2011 – 2015
6. Every Pastor should give leadership to the operation of **Vision One Million** to ensure members participation through the various distinctive departmental groupings.

“The Church is God’s appointed agency for the Salvation of men. It was organized for service and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world.” AA p. 9. Let us mobilize every believer in the Jamaica Union with a sense of urgency for the finishing of the work.

Let us enlist the believers, enlighten the believers, train and evangelize until the glory of God covers the earth. ■

Pastor Glen Samuels is the Ministerial Secretary, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Director of Jamaica Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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PROMOTING THE WORD THROUGH LITERATURE

President's Message

DEAR BRETHREN,
Christian Greetings,
It is no secret that within the last year the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Jamaica has been plagued with a number of challenges.

These challenges, which the devil is trying to use to undermine our confidence in God, His Church and His appointed leaders, are not beyond our ability to overcome.

As current leaders of the Union we sometimes struggle to figure out how to deal with, and manage the crises that confront us, most of which we had not foreseen when we came to office a few short months ago. Even as we seek to carry out the mandate to which God has called us, we are faced with a severely compromised financial situation due to the managerial decisions that were made in the past.

However, I beseech you not to allow Satan to use the present financial uncertainty, and the apparent erosion of confidence in the leadership of your Church to cause you to give up your faith and confidence in God or His Church. Although the devil is trying to destabilize us, the Church will not fall; because God watches over the affairs of His Church.

So how do you feel about the mission and the future of your Church? What are the changes that you would like to see take place in your Church as we move forward? Much of what has transpired in the Church over the past few years, which has placed the organization in an unfavourable light in the public sphere could have been avoided. Notwithstanding, we must move on in the power and might of God. We must move on with a determination on the part of the present leadership of the Church to be fiduciary responsible and accountable for the trust that God and the constituency have reposed in leadership.

We must move on as members of the Body of Christ with a sincerity of purpose and a determination not to follow after man or to

do the will of man, but to please God. Therefore I am calling upon the Church in the new Jamaica Union to move on with Christ; to be faithful to God in all that you do, to be committed to your Church and the mission of the Church. This Church, the remnant Church of God has a gospel to preach, a work to do. Our Church must lift up Christ to a decaying and sinful world and present hope to a hopeless generation before the Second Advent of Jesus.

The progress of the Church in Jamaica Union has been helped along by faithful members who make the Lord's work their lifelong careers, some in the employ of the organization and others as lay volunteers. In this issue, we highlight some of our former Administrators who were duly recognized by the Inter-American Division recently.

So what is so special about the Church one might ask that would influence these brethren or anyone to commit his entire life in unselfish service? Is it because of the uniqueness of our doctrine and the organized way the Church is structured? Or is it because of the dynamic, gifted and committed servant leaders that she has nurtured over these many years? My response is an unequivocal no, a thousand times no; and I hasten to add the incontrovertible fact that we all are sinners drawn to God, His Church and His mission because of His transforming power and His saving grace in our lives. It is because of who God is and what he has done and is doing for us that elicit our love for Him and our commitment to service in His cause.

Vision One Million

The Church in the Jamaica Union must embrace the evangelism focus of the IAD and the worldwide Church of **Vision One Million**. Each member of the Church over the next five years must make a commitment to win at least one member to Christ. Every member must recommit himself to Bible study and earnest prayer for **Revival and**



Reformation in the Church. Let us not allow the failures of the past to cripple or divide us and frighten us into retreat and submission to Satan.

I firmly believe that the future of the Church in the Jamaica Union is safe as long as we exalt the name of Christ, are united in Him, and like the Apostle Paul, deny ourselves any selfish ambitions for the excellencies of knowing Christ.

My brothers and sisters, God will pour out His Spirit and His blessings on you and by extension on His Church. God will grow His Church if as leaders and members we are faithful, prudent and transparent in our service to Him and in the manner in which we administer the affairs of His Church.

Let us pray for the health and wellbeing of one another. Let us strive for and pray for genuine **Revival and Reformation** amongst the people of God. Let us pray for and support the ministries of the Church. Let us focus more attention on, and recommit ourselves to growing the Small Groups Ministry so that we can effectively reach the people in our communities and expand God's kingdom. God wants us to be honest, bold and confident as we serve Him and prepare others to follow Him. If we are faithful to Him, He will not fail us and one day He will crown our efforts with everlasting life and say, "Well done."

Everett E. Brown (Pastor)

JAMU Held First Leadership Development Seminar

by Nigel Coke

In keeping with the broad initiative of the Adventist World Church and the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (IAD) to establish a structured Human Resource Department in each Union, the Human Resource Department of Jamaica Union Conference (JAMU), hosted its first Leadership Development Seminar under the theme **"Achieving Productive Relationships at the Workplace"**

The Seminar took place on Tuesday, May 31, 2011, at the Union Headquarters and included all Union Directors, Conference Officers, Institution Leaders, and Human Resource personnel.

The two areas of focus that were explored were **"Conversations of Work"** presented by Dr. Trevor Little, Managing Director of HRD Profiles, and **"Industrial Relations Law and Practices"** spearheaded by Mr. Leslie Hall, Personnel and Employee Relations Manager at Victoria Mutual Building Society.

"It is very important for us to understand how our various methods of communication can help or hinder the quality of our relationships at workplace", said Mrs. Lisa-marie Samuels, Human Resource Coordinator at JAMU. "This is necessary as we seek to place a structure to Human Resource Management across the Union. As leaders we must seek to communicate in such a way that we lay the platform not only for good relationships, but also the health and well-being of our fellow workers."

Jamaica Union Appoints Leadership Development Coordinator

by Nigel Coke

In order to have and maintain a cadre of leaders who are proactive, purposiful and comprehensive, the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (IAD) has instituted a programme called Leadership Development. The main purpose is to maintain a consistent programme of leadership development to hone leadership skills of employees serving at various levels within the organization.

Jamaica Union Conference (JAMU), at its Executive Committee meeting held on

Wednesday, June 8, 2011, voted to adopt the Leadership Development Programme of the IAD, and appointed Pastor Milton Gregory, the Secretary of



Pastor Milton Gregory

JAMU, to serve as Leadership Development Coordinator.

"We are pleased to have such a programme in our Union," said Pastor Everett Brown, President of the Adventist Church in Jamaica. "It will serve to equip leaders at every level in our Union to function in the diverse ministries of the Church as we seek to fulfill the mandate of Christ. "Pastor Gregory brings a wealth of experience to bear on this new portfolio having had experience as a pastor, departmental director and administrator. We believe that through this emphasis, the church will have a cadre of leaders who will be able to provide effective and efficient spiritual leadership for God's Church."

One of the plans of the programme is to have an annual **"School of Leadership,"** which will include persons such as:

- Union and local Conference Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers
- Union and local Conference departmental directors

President of JAMU, Pastor Everett Brown, who was very pleased with the outcome of the seminar, said "it was very informative and provided leadership with tools that will enable us to better manage and position the organization at each level within the Union, as we accomplish the mission of the Church."

Mrs. Samuels noted that there will be similar seminars to follow and looks forward to the continued support of the Union's leaders.

Subsequent to the seminar, the Union's Executive Committee appointed Pastor Milton Gregory as the Leadership Development Coordinator.

Mrs. Samuels added, "The Department of Human Resources will work closely with the Office of Leadership Development to ensure that we have a workforce that is prepared to meet the challenges ahead of us, as we prepare for the advent of Jesus Christ." ■



Dr. Trevor Little, Managing Director of HRD Profiles makes his presentation on "Conversations of Work" during the seminar on May 31, 2011. [Photoby Nigel Coke]

- Field Secretaries and Zone Leaders
- District Pastors and other employees of experience who have demonstrated the ability to assume wider leadership responsibilities within the organization

Another plan of the programme is to establish the "Inter-American Division Exemplary Performance and Servant-Leadership Award" (EPSLA), which will be the highest recognition that may be given to an active serving administrative officer of the Union, local Fields, or an Institution operated by the Inter-American Division or the Unions within the IAD territory.

The Mission of the office of leadership development in the IAD is to develop high performance, competent leaders who are committed to achieving excellence. This will enable them to achieve unity, growth, a better quality of life and discipleship, cultivating in the servant-leaders characteristics modeled by Jesus Christ. ■

President of NCU Retires

by Nigel Coke

After serving for 20 years as president of the Seventh-day Adventist-owned Northern Caribbean University (NCU), Dr. Herbert Thompson has requested retirement as an active employee of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. His retirement was announced by Pastor Everett Brown, President of the Jamaica Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists during a special constituency meeting held at the NCU Gymnatorium in Mandeville, Jamaica on Tuesday, June 14, 2011. The retirement became effective on Monday, June 13.

Dr. Thompson, who has served the prestigious Northern Caribbean University, one of the largest institutions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the world, for more than 38 years will pursue personal interests in his retirement.

“My profound gratitude goes to Dr. Thompson and by extension, his family

for their outstanding contribution to NCU over the past decades,” said Pastor Everett Brown, Chairman of the University’s Board of Governors and President of the Jamaica Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. “NCU, under his visionary leadership, has been a beacon of light to thousands who have graced its walls from Jamaica, the Caribbean and other parts of the world. The University has grown tremendously under his leadership. On behalf of the Board of Governors I wish him all the best in his future endeavours.”

As the longest serving president in the Institution’s 104 years history, Dr. Thompson spearheaded the transition of the noble West Indies College to its present University status in 1999.

Pastor Israel Leito, who was in Jamaica for other church related business expressed appreciation for the years of service Dr. Thompson gave to the Church in Jamaica, the Inter-American Division and the world, especially in the area of education.



Dr. Herpert Thompson

Presently, NCU is co-owned and co-operated by the Jamaica Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (JAMU) and the Atlantic Caribbean Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists (ACUM), both of which came out of the reorganization of the West Indies Union Conference on November 29, 2010. ■

NCU Elects Interim President

by Nigel Coke

One week after the retirement of longstanding president Dr. Herbert Thompson, the Board of Governors of Northern Caribbean University (NCU) put in place an interim president. He is Dr. Daniel Fider who has been serving at NCU for the past twelve



Dr. Daniel Fider, Interim President of NCU.

years in various capacities. Most recently he was Vice President with responsibility for Facilities, Planning and Information Services. He was also Associate Professor of Leadership.

Before he joined the workforce of NCU twelve years ago, Dr. Fider who is also an auditor by profession, worked for 25 years with multi-national corporations in the areas of management, accounting and forensic auditing.

“It is a privilege and also a challenge, which I humbly accept, to serve in the interim as president of this great Adventist Institution,” said Dr. Fider. “We are at a point of transition and at a point that we need to continue what was started years ago. My commitment and determination is to do what my Church and University ask me to do. With the support of the faculty and staff, and the understanding of students, I think we can move forward

doing great things for this University until the position is filled permanently.”

The Board of Governors believe that Dr. Fider has the ability and experience to provide leadership to our University during this transitional stage,” said NCU Board Chairman, Pastor Everett Brown. We pledge our support to him and his team as they lead the University

The University Board has also selected an eleven-member search team to be chaired by Dr. June Smith, a Counseling Psychologist and Professor of Psychology at the Long Island University in New York, USA, to find a suitable candidate for the position of president. This is the normal process that obtains when the position of president is to be filled. The team is normally selected from the faculty and staff, board members, students, alumni and lay persons. ■

NCU Lecturer, Among Hundreds Baptized in Pentecost and More

by Sherrefa Burchell and Nigel Coke

Lecturer in the department of Nursing at Northern Caribbean University (NCU), Kate Asmond, was among hundreds who were baptized in Jamaica on the “Day of Pentecost”, March 19, 2011.

Under the theme “Come Holy Spirit” more than seven hundred and fifty persons responded to the wonderful message of God’s grace and were added to the Adventist Church in the Jamaica Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (JAMU).

The convocation was broadcast live to thousands via the world-wide web, NCU Radio and NCU TV from the JAMU main site at the NCU Gymnatorium.

“It is a good feeling,” said Kate Asmond, who is also a registered nurse and mid-wife. “I am happy because this is something I wanted for a while and so I am overjoyed that it is now a reality.”

Asmond was the first person to be baptized at the JAMU main site and hers

was also the baptism that was carried live in Venezuela during the Inter-American Division’s (IAD) broadcast from the various Unions. “I look forward to serving God in His church,” she stated.

At the end of the day, 825 persons were baptized across the five Conferences in the Jamaica Union.

Pastor Everett Brown, president of JAMU, delivered the message for the service at NCU. In it, he reminded the Church that though we may have unfulfilled dreams and expectations, with God nothing is impossible.

Dr. Myrna Costa, the first female Vice-President in the Inter-American Division, enlightened the audience on the importance of Unity in Mission. She exhorted the Church to “wrap those who have been baptized in our arms of love so they can stay in the Church and tell of Jesus’ soon return.”

She encouraged the members to embrace Small Groups ministry and go from house to house sharing the good news.

Pentecost and More 2011 was the fifth staging of this annual event, an initiative of the IAD, in which the Church seeks to replicate the biblical experience of Pentecost in Acts 2 when over 3,000 souls were added to the Church in one day. ■



Kate Asmond listens to the baptism sentence from Pastor Glen Samuels, Ministerial, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Director of Jamaica Union Conference (who was in Venezuela), before she was baptized by Michael Harvey, Senior Pastor of the Adventist Church at NCU at the Union’s main site at the NCU, Gymnatorium. [Photo by Nigel Coke]

IAD Honours Retired Union Administrators

by Libna Stevens and Nigel Coke

Seven retired administrators from the former West Indies Union Conference (WIU) were among scores of former regional administrators who were honoured by the Inter-American

Division of Seventh-day Adventists (IAD) on May 17, 2011 during a special ceremony which kicked off the first day of mid-year business meetings held at the IAD’s headquarters in Miami, Florida.

“Inter-America has never been happier to see hundreds of years of service

combined in one place as you gather here,” said Pastor Israel Leito, president of the Church in Inter-America, as he addressed the packed auditorium. “I see many who were my leaders when I was a student. We are still holding firm the faith you left, we still have the same hope you gave us, and we are still looking for the Second Coming of Jesus.”

Those honoured from WIU were:

- Pastor Noel Fraser, who served the Union as Secretary and President. He served as president from November 1976 to August 1985, and Secretary from September 1997 to October 2000
- Pastor Meremoth Weir served as Secretary from September 1, 1985 to November 15, 1995
- Pastor James G. Bennett who served as Treasurer from January 1, 1982 to August 31, 1985.

Continued on page 17



WIU retired honorees paused for a photo with the Officers of the Jamaica Union Conference (JAMU) on May 17, 2011 at the IAD headquarters in Miami. (L-R) Pastor Milton Gregory - Secretary, JAMU, Pastor Everett Brown - President, JAMU, Pastor James G. Bennett, Elder Aston Barnes, Pastor Noel Fraser, Pastor Meremoth Weir, Dr. Wendell McMillan, and Elder Bancroft Barwise - Treasurer, JAMU. [Photo by Libna Stevens -IAD]

Many Lives Touched During 24-hour Prayerthon

by Nigel Coke

Numerous lives were touched via mass media, as the Central Jamaica Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (CJC) held its first prayerthon under the theme 'Let's Just Praise the Lord'.

The programme which took place at the Conference's headquarters at 58 Brunswick Avenue, Spanish Town, lasted 24 hours, starting Friday evening, and featured praise and worship, prayer concerts, the reading of God's Holy Word and preaching.

More than 250 calls were received from five lines during a 24-hour prayer line that was set up to deal with requests for help with issues ranging from family concerns, financial issues, joblessness and suicide. Calls came from rural Jamaica and as far away as Florida and England.

"Most of the calls were from females, and they related to marital and health problems," said Claudia Bailey, Prayer Ministry Coordinator of CJC. "We are very happy that we could have provided this avenue of prayer, so that persons could have exercised their faith in a prayer-answering God. Outside of prayer, they wanted someone to talk to and we praise God for the opportunity to be there for them." Added Bailey: "The callers who called for professional counselling were referred to the professional counselors from our Conferences."



Three of the five persons who manned the phone lines and prayed with individuals during the 24-hour Prayerthon at the Central Jamaica Conference Headquarters in Spanish Town, St. Catherine. [Photo by Nigel Coke]

Live broadcast

There was a live broadcast of the programme on NCU Radio and TV, BLESS TV and the Internet at www.centralja.com.

"The programme is very good," said Sayda McGhan who called for prayer from Lawrence Tavern. "I am listening from last night. I called in for prayer for the pain in my leg because I have arthritis. It was a blessing to my soul because about an hour after I was able to get out of bed and walk better." She too was tuned to NCU Radio.

Recommitting itself to the use of the mass media in spreading the gospel, CJC presented a commitment of \$1 million to BLESS TV, so it will be able to join Flow Cable Network which covers more than 50 per cent of Jamaica.

The prayerthon climaxed 160 days of prayer, which is part of the Inter-American Division's (IAD) Constant in Prayer programme that calls the church to a spiritual revival and reformation, and involved the prayers for conferences, missions and individuals in the IAD territory. ■

Near Suicide Victim Baptized Through Small Group

by Dyhann Buddoo-Fletcher

Thirty-six year-old Lerone 'Andre' Simmonds, who weeks ago wanted to end his life, gained a new life in Jesus when he was baptized at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bamboo, St. Ann, at a Thanksgiving and Praise Service held on Sabbath, June 25, 2011. The service was planned in celebration of the Small Groups Ministry season of reaping and outreach which yielded a total of 10 baptisms.

"Today I am happy, very happy," said Brother Simmonds after his baptism. "A few weeks ago I wanted to end my life, and the life of others too. Nothing was going to stop me. But something did. It's God's grace and now I want to serve Him for as long as I live. Being out there in the world, it had a devastating effect on me, but when I am in church I have peace."

Simmonds was in a relationship that ended abruptly and he was devastated to the point of wanting to end his former partner's life as well as his life. First Elder Carmen Wilson and her team of small group members kept a close watch on him, counseled him and always kept him in their prayers. He became homeless because of the separation, but the night after his baptism the group found a home for him and assisted him with some furnishings.

The Small Groups in the Free Hill Church, which is a part of the Bamboo District of Churches,

have been working consistently in their neighbourhood since the start of the year with house to house visitation and Bible studies. This ministry has yielded a total of eight baptisms, and Simmonds was among the last group, consisting of four men.

Pastor Kirkwood Parkinson, pastor of the Bamboo District of Churches expressed that the church members in Bamboo are zealous about the small group ministry.

"Persons in the Bamboo, Brittonville, New Find and Free Hill communities are noticing what is happening. They like what the church is doing and because of this, they are inviting the small group members into their homes for prayer, worship and Bible studies. This is causing a positive change in people's lives which is leading many to Jesus Christ," said Pastor Parkinson.

North Jamaica Conference currently has approximately 40 active small groups in its 79 congregations across the parishes of St. Ann and Trelawny. ■



Lerone Simmonds raises his right hand in agreement with the baptismal vows read to him on Sabbath, June 25, 2011. [Photo: D. Buddoo-Fletcher]

The Effectiveness and Blessings of Small Groups

by Judith Forbes

There is a common saying in Jamaica that states, "If yu want good, yu nose haffi run". I take this to mean that any good thing achieved, will take effort and sacrifice. Small Groups Ministry is one of the ministries of the Church that is the key to the building up of the Kingdom of God in an effective and efficient way, but one that will take a lot of effort and sacrifice.

As a busy person, I probably wouldn't volunteer to be a Small Group Leader although we had just completed an extensive training programme in Small Groups Ministry at the church, but I had to. Since the training, the leadership of the Cedar Grove Adventist Church had tried many times to have the Small Groups started but to no avail. Finally, the new Pastor (who started December 2010) decided to give it another try and this time he launched it at the Board level (January 2011) with each Board member forming a Small Group with just two individuals – the board member and another person. I decided on a backslider as my other person and felt I didn't have to go through the studies because that person had already been a member of the Church. I decide to just make contact with him, encourage him back to church and pray for him. One month later (February 2011) the Pastor launched the programme with the Church family, assisted by the Sabbath School Superintendent and Personal Ministries Director. This time though, the leaders of the Sabbath School units were asked to conduct Small Groups in their units

according to the geographical location of the members. We met as a class and decided that for the three geographical communities from which our members came, we would form three Small Groups but as unit leaders we would start with

one and then go on to the others at a later date. We then decided which area we would start with and whose home would be the site.

We got started in March 2011. We made up invitation cards and invited the families in close proximity to attend this special meeting on Sundays right after which they could attend Sunday night evangelistic meetings with us, if they so desired.

Small Groups ministry is never easy to start, conduct and maintain. It calls for a lot of effort and sacrifice, but when we have the desire to be co-labourers with God, He never short-changes us.

We started with unconverted members of the home where the meetings were held and two other persons responded to our invitation. We started our studies and one visitor would sit and watch from her home, waiting for us to come. Sometimes we were not able to turn up because of other engagements such as funerals and other church related activities. I started to feel discouraged. To make matters worse, my assistant, who is a retired Elder and whose wife is the Personal Ministries leader, would often complain that too many meetings are missed and I needed to be more consistent with the programme. I knew that she was speaking the truth and wished I could be in two places at the same time. I prayed about the matter and asked God to help me with the group because

it had become really difficult especially for the month of May. In answer to my prayer, an evangelistic series was planned for July and so we put out the effort to be at our meetings in June. For July, we invited the Small Groups participants to attend the meetings as we suspended it to accommodate the visitors attending the meetings nightly.

In the second week of the meetings in July, a baptismal service was announced. I had an appointment to preach out of parish and so was absent from church that Sabbath. When I enquired regarding the candidates that were baptized I realized that the three persons who got baptized were the three persons from the group I worked with - the two who attended the home site and the one with whom I worked personally.

It was then that I realized that all God wants us to do is to turn up for duty. He will work out the logistics as it relates to the building up of His Kingdom. When we do our part, the Holy Spirit will do the rest. Small Groups ministry is never easy to start, conduct and maintain. It calls for a lot of effort and sacrifice, but when we have the desire to be co-labourers with God, He never short-changes us. Just turn up for duty and God will reward you. I am rejoicing today, that in spite of the challenges in conducting our Small Group, it yielded the first fruits in THE JESUS IS THE WAY evangelistic series and for this I am eternally grateful.

If you are having challenges with your Small Groups, God will test the desire of your heart, and He will work with you in seeing your dreams come true. Now that our main candidates are baptized, we will engage them in going to the other adjoining communities where we will begin our studies.

To God be the glory great things He has done! ■



Judith Forbes is a Small Groups leader at the Cedar Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Small Groups:

The way forward for Evangelism, Nurturing and Membership Conservation

The Mission of the Church as outlined in the 4 Gospels & Acts.
Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16: 15-18; Luke 24: 46-49;
John 20: 21-23; Acts 1: 8

Relatively speaking we have been doing well in evangelism (if we compare ourselves to others), but there are many challenges.

- Many of our members are not involved in witnessing
- Increasingly, members who are involved are asking to be paid for their services
- Tents & church campaigns are expensive
- Members are not developing and using their spiritual gifts
- The Noise Abatement Act prohibits campaigns in certain areas
- Tent campaigns have served their time, a new approach, appropriate to the times, is now needed
- The economic challenges dictate the need for more cost-effective methods of witnessing
- The thrust of IAD is toward Small Groups.

The solution (one of) is Small Groups. Small groups as a method of study, learning, and achieving goals is becoming wide spread, (largest church in the world, study groups etc).

Working Definition

In this presentation and in the context of the programme we are presenting, a “small group” means: “a small number of people (3-12) who are organized, have formed a bond, and are working toward fulfilling some objectives.”

Small Groups is not new to the church.

Adam and Eve; Noah & his family; Abraham & his family; Jethro’s counsel; Jesus and His 12 disciples; The sending out of the seventy; Small Groups and house meetings in Acts.

The early Adventist church; Ellen White’s counsel; The promise that where two or three are gathered Christ is in the midst – Matthew 18:20.

Let’s consider a few of the points mentioned above:

- Jethro’s counsel – Exodus 18:21. “Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens”
- Ellen White states: “He (God) designs that we should learn lessons of order and organization from the perfect order

instituted in the days of Moses, for the benefit of the children of Israel.” Christian Service, p. 73

- Small Groups in Acts & results - Acts 2:46, 47, “And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Acts 5:42 (NIV) “Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.” Acts 12:12 “And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.”

Results of Small Groups Ministry in Acts

- 120 disciples - Acts 1:15
- 3000 new converts - Acts 2:41,42
- 5000 men - Acts 4:4
- More and more - Acts 5:14
- Increasing - Acts 6:1,7
- Grew in numbers - Acts 9:31
- Church planting - Acts 16:5
- Many thousands - Acts 21:20

Ellen White writes on Small Groups:

- “The work of God in this earth can never be finished until men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers” --Gospel Workers, pp. 351-352.
- “Time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work.” --Christian Service, p. 72
- “The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err.” --Christian Service, p. 72
- “Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families, and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest.” --Christian Service, p. 42

- “If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for church members, but for unbelievers.”
- “If in one place there are only two or three who know the truth, let them form themselves into a band of workers.” --Christian Service, p. 72

Objectives of Small Groups

1. Spiritual growth—achieved through the study of the Word, prayer, witnessing and fellowship.
2. Community Outreach—identifying and ministering to the needs of group members as well as those in the community.
3. Evangelism—building relationships as well as actively leading people to Christ

Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 22 “Let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for church members, but for unbelievers.”

Small Groups, how they operate

- Small groups are weekly meetings of 3 – 12 persons who are interested in their personal spiritual growth as well as witnessing.
- The meetings last approximately one hour each week.
- The group members can be organized based on where they live as well as affiliation with other members of the group.
- The meetings can be conducted in a house, a garage, a cottage or anywhere that is convenient
- Each group should have a leader and an associate leader
- The members of the group are to decide the day, time and place of meeting.
- Each group pledges to meet regularly for at least six months.
- After the six months the group can make a re-commitment to continue for another time period.
- The groups are to establish their goals for growth, with plans to create new groups.

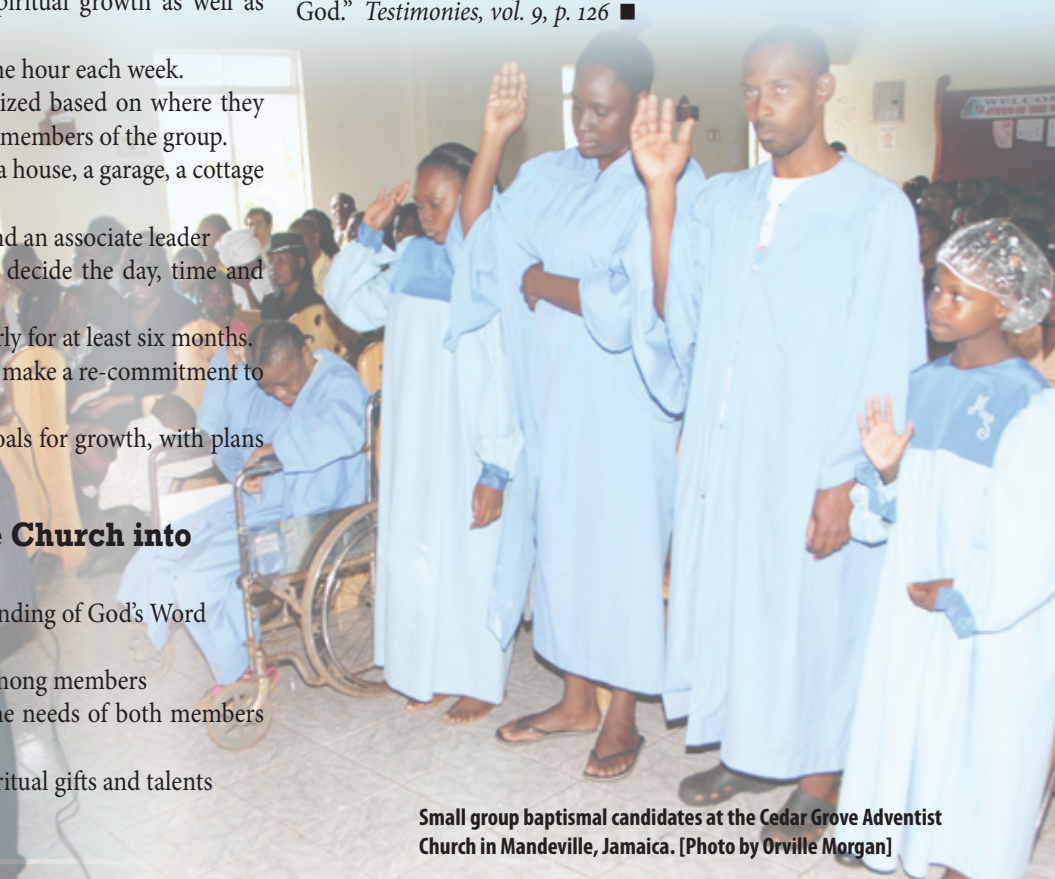
Benefits of Organizing the Church into Small Groups

1. It increases the study and understanding of God’s Word
2. It promotes spiritual growth
3. It enhances Christian fellowship among members
4. It provides a forum for meeting the needs of both members and non-members
5. It helps members identify their spiritual gifts and talents

6. It empowers members to utilize their spiritual gifts and talents in ministry
7. It assists the Pastor in ministering to his congregation
8. It reduces apostasy, thus increasing membership retention
9. It contributes to the recruiting of new disciples
10. It mobilizes more church members into actively working for the conversion of others
11. It reduces the significant expenses on public evangelism, thus making funds available for other critical areas of ministry.

Concluding Statement:

“In visions of the night representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God’s people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought.... Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families, and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lighted with the heavenly influence. Great blessings were received by the true and humble people of God.” *Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 126* ■



Small group baptismal candidates at the Cedar Grove Adventist Church in Mandeville, Jamaica. [Photo by Orville Morgan]

Communication Director Urges Greater Commitment to Social Media and Web Platform Design

Montego Bay, Jamaica, Ansel Oliver/ANN

A greater commitment to the design of Web technology and use of social media will yield more effective results in the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the denomination's World Communication Director said at a technology conference held June 1-3 in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Williams Costa Jr. urged the Church to increase its financial commitment to the design of information-sharing through the Web, as well as for administrators to further embrace the two-way communication that is offered by social media, which has become an industry standard.

"It's better for leaders to be prepared for interaction," Costa said at the Global Internet Evangelism Network forum, an annual world conference designed to enhance the Church's use of technology.

"If you want to be heard you need to hear. Corporations are listening because it's the essence of communication today," said Costa, the forum's organizer.

This year's event drew nearly 100 participants from six continents. Most presentations and discussions centred around connectivity and information-sharing and less on Web technology as an end in itself.

Many focused heavily on content-sharing through Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

In Central Jamaica, the Conference is using Facebook as a key communication forum among members and church leaders (this, despite administrators being against the idea at first.) Now the group has 1,000 members, many of whom offered suggestions that were later incorporated into the Conference's strategic plan.

"Members appreciate being consulted," said Kemar Douglas, Communication Director for the Adventist Church in Central Jamaica.

The forum delivered overviews of technologies blended with ministry. One presenter, John Beckett, director of the Office of Global Software and Internet, offered training for netAdventist, the World Church's website management platform.

The Church is using standard social media effectively in some regions. In Spain, Communication Director Pedro Torres has converged all church initiatives into Facebook, where people can share content across ministries with one click. In England, Kirsten Oster-Lundqvist, a pastor at the Newbold College Church, said Facebook often lends itself to personal discussions with teens who otherwise might feel uncomfortable talking with a pastor about some issues.



Pastor Williams Costa, Communication Director of the Adventist World Church headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA. [photo by Nigel Coke]

But, at the same time, the church is lagging in some regions of the world. Catherine Nyameino, Communication director for the Nairobi-based East Africa Union Mission, said it's often a challenge to obtain funding approval for even basic technology needs, such as a new camera.

"We have pockets of hope in some areas of the world where work via technology is happening, but it needs to be more widespread," said Nigel Coke, Communication Director for the Adventist Church in Jamaica. "Hopefully this forum can be the one that brings it about," he said.

This year's site was chosen for its central location in the Americas. Jamaica is also home to approximately 250,000 Adventist Church members.

The next four annual meetings are scheduled for 2012 in Hong Kong, 2013 in Athens, Greece, 2014 in Bangalore, India, and 2015 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. ■

Hiram S. Walters Health Centre Repositioned for Success

by Kemar Douglas/JAMU



Her Excellency, the Most Honourable Lady Allen cuts the ribbon to open the renovated Hiram S. Walters Health and Outreach Centre on April 6, 2011. Also in the photo (left-right) are Pastor Milton Gregory, Secretary and Health Ministries Director for Jamaica Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (JAMU), Pastor Everett Brown, President of JAMU, and Pastor Levi Johnson, President of Central Jamaica Conference. [photo: Kemar T. J. Douglas]

The Hiram S. Walters Health Centre has been repositioned and reopened as the Hiram S. Walters Health and Outreach Centre. The facility was reopened on April 6, 2011 during a Repositioning Service held at its Sydenham premises in Spanish Town after a brief closure for refurbishing and infrastructure development.

Her Excellency, the Most Honourable Lady Allen, wife of the Governor General and who is also a health professional, gave the main address, cut the ribbon and reopened the main door to the Health Centre.

"This Health Centre is a tangible evidence of the powerful health ministry for which the Adventist Church worldwide is renown," said Lady Allen. "As some of you know we (the Governor General's family) lived in this area during the time we ministered in Spanish Town. We also used the services of the Hiram S. Walters Health Centre for our children who were vaccinated and treated right here."

continued on page 19

Project Hope Preaching Series Climax with Baptism

by Nigel Coke

Ten individuals gave their life to Christ to climax the preaching series for "Project Hope West Indies" which ended on Sabbath, May 21, 2011 at the Andrews Memorial Adventist Church in Kingston, Jamaica.

The series, dubbed "Footprints of Hope" – Nine-day Revival, started on May 13 with Pastor Glen Samuels revisiting the theme "From Eden Lost to Eden Restored."

"Personally, my soul was watered during the series," said Pastor Samuels. "I am happy that the Word of God still brings hope to persons from different ages and stages of life that they could respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It is my ever fervent wish and prayer that as the wind is given a mighty voice, the nations of the earth will rejoice in receiving the word of hope."

The preaching series involved the recording of 13 programmes and was one of 118 programmes covering eight series which were recorded in Jamaica for broadcast on Hope Channel. The other series are: family life,

gender issues, children, youth, the Church in the community, health and music.

"I benefited everyday from the messages that were delivered by Pastor Samuels," said Christopher Brown, one of the ten that were baptized. "It was not my intention to be baptized at this time, but the Holy Spirit worked through Pastor Samuels, and his messages gave the conviction. Baptism is a very big thing for me and I feel very good about it. I look forward to serving God through His Church and learning more about Him."

The overall project, which cost approximately J\$14 million, is a collaborative effort between Hope Channel, the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (IAD); the Jamaica Union Conference (JAMU), and the Atlantic Caribbean Union Mission (ACUM), which represents Adventists in the Islands of the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos and Cayman.

The recordings, which started in February of this year, are now completed with post production currently underway.



Chinita Lee is about to be baptized by Pastor Hanson Drysdale, Youth Director of the East Jamaica Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sabbath, May 21, 2011 at the Andrews Memorial Church in Kingston, Jamaica. [Photo by Phillip Castell]

This is the first major undertaking by NCU since the launch of its Media Group in November 2010. Most of the production team was drawn from the faculty, staff and student body of the University.

Project Hope is a creative, cost-effective production done on a short-term basis, using many volunteers to assist in the production of more than 100 television programmes in less than one month. So far, more than 2,000 programmes have been produced in places such as Africa, Australia, India, the Philippines, Europe and North America. ■

Pastors Meet for Spiritual Refreshing

by Nigel Coke

Pastors in the Central, East and North East Conferences of the Jamaica Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists joined thousands of their colleagues across the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (IAD) for spiritual revival and reformation through the special initiative of "Constant in Prayer."

The meetings were held on Sabbath April 30, 2011, at the Central Jamaica Conference Headquarters in Spanish Town, St. Catherine; Golden Acres in Golden Spring, St. Andrew; and Camp Don in Robins Bay, St. Mary.

At the Golden Acres gathering, President of the Adventist Church in Eastern Jamaica charged each pastors to be "merciless in dealing with your own sins."

"In this hour of revival and reformation, we pray and fast in vain if we are not willing to repent and confess our sins and break away from cherished idols," said Pastor Cotterell. "Sin is an awful obstacle, and one of the most dreadful things about it is the way it hinders prayer and severs the connection between us and the Source of all grace, power and blessing. Anyone who would have power in prayer must be merciless in dealing with his own sins."



Pastor Everett Brown, President of the Adventist Church in Jamaica (center, facing camera) prays the consecration prayer for pastors at Golden Acres in East Jamaica Conference. [Photo by Nigel Coke]

Sin, he added, "hinders prayer, holds back revival, holds up reformation, hampers the power of the Holy Spirit, and "traffic jam" evangelism. Hatred, envy, jealousy, "bad mind," bitterness, and lies cannot dwell in our hearts while we are pleading for revival and reformation. If there is anything that is constantly coming up in your moments of close communion with God, that is the thing that hinders prayer. Put it away."

Under the theme, "Blessed in Order to Bless," the programmes were centred around praise, testimonies, reflection, intercession and commitment. It also included prayer concerts, the reading of selected Scripture passages, group discussions, readings from various spiritual books and materials, and a communion service.

“Our aim was to create a deeper awareness of the importance of a spiritual revival and real reformation in the ministry of each pastor,” said Pastor Glen Samuels, Ministerial Secretary of the Jamaica Union Conference. “We believe that a pastor, who has been blessed by the presence and leadership of the Holy Spirit in his life, will pour out fruits of blessings in his home, church and the community.”

During the meetings in the Central and East Jamaica Conferences, Pastor Jaime Castrejon, President of the Inter-American Theological Seminary (IATS) admonished the pastors to be faithful to their calling, with the conviction that “God is the One who called you.”

Pastor Everett Brown, President of the Adventist Church in Jamaica in commending the pastors, said the ‘Constant in Prayer’ initiative “must not be an event, but something we embrace in our everyday lives.”

“It was a life-changing experience for the pastors in North East Jamaica,” said Pastor Arlington Woodburn, President of the

Adventist Church in that region. “There were periods of confession, forgiveness and restitution among the clergy, which are necessary imperatives to true revival and reformation. We ended the day with a spirit-filled communion service and the pastors left with a sense of joy and a feeling of renewal and with a deeper commitment to service.”

“The spirit was high and the messages delivered were on target because they spoke to some of the issues affecting pastors,” said Pastor Jeff Jefferson, Ministerial Secretary of the Central Jamaica Conference. “It was well received and was a meaningful encounter, which served to motivate the pastors to improve their prayer life and relationship with God.”

West Jamaica Conference (WJC) held their Pastoral Day of Prayer on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, at their headquarters in Mount Salem, Montego Bay, while the North Jamaica Conference held theirs on Monday, May 2, 2011, at their headquarters in Drax Hall, St. Ann. ■

L.I.G.H.T Back in Jamaica!

by Adiese A. Jonas/JAMU

Hundreds of Literature Evangelists, Health and Publishing Ministries Directors, Adventist Health Volunteers and others from across the Jamaica Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (JAMU) gained valuable knowledge and experiences from five weeks of training which focused on various ways and means of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The training was made possible through the Lay Institute for Global Health Training, more popularly known as L.I.G.H.T. It was part of the Annual Lifestyle Evangelism Training retreat organized by the Health and Publishing Ministries Departments of JAMU, and covered each Conference over a five-week period from April 13 to May 15, 2011, including a special seminar at the Union headquarters in Mandeville, Jamaica.

Publishing Director of JAMU, Pastor Dudley Hosin, noted that the main objective of the programme was to find a way to hasten the Second Coming of Christ and to share with others the Gospel of Jesus Christ by using Health as an interim wedge to reach individuals.

“When Gospel Workers and members are equipped as Health Evangelists, they know how to give health talks and relate to health issues, which will help them to be more effective in fulfilling the Gospel Commission,” said Hosin.

Linda Horner and Michael Teti, two Health Missionaries from Wildwood Lifestyle Center, USA, were presenters of the series. They made presentations on topics such as: Nutrition, Diabetes Reversal, Hydrotherapy and Massage, Obesity Management, Cancer Treatment, and Stress Management. They have conducted training in several countries including: Honduras, England, India, Nepal, Guatemala, and Belize.

For Teti, his stay in Jamaica has confirmed just how receptive and willing individuals are to learn more about their health and to use it as

a witnessing tool. “In every country we find that God has His people that are interested in His message for these times both to learn and to teach others.”

Horner shared similar sentiments as she stated, “I’ve just been so blessed to work together with the Union and Conference leaders, and the people here have just been wonderful! Their enthusiasm is contagious, their desire to learn, their desire to go out and share with their communities, with their churches, with their families to implement what they’re learning, to use it as a tool for evangelism, it’s just really exciting!”

“I give them an A for what they have done!” said Richard Jack a member of the Adventist Health Volunteer Group in East Jamaica Conference. “Compared to other presenters over the years, Michael and Linda are more practical, more hands on in their teaching.” When asked how he found the retreat he beamed with delight while he uttered, “Inspiring!”

Wildwood L.I.G.H.T has partnered with the Jamaica Union Conference for the second consecutive year. Their aim is to use nature as a source of Health and Healing. Countless individuals have testified of the impact of the programme on their lives. At the end of the five weeks, numerous individuals attested to have seen the L.I.G.H.T! ■



Linda Horner makes a presentation during training in East Jamaica Conference. At right is Michael Teti. [photo by Phillip Castell]

Recommitment to Freedom of Belief Urged

BY BETTINA KRAUSE, IRLA, reporting from Washington, D.C

The March 2011 assassination of Pakistan’s only Christian cabinet minister, religious freedom advocate Shahbaz Bhatti, added a somber note to the April 5 Religious Liberty Dinner in Washington, D.C.

More than 200 government officials, ambassadors, religious leaders, and religious liberty advocates stood for a minute of silence to honour Bhatti and the many others around the world who, over the past year, have suffered persecution, imprisonment, or death for their faith.

Religious freedom supporters and activists met at the Wardman Park Marriott Hotel for the ninth Annual Religious Liberty Dinner, an event sponsored by the International Religious Liberty Association, Liberty Magazine, and the North American Religious Liberty Association.

Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson, President of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, opened the evenings activities, saying that religious liberty is part of the “DNA of the Adventist Church.” He reaffirmed the Church’s longstanding commitment to promote such freedom for all people, no matter their faith tradition.

Bhatti was gunned down on March 2 by members of Pakistan’s Taliban, who objected to his outspoken criticism of the country’s discriminatory blasphemy laws.

In an emotional address, Knox Thames, a friend and colleague of Shahbaz Bhatti, and Director of Policy and Research at the United

States Commission on International Religious Freedom, told the audience they could best remember this man of integrity by “making his death matter” and continuing his work.

Suzan Johnson Cook, U.S. president Barack Obama’s nominee for the position of religious freedom ambassador-at-large, was the evening’s keynote speaker. She praised the work of the IRLA and called on all those present to recommit themselves to the effort of protecting and preserving freedom of conscience worldwide. (Cook was confirmed by the United States Senate on April 14.)

Quoting Martin Luther King, Jr., Cook said the path to living in peace with others involves learning to “listen to, and learn from those who think differently from ourselves.” ■



Susan Johnson Cook, US Religious Freedom Ambassador-At-Large, delivers the keynote address at the 9th Annual Religious Liberty dinner in Washington, D.C. on April 5, 2011. The Senate confirmed her appointment on April 14, 2011. [Photo by Ansel Oliver/ANN]

Ninety Medical Missionaries Trained in WJC

by Jonathan Myrie

Ninety individuals from the West Jamaica Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (WJC) participated in the ten-day medical missionary training, which was conducted by a team of eight persons from the Northeastern Conference (NEC) in New York. The training took place at the Seventh-day Adventist Conference Centre in Montego Bay from May 18 to June 4, 2011.

The team was led by Dr. Leroy Daley, the Health Ministries Director of NEC, and included Dr. Irvin Davis, the Academic Dean at Wildwood USA, and Dr. Robert Terrylonge, a clinical psychologist from New York.

Dr. Daley said, “We are happy to be able to train individuals to expand the health work of the church. We want to do more than just train them; we want to implement a programme to ensure that those who are trained utilize their training.”

In keeping with this approach the participants have been given follow-up assignments, and an association of Medical Missionaries has been formed in each parish of WJC.

As part of their requirement, the participants had to conduct an Expo in which they did various screenings on members of the community. More than 200 persons participated in the Expo, which was held on Saturday May 28, at the Conference Centre. In

addition, the participants are required to plan and implement a health training programme.

The Association of Medical Missionaries, which was launched during the training programme will coordinate the health training programmes and provide support for the Medical Missionaries in the respective parishes.

The following persons were elected to serve as presidents: Kurt Chambers, St. Elizabeth, Verona Furze; Hanover, Errington Edwards, St. James; and Collebert Blake, Westmoreland.

The official graduation for the Medical Missionaries will take place in November of this year, following their final exam. ■



Students are attentive during a seminar at the Medical Missionary Training held at the Seventh-day Adventist Conference Centre in West Jamaica, May 19 to June 4, 2011.

Kingsway High Choir Shares Jesus with the Police

by Adiese Jonas/JAMU

The choir of the Kingsway High School in Kingston took time out from their regular academic studies to share the love of Jesus with members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force at the Half Way Tree Police Station in Kingston on Monday June 20, 2011. The students conducted devotion and distributed Priorities Magazines (an Adventist Christian publication) to the men and women present.

Sergeant Florene Clarke lauded the efforts of the students and urged them to make their visit “continuous and consistent”. She stated that she was impressed that so many teenagers from the school enjoyed taking part in this kind of missionary venture.

“With juvenile delinquency and other serious teenage problems affecting our society, it’s a cause for concern and so when we see students who are focused in this aspect of life, then it tells me that all is not lost and that there’s still hope,” said Sergeant Clarke.

Since 2004, the Kingsway High School and the Half Way Tree Police Station have formed an exceptional working relationship and they continue to support each other in numerous events. Principal of the School, Mrs. Claudette Genas, speaks highly of the commitment and service that the Half Way Tree Police Station continues to give to the school.

In addition to their missionary work at the Half Way Tree Police Station, the Kingsway High School is also engaged in Street Ministry, assisting with the activities at the Good Samaritan Inn and Teens for Christ (an established club of students who do visitations to the homes of the less fortunate). ■



Students of the Kingsway High School show copies of the *Priorities* that were given to members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force at the Half Way Tree Police Station. [Photo by Adiese Jonas]

77 year-old Praises Volunteers

By Nigel Coke

The sense of peace of having a good roof over one’s head is something that every individual dreams of in life. This helps to understand the joy felt by 77-year-old widow Cassinia Smith, as she witnessed the work done by volunteers on her two-room house in Clarkes Town, Manchester.

“These persons are sent by God,” exclaimed Smith. “It is a wonderful feeling and I appreciate what is being done for me. It all comes from the Lord.”

Smith, who described herself as a born Anglican has lived in Manchester since 1965. She said her roof was badly damaged by Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and that she has struggled since then. She added: “I just want to thank God for sending these persons to assist me.”

The project was a joint undertaking of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA-Jamaica) and ProjectsAbroad Jamaica, a United Kingdom-based group which operates out of Mandeville, Jamaica.

“The house should have been just a roof repair, but when we came, it was so bad that we had to do more than the roof,” said Pastor Wenford Henry, ADRA Jamaica Director. “We have done the roof so that it can withstand any hurricane and we have also replaced the doors, rendered the walls and working with ProjectsAbroad to do the painting and facelift so that at the end, it will look like a brand-new house.”

This house project was part of an initiative of ADRA-Jamaica, in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, and involved the construction of 10 one-room and two-room houses, and the repair of more than 35 roofs in St Elizabeth, Manchester and Portland. It is done as part of a hurricane-mitigation programme, and funded to the tune of approximately US\$100,000.

“The idea is to strengthen and repair roofs and replacement of roofs before the hurricane season to lessen the severe impact on vulnerable individuals and families in these parishes,” Henry further stated.

“Every third Friday in each month, we have a mini labour day called ‘Dirty Day,’

where we pull all our volunteers from their different placement to do specific task,” said Dr. Bridgette Barrett-Williams, Country Director, ProjectsAbroad Jamaica. “Our work today with this project is to do the renovation work of painting and clean up so that Mrs. Smith can live a little more comfortably.”

The group of 29 volunteers from ProjectsAbroad is drawn from various nationalities, including Italy, Holland, Switzerland, Australia, Germany, Canada and the United States. They are mainly university students between the ages of 18 and 25. Local volunteers to the programme also assist ADRA-Jamaica in various projects. ■



Projects Abroad volunteers paint one of the rooms in Mrs. Smith’s house. [Photo by Nigel Coke]

IAD Honours Retired Union Administrators (continued from page 7)

- Dr. Wendell McMillan who served as Treasurer in the mid-seventies and Secretary from 2000 - 2005
- Pastor Aston Barnes who served as Treasurer twice – January 1, 1977 to December 1980 and September 1, 1985 to November 2000
- Pastor Silas McKinney who served as Secretary and President from 1976 to 1979 and 1990 to 1997, respectively
- Pastor Kenneth. G. Vaz who served as Secretary from January 1, 1980 to August 31, 1985

The Officers of Jamaica Union Conference (JAMU) who are members of the Executive Committee of the IAD were also present and gave contribution of cash to each of the WIU honorees.

Pastors McKinney and Vaz were unable to travel to Miami for the presentation because of health reason, however, on Wednesday, June 8, 2011, Pastor Vaz was presented with his award at his home in Mandeville, Jamaica. Pastor Leon Wellington, Vice President of IAD who was in Jamaica for the Union’s Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting presented the award to him on behalf of the Division. Pastor Vaz was also presented with a cash contribution from the JAMU by Pastor Everett Brown, President of JAMU. Pastor Milton Gregory, Secretary of JAMU and Elder Bancroft Barwise, Treasurer of JAMU along with Dr. Patric Rutherford, CEO of Andrews Memorial Hospital were also on hand at the presentation to Pastor Vaz.

Former Union presidents, secretaries and treasurers traveled from locations throughout Inter-America in response to the special invitation to sit and have a voice during the first of two bi-annual executive committee meetings and also to be recognized for their outstanding leadership, which laid the foundation on which the Division is now building. ■

New Book on Grieving Hits the Market

–A portion of proceeds promised to charity

by Nigel Coke

Noted Guidance Counsellor, Dr Grace Kelly, has put pen to paper in her quest to help Jamaicans cope with grief, authoring the book *Grieve If You Must*.

The book, launched at the Northern Caribbean University (NCU) Gymnasium on July 12, is made available at a time when the island’s crime rate remains high and road fatalities are on the rise.

“When I saw the number of places I had to go to do counselling across Jamaica and the number of persons calling on me daily, I had to do something,” said Kelly, who heads NCU’s Department of Behavioural Sciences.

“The call for help has been so pronounced that it impacted me in a very positive way and I thought that if I cannot reach everyone in need, then I can document my experiences and how I handled them,” she added.

Kelly, who is also President of the Jamaica Association of Guidance Counsellors in Education, has found herself in hot demand lately. She was called in to provide counselling to the family and church members of Retreat Seventh-day Adventist Church in St Mary, as they mourned the loss of those killed by Corporal Wayne Llewelyn in April of this year.

Kelly also currently spearheads the training of lawmen in para-professional counselling to enable them, not only to identify and provide the service to people in need, but also make referrals to highly trained professionals.

Meanwhile, a number of charity groups and scholarship funds will benefit from the sale of the new book. Among the first will be Mustard Seed Communities for children living with HIV/AIDS, which will receive \$250,000 from the sale of the first 500 copies.

A commitment to the group was presented to patron of the launch, Her Excellency the Most Honourable Lady Allen, who, in turn, presented it to Monsignor Gregory Ramkissoon, founder of the Mustard Seed Communities. A NCU scholarship fund will also benefit from proceeds of the book.

Guest Speaker and President of the Jamaica Teachers’ Association, Mrs. Nadine Molloy-Young, challenged Jamaicans to be positive agents of change; adding that the new book would help to facilitate this.

Grieve If You Must is a 21-day plan for personal grieving, healing and restoration. It is written from a Christian perspective as a self-empowerment tool, especially for those who have experienced hurt and are searching for an appropriate avenue of expression. ■



Dr. Grace Kelly, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Behavioural Sciences at Northern Caribbean University (NCU), signs a copy of her book “Grieve If You Must” for Her Excellency, the Most Honourable Lady Allen during the book launch on July 12, 2011 at the NCU Gymnasium in Mandeville, Jamaica. Looking on is 7 years-old J’Que Williams. [Photo by Nigel Coke]



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

← Shepherdesses from across Central Jamaica Conference (CJC) pose for a photo after their annual retreat held at the Jamaica Union Conference headquarters in Mandeville, Jamaica on Sunday, June 10, 2011. A number of retired shepherdesses also attended. [Photo by Nigel Coke]



↑ Mr. Danny Orillosa, Coordinator of SunPlus Accounting System at the Adventist World Church makes a presentation on the new SunPlus Accounting platform to treasurers and accountants of the Conferences and Institutions of Jamaican Union Conference during a four-day training at the Union's headquarters in Mandeville, Jamaica, from July 25 - 28, 2011. The officers of the Fields, the heads of the Institutions, along with the officers and directors of JAMU were present on the first day. [Photo by Nigel Coke]



Pastor Israel Leito, President of the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (IAD) addresses delegates of the Jamaica Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (JAMU) during a special constituency session held at the Northern Caribbean University Gymnasium on Tuesday, June 14, 2011. [Photo by Nigel Coke]

NCU Boasts Boss, Administrative Professional of the Year

by Nigel Coke/Jamaica Gleaner

Faculty and staff at Northern Caribbean University (NCU) have been beaming with pride since learning that their colleagues have been selected All-Island Boss and All-Island Administrative Professional for 2011.

Elaine Oxamendi Vicet, Acting Chair of the Communication Studies Department, and Joyce Malcolm-Hewitt, Administrative Assistant in the Records Department, were adjudged winners at a brunch held at the Golf View Hotel in Mandeville, Manchester, on Sunday, April 2.

"I feel blessed and highly favour," said an elated Oxamendi Vicet. "I am grateful and humbled at the same time for the selection. I look forward to the year ahead and pledge my support to the cause of the Association where I will be able to make a contribution to the civic projects and training and development opportunities planned."

Oxamendi Vicet is a trained public relations practitioner with more than 15 years' experience in both public relations and human resources within the corporate and tourism sectors. She is a graduate of the University of the West Indies with economics and history at the baccalaureate level, and communications in the master's programme.

"I am very proud of her," said Charmaine Dixon, Oxamendi Vicet's Administrative Assistant. "She is articulate, a people person,

fun to be around, and is also flexible and approachable. What I admire most is her willingness to see to the professional development of her staff. We are blessed to have her in this department."

Malcolm-Hewitt said she felt "excited and elated" at receiving her award.

"It is a fulfilling experience. It was something I had always hoped for and I accept the responsibilities with humility," she said. "I am always of the opinion that whatever one puts one's mind to achieve, one can do it."

The annual competition is organised by the Jamaica Association of Administrative Professionals. ■



Mrs. Elaine Oxamendi Vicet (right) and Mrs. Joyce Malcolm Hewitt pose with their trophies and awards after the presentations at the Golf View Hotel in Mandeville, Jamaica on Sunday, April 3, 2011. [Photo by Grover Samuels]



← Pastor Karl Archer, President of North Jamaica Conference is elated by the establishment of the Church in Nine Miles. [Photo by Dyhann Buddoo Fletcher]

Company were pleased with the strong representation of Conference officials, pastors, elders and members from Alexandria and other neighbouring pastoral districts. The community members mistook the vehicular traffic of visitors as people wishing to pay homage to 'Bob' Marley.

"I am extremely proud of your progress despite the challenges," said Pastor Karl Archer, President of North Jamaica Conference speaking to the members who worship in a dominantly Rastafarian community. "I am pleased with what is happening here. We give the glory, praise and honour to Jesus Christ our King, for what he has done in Nine Miles."

Between 1990 and 2007 the Adventist presence in the Nine Miles community went through its fair share of challenges of trying to find a place of worship. However, in 2008, Pastor Fitzroy Bailey, then Pastor of the Clarendon District of Churches of which the group was

apart, conducted an evangelistic series which led to a rejuvenation of the membership.

"When we came into the area I was personally told not to return," said Pastor Bailey, Youth Director of North Jamaica Conference and Pastor of the Brown's Town District of Churches. "I was threatened by some who did not want to see any Adventist presence here. However, God sent an 'Area Leader' who heard about my plight and he came to my rescue. The 'Area Leader' took matters into his own hands and the threats subsided. Not only that, but he gave us permission to worship in this building belonging to him."

The Alexandria District of Churches which consists of seven congregations has been growing. The Pastor and members dedicated the fifty-five year-old mother Church, the Alexandria Adventist Church, on December 5, 2010 and organized the Aboukir Adventist Church on April 2, 2011.

With these organizations, the number of congregations in North Jamaica Conference has increased to 79 (63 churches and 16 companies). ■

Adventists Establish Presence in 'Bob' Marley's Birthplace

by Dyhann Buddoo-Fletcher

A group of Seventh-day Adventist worshippers in Nine Miles, St. Ann were officially organized as the sixteenth Company in North Jamaica Conference on Sabbath, April 16, 2011. This took place in the mega tourist attraction community where the remains of the late 'King of Reggae', Robert Nesta 'Bob' Marley rests in a mausoleum at his birthplace.

At their organization service, the twenty-five Adventist members of the Nine Miles


Hiram S. Walters Health Centre Repositioned for Success

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"I am glad that the Adventist Church has recognized its responsibility not only to cater to the spiritual needs, but also to the mental and physical needs. The many services which are offered by this Centre are invaluable to the health and wellbeing of persons in this community," Lady Allen said.

The Centre, which was first opened on January 9, 1989, offered services inclusive of family planning, medical clinics, antenatal clinics, dressings, counseling and educational talks. In 2010 more than 9,000 individuals benefited from treatment given at the centre. Dr. Garth Officer, Chairman of the new Administrative Committee, pointed out that the repositioned Centre will continue to do all it did before but will also give birth to increased dental, gynaecological and lab services. "This clinic has been a tremendous help to all of us in this community, especially the elderly folk," said Mrs. Jennifer Phin, a resident of the community. "Now that it has been upgraded to having other facilities that will help our people, I am sure it will be fully supported by us and others around us," "I have been coming to this clinic since 1998 and it has been a tremendous blessing and I hope and pray that it will continue to be even better."

More than 700 individuals benefitted from free dental and medical care when the Conference collaborated with dentists from Loma Linda University and a missionary team from Florida, during the periods June 13-17, and 28-29, 2011 respectively. ■



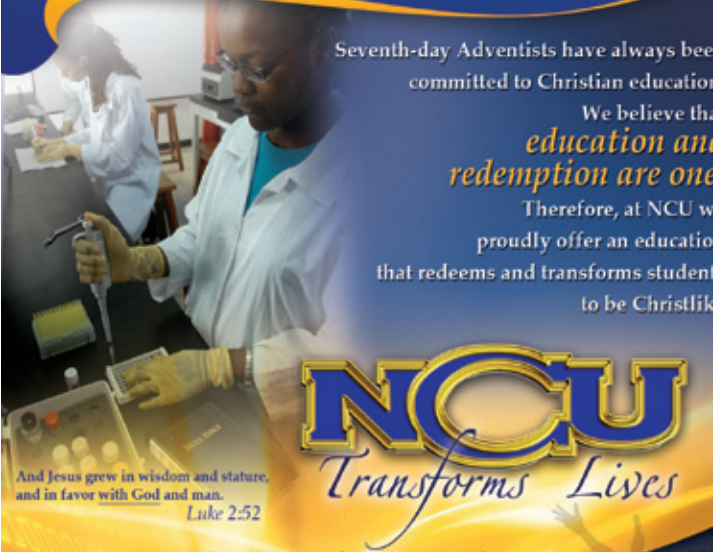
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Calendar of Events



SEPTEMBER

- 1-30 Lay Recruitment, Subscription Material & Miss. Magazine Promotion Month
- 1-30 Conference Bible Bowl Eliminations (CB)
- 3 Lay Evangelism Day
- 3-10 Adventist Review (Annual subscription promotion)
- 5 Workers' Meeting, Central Jamaica Conference
- 10* Family Togetherness
- 10*+ Adventist Mission Emphasis (offering)
- 10 Youth Spiritual Commitment Celebration (Southern Hemisphere)
- 11 Leaders' Council, North Jamaica Conference
- 13 Executive Committee Meeting, West Jamaica Conference
- 14 Executive Committee Meeting, Central Jamaica Conference
- 15 Executive Committee Meeting, North East Jamaica Conference
- 17 Pathfinder Day
- 17-24 Health Emphasis Week
- 18 Women's Health Fair, East Jamaica Conference
- 20 Executive Committee, East Jamaica Conference
- 23-25 Singles' Retreat, East Jamaica Conference
- 24 13th Sabbath Offering (West Central Africa Division)
- 29 Executive Committee, Jamaica Union Conference

OCTOBER

- 1-31 Ingathering Emphasis Month
- 1* Tell the World: In the Community
- 2 Singles' Convention, Central Jamaica Conference
- 7-8 Spirit of Prophecy Emphasis Rally, East Jamaica Conference
- 7-9 Youth Leaders' Retreat, East Jamaica Conference
- 7-9 Ministerial Retreat, West Jamaica Conference
- 8* Spirit of Prophecy
- 8*+ Day of Kindness and Compassion
- 9 Expo 2010, North East Jamaica Conference
- 11 Executive Committee Meeting, West Jamaica Conference
- 12 Executive Committee Meeting, Central Jamaica Conference
- 15* Adventist Children's Day

- 18 Executive Committee, East Jamaica Conference
- 20 Executive Committee Meeting, North East Jamaica Conference
- 20-24 IAD University Administrators' Council
- 22* Day of the Pastor
- 22 Creation Sabbath
- 22 Jamaica Union Conference Bible Bowl Finals, NCU (CB)
- 27 Executive Committee, Jamaica Union Conference
- 27-30 Women's Retreat, Central & East Jamaica Conferences
- 29 Spiritual Revival Emphasis
- 29 Book & Nutrition Centre Promotion
- 29-30 Adventist Health Volunteers Association Retreat, East Jamaica Conference

NOVEMBER

- 1-18 Jamaica Union Conference Staff Days Off/Vacation/Travel Freeze
- 5*-12 Week of Prayer
- 8 Executive Committee Meeting, West Jamaica Conference
- 9 Executive Committee Meeting, Central Jamaica Conference
- 9-17 Year-end Meeting, Jamaica Union Conference
- 12*+ Annual Sacrifice (offering)
- 12* Trust Services Emphasis Day in the Churches
- 17 Executive Committee Meeting, North East Jamaica Conference
- 19 Ingathering
- 25-27 Women's Retreat, North East Jamaica Conference
- 26 Bible Emphasis
- 26 HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- 26 Religious Liberty Convention, Central Jamaica Conference
- 28 Andrews Memorial Hospital Offering

DECEMBER

- 1-3 Youth Plenary Session, Central Jamaica Conference
- 3 World Stewardship Day
- 4 Leaders' Summit, East Jamaica Conference
- 8-11 IAD Bible Bowl Finals, Puerto Rico
- 9-11 Lay Preachers' Institute, North East Jamaica Conference

- 10 13th Sabbath Offering (North American Division)
- 10 IAD Bible Bowl, Puerto Rico
- 13 Executive Committee Meeting, West Jamaica Conference
- 14 Executive Committee Meeting, Central Jamaica Conference
- 14-17 Lay Preachers' Institute and Camp Meeting, Central Jamaica Conference
- 14-17 Camp Meeting, North Jamaica Conference
- 14-17 Camp Meeting, North East Jamaica Conference
- 15 Executive Committee Meeting, North East Jamaica Conference
- 14-17 Camp Meeting, East Jamaica Conference
- 18 Sabbath School & Personal Ministries Workshop, Central Jamaica Conference
- 18 Officers' Council, North East Jamaica Conference
- 18 Officers' Council, West Jamaica Conference
- 28-31 Camp Meeting, West Jamaica Conference
- 31 Book & Nutrition Centre Promotion

- * Programme provided by the General Conference or by the Inter-American Division
- + Worldwide Offering- Special offerings are included in the systematic plan of the Division

13th Sabbath Offerings Schedule - 2011

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| First Quarter | Southern Asia Division |
| Second Quarter | Euro-Asia Division |
| Third Quarter | West Central Africa Division |
| Fourth Quarter | North American Division |



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