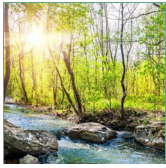


Streams of Light

Official Newsletter of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

October 2023



From the President - January to July 2023

YEAR-END CELEBRATIONS

Our annual Year-End Service was held at the Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church on December 31st. Thanks to Hamilton's media staff and the Conference ATV crew, the program was viewed virtually and aired on ATV live. We began our program with a necrology of precious members who fell asleep in Christ in 2022. These precious saints now rest in Jesus until they hear the trumpet sound at His soon return. Let us be faithful, and as we draw closer to that day, let us celebrate the promise of His coming and keep living in the blessed hope of seeing our loved ones again.

Desiring to be inclusive, our Conference Children's Ministries director Valvet Scott showcased a creative children's program and the singing of church hymns.

Our Conference Youth Director, Pastor David Steede, and the Youth Ministry leaders created a powerful puppet ministry presentation that dramatized Biblical principles that uplifted Christ.

PRERECORDED INSPIRATIONAL TESTIMONIES

Daque Davis, a new believer of the Warwick church, told us about her motorcycle accident which destroyed her motorcycle just minutes from her arrival at church. While in recovery, her faith in God waned and she began to doubt God's existence. She said the adversary tried to put out her flame for Christ. She felt that her Christian life was useless and broken, but then, she started to think that maybe "I'm not broken, I'm definitely a little banged up, and like a can with a dent in it on the shelf in the grocery store, I still have value, because a dent doesn't mean that the goods on the inside are spoiled." That thought motivated her to look for a new season in her life. She praised God

for His relentless, unfailing, merciful love and encouraged everyone to walk with God. She said, "Let's stop trying to rush the process because we have a God

who does care, and He is waiting for us to grab His hand and trust in Him. Because He knows that we wouldn't want to be anywhere, but with Him."

Estrick Ferguson, of the Somerset church, also testified. He shared with us his challenges with his poor eyesight, and how his faith journey to wellness took him on a process of overseas surgery and procedures. After several weeks he struggled to see properly, but through prayer and fasting, God came through for him, because prayer changed everything. Estrick would tell you it is of the Lord's mercies that he is able to see clearly now.

He also shared that he had lung cancer for over 8 years, and yet the blessing of God continues in his life because he has not had any further symptoms of cancer. Again, he attributes his healing to the practice of fasting and prayer because we serve a God who heals in His time. For this, he gives God all the praise and all the glory.

The music for the night was provided by Samone Outerbridge and the Praise team who led us in a time of praise and worship. Our hearts were filled with joy as they ministered to us in song. Dr. Richard Martin, pastor of the Devonshire Church of Love, preached a soul-stirring sermon entitled: I'll Just Say Thank You, from II Corinthians 2:12.

ANNUAL OFFICERS TRAINING

Our annual Officer's Training was held in January with guest presenters Pastor Roger Hernandez of the Southern Union Conference and Dr. Jesse Wilson of Oakwood University. Both spoke of the need for church members to engage in personal evangelism. Elder Hernandez entitled his presentation, "Let's Get Personal". Dr. Jesse Wilson shared that we can no longer rely on the evangelist and the Bible Instructor for success in the public campaign.

As a church, we are now living in a post-pandemic world and in many ways a post-church society. Pastor Hernandez said that we need to stay curious longer and by staying close to people we can become more aware of their needs so that when something goes wrong in their lives, we can be their first option, not their last recourse. He emphasized our need to use Christ's methods in reaching people; and that we must help people to be won to Christ, and the beauty of the scriptures, otherwise we are creating healthy sinners.

BIBLE INSTRUCTORS COURSE

During the officers' training, I appealed for church members to register for an online Bible Instructors course with Dr. Gloria Bell, a veteran soul winner, with over 40 years of Bible Instructor experience. 30 individuals signed up for the training. She taught four online modules. Using her book "Help for the Harvest" as our textbook. Seventeen participants were certified at Camp Meeting having completed the course, which also required the giving of Bible studies.

Since she has completed the course, Regina Ferguson of Restoration Ministries has become instrumental in winning a soul to Christ through bible studies. She attributes part of her success to the training course and has become very passionate about working to save the lost.

It should be noted that the Bermuda Conference has no full-time Bible Instructors. We are training and encouraging church members to become engaged in the wonderful work of giving Bible studies thus preparing people for baptism, church membership, and ultimately for heaven.

HEALTH MINISTRIES INITIATIVES

The conference executive committee renewed its contract with Dr. Leonard Gibbons who has been able to engage hundreds of attendees to his health seminars

and lifestyle clinics. One such seminar was held at the Bermuda Industrial Union where over 30 individuals participated and testified that they benefited tremendously from his presentations. I was privileged to be present on the closing night of the month-long experience and it was a joy to see many recipients of the program testify of their weight loss victories because they participated in the program.

Dr. Gibbons and I intentionally added one more week to the health program and moved its location to the Devonshire Church of Love where the participants could also attend the conference-sponsored evangelistic series. The people came to the health program, and some attended the nightly evangelistic meetings with Dr. Richard Martin.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMANCIPATION BIBLE STUDY GUIDES

The Bermuda conference partners with the Regional Conference Ministries of the North American Division, in several ministry incentives. *Message* magazine, P.E.L.C., and *Breath of Life* are some initiatives that we have supported for decades. In February, Black History Month, we promoted their Social Justice Bible Study Guide on social justice and emancipation. These study guides have a Sabbath school format. The writers of this year's study guide were Dr. Olive Hemmings of Washington Adventist University, Dr. Delbert Baker of ORCM Retirement, US Senate Chaplain Barry Black, and North California Conference president Dr. Mark Woodson. They wrote on four topics: *One Blood All Nations*; *A People Enslaved*; *Let My People Go*, and *A People in Debt*. I asked pastors Hector Quinones, Dr. Richard Martin, David Steede, and Damon Hendrickson to join me in teaching these lessons live on ATV and livestream. I wish to thank the Hamilton church, the camera crew, and their staff for making it happen.

Experience
A 30-DAY TRANSFORMATION
Through Nature's Healing Remedies

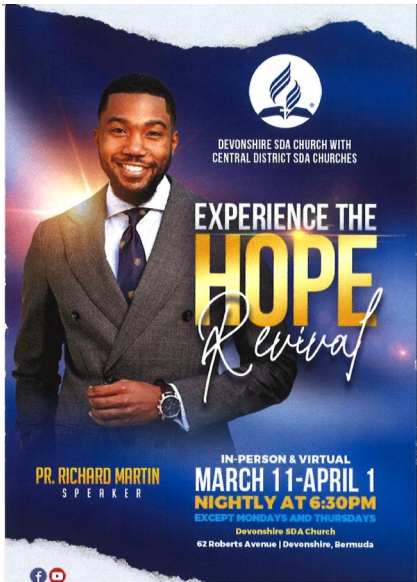
Turn around your

- Diabetes
- Poor sleep habits
- High blood pressure
- Lack of consistency
- High cholesterol readings
- Obesity and weight concerns
- Low fitness and energy level
- Focus on the stressors of everyday life
- Compromised immune system (frequent colds, flu, etc.)
- Brain fog - confusion, forgetfulness, and a lack of focus and mental clarity

Presenters
Leonard L. Gibbons, DrPH, MPH, HT, MT, RD (and Associates)
Lifestyle Intervention Specialist, Health Ministries Director
Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

EXPERIENCE THE HOPE EVANGELISM

In October 2022, during our calendar planning session, I asked Dr. Richard Martin of the Devonshire church, to conduct a three-week district evangelistic campaign, with the Hamilton and Pembroke churches. This event was fully sponsored by the conference. This dynamic team of pastors Martin, Steede,



and Hill led their congregations in collaboration to reach souls for Christ. We invited Gale Jones Murphy to serve as a lead vocalist and musician for the first week. The theme of the meetings was *Experience the Hope*. Dr. Richard Martin preached the gospel with excellence. Two precious souls were

baptized at the conclusion of these meetings. I was able to baptize Mr. Carlton Johnston, who also attended the Hope series. We thank God for the collaboration of the central churches for working together to strengthen the body of Christ and to win souls for the Kingdom of God.

DEACONS & DEACONESS TRAINING

Brother Neville Green, a deacon of the Hamilton church, approached me to see if I could secure Dr. Vincent White's books on the ministry of deacons and deaconesses for the Hamilton church. I decided to honor his request by ordering books for the entire conference and invited Dr. Vincent White to come and make presentations for our deacons and deaconesses. Our deacons and deaconesses across the conference were challenged to make mission ministry statements for their work in their churches to help guide them in accomplishing their mission of making disciples for Christ.

CAMP MEETING 2023: CLOSER, CELEBRATING THE PROMISE, LIVING THE HOPE

Our Camp Meeting experience continues to be a highlight for the Bermuda Conference family. We are told by Ellen White that Camp Meeting is a time when the Holy Spirit is poured out upon God's people. Our theme this year: *Closer: Celebrating the*

Promise, Living the Hope, was addressed by our speakers. Many attendees of Camp Meeting testified that they were truly blessed and were drawn closer to God, especially by attending the virtual early morning manna services. Our early morning manna speaker was Dr. Nicardo Delahey, of the Northeastern Conference. He presented practical messages from the Word each morning to an attendance of as high as 150. Our Conference Prayer Ministries coordinator, Pastor Michelle Hill, continues to do excellent facilitating this portion of our Camp Meeting experience.

Dr. James Yansen, of the Northeastern Conference, preached for the first half of the week for the adult pavilion. He used 2 Peter 2,



to speak on the Christian's freedom in Christ and a timely reminder to live with the assurance of hope in Christ's promises as Christians in the last days. That we can respond to scoffers by deepening our relationship with Christ, and by abiding in

the power of God's Word. He further preached on the certainty of the Second coming of Jesus Christ which is rooted in the power of God's Word, and how we should never give up on God's promises. On Wednesday evening, Pastor Claudia Allen, of the Allegheny East Conference, took the Baton further and lifted Christ up, as the Lord Our righteousness, and the hope we have in the promises of His Word.

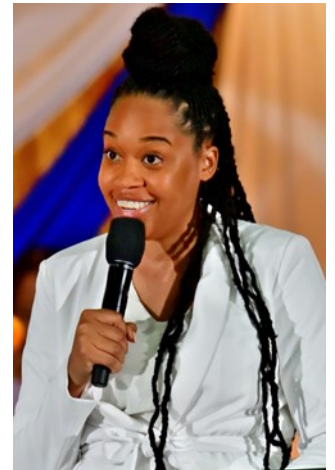


Photo: Ricardo Clarke

Dr Patrick Vincent, a leading soul winner in the NAD, offered a 5 day of Soul Winning seminar each evening before the nightly Camp Meeting service. As an administration, we believe in equipping the saints for the work of their ministry.

CAMP MEETING GUEST FAMILY LIFE PRESENTERS

Photo: Ricardo Clarke



Family Life counselors, Drs. David and Beverly Sedlacek were invited to our Camp Meeting to conduct a Family Life Seminar by Dr. Richard Martin, our Family Life Director. They conducted a seminar each evening, before the nightly service. Given his expertise and willingness, I asked them to give an in-service workshop with our pastors.

Dr. James Yansen, our Camp Meeting speaker, also made presentations for our pastors in lieu of our annual Workers' Meeting.

MUSIC AWARDS/BIBLE FACILITATORS CERTIFIED/RETIREES JUNE 24/JULY 1

At each Camp Meeting, the administrators give recognition to those who have served the conference or to those who have made contributions in different areas of the work. On June 28, honored musicians and singers for their music ministries in their local churches, and at conference events. We honored the memory of some who have passed and celebrated the ministries of some who now live overseas. We thank them for their contribution to the music in Bermuda.

Photo: Ricardo Clarke



Those honored this year are Grace Burgess, Barbara Spence, Michael Cann, Leonard Cann, Gloria Eastern, Steve

Eastern, Jackie Wilson, Grace Dorsey Landy, Stephen Manders, Aaron Spencer Jr., Aaron Ratteray, Michael Taylor, Desirae Simons, Dwight Warren, Calvin Simons, Chaplain Samona Mils Pitcher, Terry Henry, Jonathan Tankard, Samone Outterbridge, Chaplain Kevin Santucci, Iva Parks, Eugene Richardson and Michael Spencer. The groups given recognition were: En Harmony, Beyond Tomorrow Quartet, The Hamilton Men's Chorale, Present Truth, and The Revelations. To be sure, others were worthy of honor but chose to be thank-

ful without public recognition. They are just glad to serve without honorable mention.

BIBLE INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

Fifteen participants in the Bible Instructors course met the certification requirements and received certificates at Camp Meeting on July 1. Among them were Eloise Symonds, Kenneth Simons, Regina Ferguson, Shirlene Nisbett, Ernestine DeGraff, Debra Thomas-Gilkes, Alison Roberts, Debra White, Calvin White, Keva Carter, LeVar Bassett, Waverley Minors, Daque Davis, Lynne Wade, Kent Laws. Others, who took the course will also qualify for certification when they have engaged in conducting Bible studies, which is the practical portion of the course, and its whole objective.



Photo: Ricardo Clarke

BERMUDA CONFERENCE HONORS RETIREES

We were delighted to honor Tanya Warner who gave 27 years of service at Bermuda Institute, as the Business Manager; Frigga Simmons who gave 37 years of service as a French and Spanish Teacher, the Director of Development, and Middle School Coordinator; and Sonia Dawes who served as an elementary and middle school teacher for 38 years. We also celebrated Elder Aaron Spencer who retired his service to the Bermuda Conference after serving as our conference treasurer for the last nine years.

THE NEW TREASURER ARRIVES

Our new Conference Treasurer Elder Robert Patterson, Jr. made his debut on July 1 during Camp Meeting and burst onto the scene as one of our Camp Meeting speakers. He preached the Word during the last Sabbath of early morning manna in person, and he lifted the Divine worship tithe and offering. We are so glad to have him and his wife Carmen on board with us. They



are both a blessing to the Bermuda Conference leadership and staff. Carmen is now serving as our conference communications director. We welcome them both to the Bermuda Conference leadership team and family.

THE CAMP MEETING PICNIC 2023

Thanks to Dr. Carlyle Simmons, our conference Sabbath School assistant director, and Pastor David Steede, our conference Youth Director, we had a great conference Camp Meeting picnic. The numbers seemed to grow in comparison to previous years. The atmosphere was Bermudaful, the fellowship was rich, and thanks to the Hamilton church gourmet committee, the food was delightful. Many thanks to all who helped to make this event a success. It was deeply appreciated and supported by our beloved constituents.

Photo: Ricardo Clarke



BOARD LEADERSHIP TRAINING JULY 19

Elder Richard Smith contacted my office and offered the conference a Board Training Seminar at no cost to the conference, for July 19. Among the presenters were, Dr. Lola Moore Johnston who presented on Visionary Leadership: The current season in which we live requires us to seek God for new methods and approaches to address a new set of challenges.

Pastor Freddie Russell, taught: “Three Critical Factors Needed to Grow Your Leadership Influence: Leading Self, Leading Others, Leading the Organization. You can’t lead others, and certainly not the Organization, unless you can first lead yourself.

Author Jaymie Pottinger, presented Agile Leadership, as the art and ability to know how and when to make the adjustments in one’s leadership style, without compromising yourself, or any values, standards, or principles.

Pastor Paul Graham was the moderator of the program. The Board Training Seminar was both motivational and inspirational. A big thanks to Dianne Coddington for the ambiance and the Hamilton Gourmet Committee for a delightful meal. The attendance of the seminar was very good. The Board training was an excellent initiative.

ADVENTIST CUP MATCH

The second annual Adventist Cup Match was another huge success. This year’s one, you could say, was bigger and better, not because Somerset won, but because the execution, offerings, and support were bigger and better than the first one in 2022. It started with a moment of silence in memory of the late Gerald St. George Simons who passed away earlier this year. Thanks to Pastor Steede and Sherma Webbe Clarke, the vendors, and all staff on hand, everything went well. It was aired live on HOTT 107.5 and streamed on YouTube.

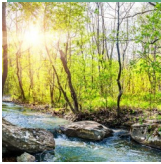


Photo: Ricardo Clarke

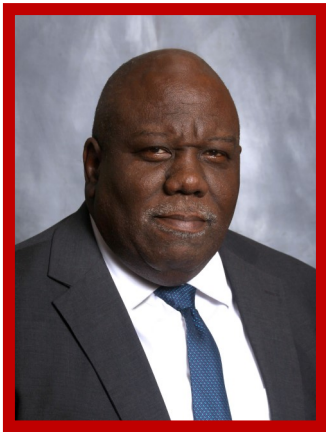
Somerset won the cup this year, and the awards given were:

- 2022 Safe Hands: Curtis DeGraff (St. George’s)
- 2022 MVP: Dajon Carey (St. George’s)
- 2023 Safe Hands: Lloyd Holder (St. George’s)
- 2023 MVP: Kenneth Manders (Somerset)

This event was free—free of cussing, free of smoking, and free of alcoholic drinking. It was a day of great clean fun, fellowship, and food for all the conference family to enjoy.



From the Executive Secretary . . . DeJaun Tull



At our annual Camp Meeting, we honored three retirees

W. Aaron M. Spencer

TREASURER/CFO

8.75 years



Sonia F. Dawes

ELEMENTARY TEACHER

38 years



Frigga M. Simmons

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

37 years

We, as a Conference and School, have benefitted from their wisdom and leadership and we wish them all the best as they enjoy their well deserved retirement!

**NEW HIRES/APPOINTMENTS
VOTED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/SCHOOL BOARD**

NAME	NEW APPOINTMENT
Kimberlee Tankard	Director of Institutional Advancement at Bermuda Institute
Terrance Dean	Director of Information at Bermuda Institute
Jordan Tankard	Elementary Teacher
Elicia Albuoy	Elementary Teacher
Ronald Forde	High School and Middle School English Teacher
Orlyn Williams	Computer Science Teacher
Kim Ming Simons	Accountant at Bermuda Conference
Damon Hendrickson	Retention & Reclamation Director
Carmen Patterson	Communications Director
Robert Patterson, Jr.	Stewardship Director
Garth Dixon	Elementary Teacher

On behalf of the administration of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, we would like to express thanks to Tanya Warner for 26.865 years of service as Business Manager at Bermuda Institute

The time, energy, and commitment manifested for the cause of God's work will always be remembered and appreciated.



SDA Church Official Statement on Homosexuality

<https://www.adventist.org/official-statements/homosexuality/>

The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognizes that every human being is valuable in the sight of God, and we seek to minister to all men and women in the spirit of Jesus. We also believe that by God’s grace and through the encouragement of the community of faith, [an individual may live in harmony with the principles of God’s Word.](#)

Seventh-day Adventists believe that sexual intimacy belongs only within the marital relationship of a man and a woman. This was the design established by God at creation. The Scriptures declare: “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh” (Gen 2:24, NIV). Throughout Scripture this heterosexual pattern is affirmed. The Bible makes no accommodation for homosexual activity or relationships. Sexual acts outside the circle of a heterosexual marriage are forbidden (Lev 18:5-23, 26; Lev 20:7-21; Rom 1:24-27; 1 Cor 6:9-11).

Jesus Christ reaffirmed the divine creation intent: “‘Haven’t you read,’ he replied, ‘that at the beginning the Creator “made them male and female,” and said, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?” So they are no longer two, but one”’ (Matt 19:5, NIV). For these reasons Seventh-day Adventists are opposed to homosexual practices and relationships. [Jesus affirmed the dignity of all human beings and reached out compassionately to persons and families suffering the consequences of sin.](#) He offered caring ministry and words of solace to struggling people, while differentiating His love for sinners from His clear teaching about sinful practices. As His disciples, Seventh-day Adventists endeavor to follow the Lord’s instruction and example, living a life of Christ-like compassion and faithfulness.

This statement was voted during the Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee on Sunday, October 3, 1999 in Silver Spring, Maryland. Revised by the General Conference Executive Committee, October 17, 2012.

SDA Church official Statement on Transgenderism

<https://www.adventist.org/official-statements/statement-on-transgenderism/>

The increasing awareness of the needs and challenges that transgender men and women experience and the rise of transgender issues to social prominence worldwide raise important questions not only for those affected by the transgender phenomenon but also for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. While the struggles and challenges of those identifying as transgender people have some elements in common with the struggles of all human beings, we recognize the uniqueness of their situation and the limitation of our knowledge in specific instances. Yet, we believe that [Scripture](#) provides principles for guidance and counsel to transgender people and the Church, transcending human conventions and culture.

THE TRANSGENDER PHENOMENON

In modern society, gender identity typically denotes “the public (and usually legally recognized) lived role as boy or girl, man or woman,” while sex refers “to the biological indicators of male and female.”¹ Gender identification usually aligns with a person’s biological sex at birth. However, misalignment may happen at the physical and/or mental-emotional levels.

On the physical level ambiguity in genitalia may result from anatomical and physiological abnormalities so that it cannot be clearly established whether a child is male or female. This ambiguity of anatomical sexual differentiation is often called hermaphroditism or intersexualism.²

On the mental-emotional level misalignment occurs with transgender people whose sexual anatomy is clearly male or female but who identify with the opposite gender of their biological sex. They may describe themselves as being trapped in a wrong body. Transgenderism, formerly clinically diagnosed as “gender identity disorder”

and now termed “gender dysphoria,” may be understood as a general term to describe the variety of ways individuals interpret and express their gender identity differently from those who determine gender on the basis of biological sex.³ “Gender dysphoria is manifested in a variety of ways, including strong desires to be treated as the other gender or to be rid of one’s sex characteristics, or a strong conviction that one has feelings and reactions typical of the other gender.”⁴

Due to contemporary trends to reject the biblical gender binary (male and female) and replace it with a growing spectrum of gender types, certain choices triggered by the transgender condition have come to be regarded as normal and accepted in contemporary culture. However, the desire to change or live as a person of another gender may result in biblically inappropriate lifestyle choices. Gender dysphoria may, for instance, result in cross-dressing, sex reassignment surgery, and the desire to have a marital relationship with a person of the same biological sex. On the other hand, transgender people may suffer silently, living a celibate life or being married to a spouse of the opposite sex.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES RELATING TO SEXUALITY AND THE TRANSGENDER PHENOMENON

As the transgender phenomenon must be evaluated by Scripture, the following biblical principles and teachings may help the community of faith relate to people affected by gender dysphoria in a biblical and Christ-like way:

- God created humanity as two persons who are respectively identified as male and female in terms of gender. The Bible inextricably ties gender to biological sex (Gen 1:27; 2:22-24) and does not make a distinction between the two. The Word of God affirms complementarity as well as clear distinctions between male and female in creation. The Genesis creation account is foundational to all questions of human sexuality.
- From a biblical perspective, the human being is a psychosomatic unity. For example, Scripture repeatedly calls the entire human being a soul (Gen 2:7; Jer 13:17; 52:28-30; Ezek 18:4; Acts 2:41; 1 Cor 15:45), a body (Eph 5:28; Rom 12:1-2; Rev 18:13), flesh (1 Pet 1:24), and spirit (2 Tim 4:22; 1 John 4:1-3). Thus, the Bible does not endorse dualism in the sense of a separation between one’s body and one’s sense of sexuality. In addition, an immortal part of humans is not envisioned in Scripture because God alone possesses immortality (1 Tim 6:14-16) and will bestow it on those who believe in Him at the first resurrection (1 Cor 15:51-54). Thus, a human being is also meant to be an undivided sexual entity, and sexual identity cannot be independent from one’s body. According to Scripture, our gender identity, as designed by God, is determined by our biological sex at birth (Gen 1:27; 5:1-2; Ps 139:13-14; Mark 10:6).
- Scripture acknowledges, however, that due to the Fall (Gen 3:6-19) the whole human being — that is, our mental, physical, and spiritual faculties — are affected by sin (Jer 17:9; Rom 3:9; 7:14-23; 8:20-23; Gal 5:17) and need to be renewed by God (Rom 12:2). Our emotions, feelings, and perceptions are not fully reliable indicators of God’s designs, ideals, and truth (Prov 14:12; 16:25). We need guidance from God through Scripture to determine what is in our best interest and live according to His will (2 Tim 3:16).
- The fact that some individuals claim a gender identity incompatible with their biological sex reveals a serious dichotomy. This brokenness or distress, whether felt or not, is an expression of the damaging effects of sin on humans and may have a variety of causes. Although gender dysphoria is not intrinsically sinful, it may result in sinful choices. It is another indicator that, on a personal level, humans are involved in the great controversy.
- As long as transgender people are committed to ordering their lives according to the biblical teachings on sexuality and marriage they can be members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Bible clearly and consistently identifies any sexual activity outside of heterosexual marriage as sin (Matt 5:28, 31-32; 1 Tim 1:8-11; Heb 13:4). Alternative sexual lifestyles are sinful distortions of God’s good gift of sexuality (Rom 1:21-28; 1 Cor 6:9-10).

- Because the Bible regards humans as wholistic entities and does not differentiate between biological sex and gender identity, the Church strongly cautions transgender people against sex reassignment surgery and against marriage, if they have undergone such a procedure. From the biblical wholistic viewpoint of human nature, a full transition from one gender to another and the attainment of an integrated sexual identity cannot be expected in the case of sex reassignment surgery.
- The Bible commands followers of Christ to love everyone. Created in the image of God, they must be treated with dignity and respect. This includes transgender people. Acts of ridicule, abuse, or bullying towards transgender people are incompatible with the biblical commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31).
- The Church as the community of [Jesus Christ](#) is meant to be a refuge and place of hope, care, and understanding to all who are perplexed, suffering, struggling, and lonely, for “a bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench” (Matt 12:20). All people are invited to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Church and enjoy the fellowship of its believers. Those who are members can fully participate in church life as long as they embrace the message, mission, and values of the Church.
- The Bible proclaims the good news that sexual sins committed by heterosexuals, homosexuals, transgender people, or others can be forgiven, and lives can be transformed through [faith in Jesus Christ](#) (1 Cor 6:9-11).
- Those who experience incongruity between their biological sex and gender identity are encouraged to follow biblical principles in dealing with their distress. They are invited to reflect on God’s original plan of purity and sexual fidelity. Belonging to God, all are called to honor Him with their bodies and their lifestyle choices (1 Cor 6:19). With all believers, transgender people are encouraged to wait on God and are offered the fullness of divine compassion, peace, and grace in anticipation of [Christ’s soon return](#) when all true followers of Christ will be completely restored to God’s ideal.

—References—

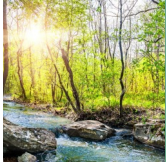
1. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, 5th ed. (DSM-5TM), edited by the American Psychiatric Association (Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing, 2013), 451.[↔]
2. Those born with ambiguous genitalia may or may not benefit from corrective surgical treatment. [↔]
3. See DSM-5TM, 451-459.[↔]
4. This sentence is part of a succinct summary of gender dysphoria provided to [introduce DSM-5TM](#) that was published in 2013 (accessed April 11, 2017).[↔]
5. Cross-dressing, also referred to as transvestite behavior, is prohibited in Deuteronomy 22:5.[↔]

2023 Statistical Report...To end of 2nd Qtr.

	Total Start	Baptisms	P.O.F.	Trans In	Adjust	Trans Out	Death	Drop	Missing	Adjust	Total End
DEVONSHIRE	438	1		3		1	4	2			435
HAMILTON	897	3					8	1			891
MID. HEIGHTS	345			2		1	1				345
PEMBROKE	256	1		1		2					256
REST. MIN.	239			2		1		1			239
ROCKAWAY	90					1					89
SOMERSET	367	1				1					367
SOUTHAMPTON	583	1		3	1		7	1		1	579
ST. DAVID'S	90	1					2				89
ST. GEORGE'S	281					2	1				278
WARWICK	290						2	2			286
CMH	33	1	1								35
TOTALS	3909	9	1	11	1	9	25	7		1	3889

Upcoming Events October to December

- October 14-28 East-end Evangelism at the Midland Heights church
Speakers - Pastor John Coaxum and Pastor Nathaniel Lyles, Jr.
- October 23 Executive Committee meeting via Zoom
- November 3-19 West-end Evangelism at the Somerset church
- November 11 BI Alumni 80th Anniversary Service at Southampton church at 6:00 p.m.
- November 12 BI Service Awards Banquet—80th Alumni Celebration
- November 26 Seniors Appreciation Banquet at Bermuda Institute auditorium
- November 27 Executive Committee meeting via Zoom
- December 2 Teachers' Commissioning at 4:00 p.m.
- December 31 Year-End Celebration



From the Treasurer . . . Robert Patterson, Jr.

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the time you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” – John Wesley

*“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and deed on His faithfulness.”
Psalms 37:3*

TREASURER’S UPDATE

God continues to bless the Bermuda Conference in the area of finances. It is my humble pleasure as of July 1, 2023, to begin my tenure with this wonderful Conference. I’m looking forward to the great things that God will do through our efforts as we look forward to Jesus coming in the clouds of glory!

I have to acknowledge the outstanding work that was done by my immediate predecessor, Elder W. Aaron M. Spencer. God used his talents to navigate the financial waters of our conference for nine years. Leading through a global pandemic was not an easy task for most organizations, yet being led by the Holy Spirit and the experience and skills that Elder Spencer possesses, the Conference was able to survive the rough financial times and maintain a healthy operation.



life of retirement. We thank her for her service through the years and for maintaining the financial records of our beloved school. We are praying God’s blessings on her as she navigates this new phase of her life.

We are in the process of searching for her replacement. In the interim, Mrs. Deborah Lowe has accepted the responsibilities at Bermuda Institute, and we are grateful for her commitment to making sure that the finance office maintains the quality left by Ms. Warner.

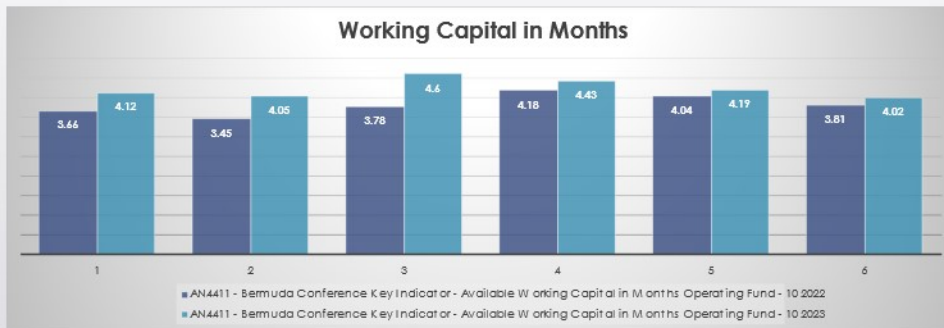


We would like to welcome Mrs. Kim Ming Simons to the Bermuda Conference treasury team as our Accountant. Mrs. Ming Simons brings many years of service from the banking industry, and we look forward to her gifts being used for God in the Bermuda Conference.

The Bermuda Institute has also lost a valuable asset in the person of Ms. Tanya Warner, Business Manager. After almost 27 years of service, Ms. Warner has decided to explore the

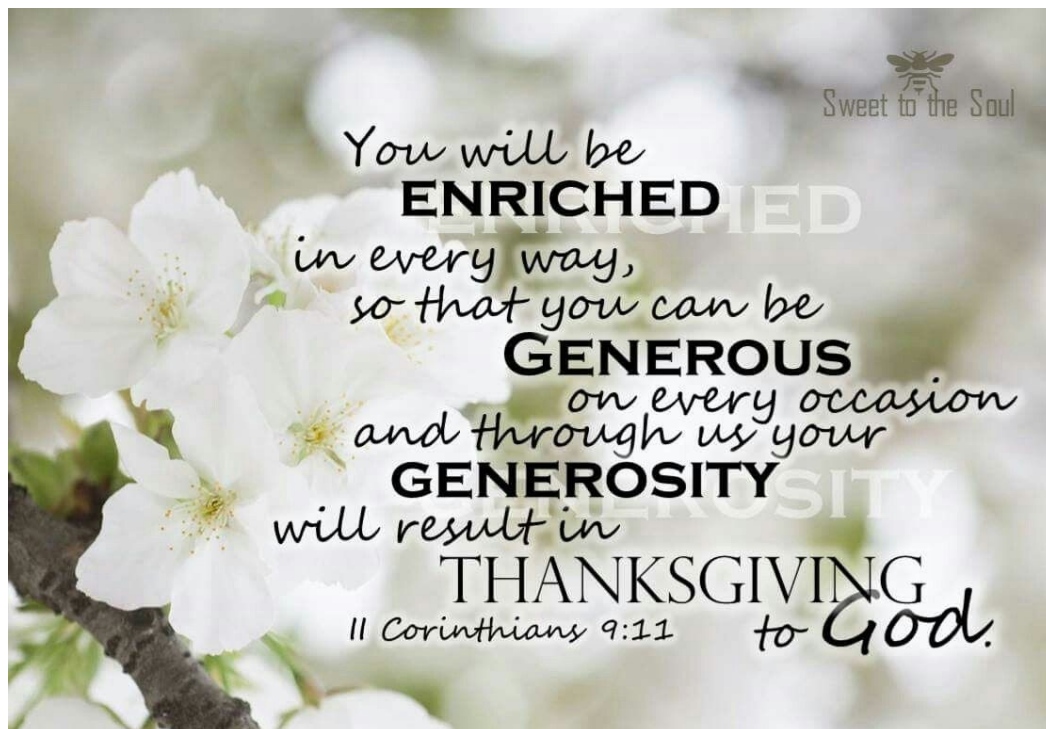
The following chart reflects the Tithe received from our churches through the month of August. In spite of the economy, God has shown us favor with a small increase in Tithe of .39% over last year. The summer months are always up and down due to individuals traveling and not being at their churches to remit offerings. In the coming months, we will pay close attention to the trends in giving and make adjustments where necessary. We all know that ‘little becomes much, when it is placed in the Master’s hands’!

Church Tithe Jan - August	Tithe 2023	Tithe 2022	\$ Gain/Loss	% Gain/Loss
Conference Church	45,513.17	68,883.11	(23,369.94)	(33.92)
Devonshire	259,512.69	265,190.39	(5,677.70)	(2.14)
Hamilton	854,405.47	804,966.24	49,439.23	6.14
Midland Heights	167,186.25	223,026.39	(55,840.14)	(25.03)
Somerset	280,556.35	311,865.62	(31,309.27)	(10.03)
Southampton	520,521.48	534,491.08	(13,969.60)	(2.61)
St. George’s	205,753.53	188,286.50	17,467.03	9.27
Warwick	344,597.80	358,597.61	(13,999.81)	(3.90)
Hermanidad Comp.	30,806.60	35,503.00	(4,696.40)	(13.22)
Pembroke	164,013.66	174,103.78	(10,090.12)	(5.79)
Restoration	224,486.80	154,364.43	70,122.37	45.42
Rockaway	148,656.15	118,255.11	30,401.04	25.70
St. David’s	103,435.46	98,739.10	4,696.36	4.75
Total	3,349,445.41	3,336,272.36	13,173.05	.39



Working Capital is a financial indicator that measures the financial health of an organization. The North American Division requires 6 months of Working Capital for Conferences. Currently, we are at 4.02 months of the required Working Capital, and it has increased over this time last year, and we are heading in the right direction.

I would like to thank our President, Dr. Kenneth Manders, our Executive Secretary, Pastor W. DeJaun Tull, and the members of the Executive Committee for following the Holy Spirit in allowing me the opportunity to serve this great conference. Continue to keep us in prayer as we seek to do God's will regarding the finances of our conference. We thank you for your faithfulness to God through your giving.



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