



LET'S NOT WASTE THE PANDEMIC

One year into our current world health crisis, it may be the time to ask "what," not "why."



It's hard to believe that it's been a year that the world as we knew it literally came to a screeching halt. It still seems surreal. Millions of people sheltered in place, hoping and believing that if we all did our part, life would be back to normal in just a few weeks.

In an October 2020 report, *Stress in America™ 2020: A National Mental Health Crisis*, the American Psychological Association issued a warning about the impact of pandemic stress on long-term physical and mental health. Surveys revealed that many Americans have seen, and will continue to see, declining physical and mental health due to their inability to cope with the stresses of the pandemic. Many will experience long-term consequences such as chronic illness, depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. In addition, during the pandemic, young adults ages 18-30 have been most susceptible to suicide and suicidal thoughts. At least one in four have considered killing themselves in the past 30 days.

These statistics are very daunting and discouraging. Some of us may be asking, "God, why?" Perhaps, some are even thinking that God is punishing us. In therapy, we often encourage clients to ask "what" rather than "why." The truth is, there is not always an answer to why (although you may be insisting there is) but asking *what* reveals a level of self-awareness that helps the client to participate in their healing and to moving forward. As we Christians reflect on this past year of living with the COVID-19 pandemic, perhaps we would benefit from asking a few "what" questions.

Here's one: What have we learned about ourselves, about each other, about God, and His ultimate plan for our lives? Here are some of our takeaways:

1. Faith in God is a huge blessing. The secular mind questions the logic of faith. However, when one is in the middle of a pandemic, logic provides no solace. Believing in the One who can calm the storm and comfort our fears is rational and transcendent. "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will

guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus" (**Phil. 4:6, 7**, NLT).

2. Cherish family and loved ones daily. We've heard these words over and over again, but after a year of social distancing, separation from loved ones, and a myriad Zoom funeral, perhaps it resonates now more than ever. As of mid-March 2021, 2.6 million people had died around the world in one year. We knew these people: they were our family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors, grocery store clerks, nurses, teachers, doctors. May they rest in peace. But for those who remain, look out for them, reach out to them, call them, pray with them, hug those that you can hug. (Note: If you suspect someone you know is considering suicide, help them get assistance immediately: **#COVID19MHI**).

3. The human spirit is resilient. Resilience has become the axiom of this past year. It means having the capacity to adapt well and recover from adversity and difficulties. Who would have imagined that one year later, we would still be practicing social distancing, communicating virtually, wearing masks regularly (albeit grudgingly), navigating life in a seemingly new normal? We are stronger than we know, and better together.

4. We are on a mission. Despite the science and all we know about the coronavirus, so much is still unknown and seemingly arbitrary. For instance, why does an 83-year-old woman with pre-existing conditions survive after contracting COVID, but a 35-year-old mom of two succumbs to it? So far, no answers are forthcoming to these "why" questions. However, if we ask "what," it pushes us into a deeper understanding of God's purpose for us while we remain here on earth. Do we need to do more justice, love more mercy, feed more hungry people, speak up more for the voiceless and the marginalized, walk more humbly?

None of us knows what the long-term effect or residual effects will be from this pandemic. To be sure, research studies will continue to reveal more damage. However, we do know that Jesus is coming soon. Let's not waste the pandemic. Maybe God

needs us to see each other more clearly, to trust Him more dearly, and to shine His light more brightly in a world that will continue to grow dark as we await His return. He promises a crown of beauty for ashes, and joy in the morning. Plan to get yours.

- Dr. Willie and Elaine Oliver
Family Ministries Directors,
General Conference of The Seventh-day
Adventists Church, World Headquarters.



FROM THE EDITOR

Are you interested in writing the lead article for the Logos?
Please send an email to
lsturrap@sbcadventist.org.bs



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021 JULY

- 24** Third Quarter Youth Day: Local Church (AM)
- 24** Children's and Adolescent Sabbath (ATCU) Churches
- 24 – 31** Summer Youth Evangelism (Local Church)
- 29** Executive Committee Meeting
- 31** Park 'N' Praise (Joint AY) PM&ASI Evangelistic Series Reach the World: Media Ministry (Empowered by Christ – one week Campaign)

AUGUST

- 1** Adventist Sports Day #ASD Joint Prayer Meeting
- 7** Adventist Men Social God in Shoes – "Random Acts of Kindness" (PM) IWILLGO: "Church Community" Local Church
- 14** Children & Adolescent Ministries Day (churches)
- 13-15** AY Bible Connection Finals #ABC
- 21** Adventurer Bible Connection Finals #PBC Adventist Education Day
- 22** CHAM Training Summit
- 27-29** Back2School Revival (Joint AY)
- 28** Pathfinder Bible Connection Finals #PBC Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day Abuse Prevention Day (Enditnow Day) Lay Preachers Exchange and Lay Evangelism Emphasis Day



ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES NOTICE OF SPECIAL CALLED CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Special Constituency Meeting of the South Bahamas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on August 15,

2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Hillview Seventh-day Adventist Church, #134 Tonique Williams-Darling Highway, New Providence, The Bahamas.

The Special Constituency Meeting is called to:

1. Vote on one of three proposals in relation to the former Bahamas Academy site.
2. Vote on constitution amendments with respect to online participation in constituency meetings as recommended by the General Conference.

All duly appointed delegates are invited to be present at the constituency meeting. Registration for all delegates will be held on Sunday, August 15, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Hillview Seventh-day Adventist Church located on #134 Tonique Williams-Darling Highway.

- Office of the Secretariat.



**BAHAMAS ACADEMY
REGISTRATION FOR ENTRANCE
INTO EARLY LEARNING CENTRE**
Bahamas Academy's Early Learning Centre has relocated to Marshall Road. Registration is in progress for children ages 3-5 years old.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Bahamas Academy's final sitting for the entrance examination for the 2021-2022 school year will be held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021. Applicants for grades 1-10 are invited to apply online at bahamasacademy.org no later than Monday, August 9, 2021. For additional information please contact the school at 461-2100.

Bahamas Academy's Summer Office Hours - 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. from Monday-Friday.

-Mrs. Juliette Sands, Principal, Bahamas Academy.



BIBLE CLASS

Bible Class continues this Sunday.
Time: 6:30p.m.
Meeting ID: 915 5872 2673
Passcode: 592256

-Pastor Lynden Williams, Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator.



CHILDREN & ADOLESCENT MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2021 – Virtual VBS Programs (churches)

CHURCH VBS PROGRAMS:

'Cactusville, Where kids are called to follow Jesus'. #SayYestoJesus

- Monday, July 19 – Sunday, July 25, 2021, at 4:30p.m. to 6:00p.m. daily - Good News Church, Cockburn Town Church & South Andros District.

--Mrs. Lavern A. Sturup, Children & Adolescent Ministries Director.



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

A special thanks is extended to all women who sent in submissions for the devotional book.

UPCOMING EVENTS PAUSE & PRAY

Wednesday Pause & Pray Special Edition
July 28th, 2021 – 12:00p.m-12:30p.m
Prayer Focus: Unity Among Believers
Zoom ID: 98113813577
Password: 094045

Remember to Pause & Pray with us virtually each Wednesday at noon.

EnditNow

BRINGING PEACE HOME:
Addressing Youth Violence at the Roots
August 28, 2021

"God Covers Me" - September 1, 2021

A joint initiative by Women's Ministries and Children & Adolescents Ministries.

DONATION REQUEST

Used, But In

Good Condition Devotionals
Kindly donate to your local Women's Ministries Leader for distribution during our community outreach projects this year. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions or need additional information on any of our initiatives, kindly email us at SBCwomensministries@sbcadventist.org.bs --Mrs. Jacqueline Gibson, Women's Ministries Director.



SOUTH BAHAMAS CONFERENCE YOUTH DEPARTMENT:

**SPORTS MINISTRY:
BASKETBALL LEAGUE:**

Date: July 10 - 31, 2021

AY Leaders and coaches are asked to begin team training.

#ATFIT: Adventist Track & Field International Tournament

Date: Sunday, August 1, 2021

AY Leaders and coaches are asked to begin team training.

JUNIOR YOUTH MINISTRY:

A COLLABORATIVE MASTER GUIDE CLASS is scheduled to begin on Sunday, June 27, 2021, at the Johnson Park Church. Members in good standing, ages 16+ years interested in participating in this training, can register with your Pathfinder director or with the SBC Youth Department.

SENIOR YOUTH MINISTRY:

**IGNITE 2021 *NEW DATE
FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2021 - VIRTUAL ONLY**

SABBATH, JULY 31, 2021

Age: 18-35 years

Under the theme: "Situationships - the 5 S' Formula"

Venue: New Providence Community Center

*In person for **paid** delegates **ONLY**.

JULY 2021 is YOUTH MONTH in SBC!

AY leaders are encouraged to begin planning evangelistic missionary activities for local churches!

JOINT CONFERENCE-WIDE YOUTH MONTH ACTIVITIES:

#YMF:

#IGNITE:

Youth Congress & Retreat
July 31, 2021



JEFF RODGERS BASKETBALL CAMP

The 33rd Annual Jeff Rodgers Basketball Camp is scheduled to begin July 5 – 30, 2021 at the Basketball Courts in the Government Sports Complex, east of the New Baseball Stadium.

Registration forms can be collected at the South Bahamas Conference Office (Call 341-4021), Monday – Friday.



WHAT WE BELIEVE: BELIEF 15: Baptism.

By baptism we confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and testify of our death to sin and of our purpose to walk in newness of life. Thus, we acknowledge Christ as Lord and Saviour, become His people, and are received as members by His church. Baptism is a symbol of our union with Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and our reception of the Holy Spirit. It is by immersion in water and is contingent on an affirmation of faith in Jesus and evidence of repentance of sin. It follows instruction in the Holy Scriptures and acceptance of their teachings. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38; 16:30-33; 22:16; Rom. 6:1-6; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12, 13.)

For more information, visit:
<https://www.adventist.org/baptism/>



Please Email Weekly Announcements

To: sbcblogos@gmail.com

Or logos@sbcadventist.org.bs

By Tuesday at 3:00p.m.

Visit the Conference website:

<http://southbahamasconference.org>
for the Logos publication archives & the ATV658 NEWS, as well as weekly programming.



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ADVENTIST TELEVISION
SOUTH BAHAMAS CONFERENCE



'Living by the Word of God'
Connect by TuneIn Radio
@ WORD SBC 88 3FM

**CALL 341-4021
SUN SETS NEXT SABBATH
July 31, 2021 @ 7:55 p.m.**



Have a Happy Sabbath!