



## Christmas From the Rubble



The King: Carpenter of Hope

### FEATURE ARTICLE

By Heather Vanden Hoven, *Adventist Record*, and *Adventist Review*

The neighbor's tree slammed our home Thanksgiving night.

#### Havoc From the Storm

Patio destroyed; family room beams split, cracked, and fallen down inside the rooftops; sliding door glass strewn all over the carpet and patio; water pipes dislodged and cracked underground; mangled gutters, shingles, roof, and support posts; tree branches in every direction.

The wind-driven gravity of a giant Douglas fir had brought it down with a thunderous boom, the second of two connected trees: our neighbor's home had taken the first tree assault four hours before as it pummeled through their roof to their kitchen floor. We spent Thanksgiving afternoon (1) knowing it was only a matter of time until the adjoining tree assaulted our home, and (2) wondering what part of our house it would smash. We pulled our trailer out to safety in the driveway, finished cleaning up Thanksgiving food and dishes, and gathered some blankets to bunk in the trailer, waiting.

Ten minutes after we were safe in the trailer, the tree slammed down. God had held it up while we prepared, and had boldly delivered us to safety.

As I get closer, I see it clearly: the King has built a manger.

What do you feel? Terror? Shock? The exhaustion of cumulative 2020 assaults? Are you frightened? Questioning why this had to happen on Thanksgiving or ever? Or are you grateful that God has delivered you, and touched by His timing? Yes, to all: my feelings have been everywhere! Tonight, my heart envisions Christmas from the rubble.

#### Joy in the Havoc

Is that my King out in the backyard? It looks like He's pulling a couple beams out of the rubble. Is He taking them to the dump? Doesn't look like it. Why not? They're devastated; broken beyond repair. He's picking up a saw and cutting them into small pieces. Doesn't He know they're full of splinters, nails, and glass? I keep watching, face stained with tears of exhaustion. It looks like a tornado hit. The Kleenex box is empty, and my jeans are pretty dirty; but I keep watching. He's picking up a hammer now; nailing the small boards together. It looks like He's making a little animal trough, but I'm not sure why He'd be doing that in the middle of my mess—no one needs an animal trough after a tree falls on their home. He just stood up the trough from all the nailing, and it looks like He's picking up pine tree bows for it. I keep watching and wondering what's going on as He gently arranges the pine bows inside the little trough.

Suddenly He picks the whole thing up and places it back in the middle of the rubble. There's now a glow coming from this little trough, but I'm not sure why. Is there a piece of broken glass reflecting off the sun? I get up from the couch and walk over to the broken sliding door to peer out. As I get closer, I see it clearly: the King has built a manger. The broken glass and debris is now reflecting off the Son: Christmas from the rubble.

There are more people coming now. Who are they? I haven't seen them in the neighborhood before. I put my slippers on and grab a coat to go outside and see who they are. Now there are tons of them, coming from every angle, into the yard. They're so brilliant and shiny, and I notice their clothes aren't made of denim like mine. They look more like beautiful wispy robes, certainly not good attire for a dirty pile of rubble. Then I begin to hear—an engulfing sound of majestic music rising from their voices. Suddenly I realize: these are the legion, the celestial chorus, the choir that heaven has appointed for this hour; these are angel singers, powering up the yard with strains of "O Holy Night!" This is incredible!

I watch as they move to the middle of the shattered pieces and broken roof. I see them encircle the manger built by the King—their King and mine. They're standing in the mess now, blasting out, in full formation, the radiance of their matchless song. I've never seen rubble look so weak. Rubble so loves to rule by overwhelming, owning the whole scene with its selfish domination. The King is looking at me with all His loving being, reaching for my hand to walk among the singers. I say "yes," and He whispers, "I can build you a manger from any devastation. I love you." Christmas in the rubble.

#### Christmas From the Pandemic

The year 2020 was a year of devastation that didn't stop when the calendar turned. People you know lost homes, lives, livelihoods, normalcy, and hope. Tonight, today, I pray that they—and all of us—envision the Son reflecting off our broken glass in a manger in the midst of our rubble. I pray we hear the voices of heaven's choir and lift our hearts to "O Holy Night." Jesus has not left us. No, He has come to us, entered our rubble to build and occupy His manger. He will always enter our rubble to build His manger. And as we walk onward from here in our tear-stained jeans, we hold the King's hand to follow no matter where life takes us. For He is our King, the Son in the manger, in the rubble where the broken glass glistens off the Son the very most. He is the Paradox we care for as Babe and revere as Lord, in our paradox of storm and safety, chaos and joy. Tonight, today, is our Christmas from the rubble, where life triumphs over personal and global disaster, because the virgin has conceived; she has born the Son; and we have been blessed in the rubble by God with us (see **Matt. 1:23**).

This article was written by Heather Vanden Hoven, a freelance writer living in Grass Valley, California, and was featured in the *Adventist Review* on December 2, 2021.

<https://www.adventistreview.org/2112-26>



#### FROM THE EDITOR

Are you interested in writing the lead article for the Logos?



Please send an email to [lsturup@sbcadventist.org.bs](mailto:lsturup@sbcadventist.org.bs)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### DECEMBER 2021

- 18 C..H.A.M Fun Day (Virtual)
- 24 SBC Festival of Carols
- 25 Music Day (a.m.) Local Churches Christmas Production (All Media Platforms)

#### JANUARY 2022

- 1 Day of Prayer and Fasting/Baptism Sabbath/ Joint Prayer Meeting
  - 1 Conference Wide Baptism
  - 1 SYL Online Certification
  - 2 – 14 Local Strategy Operationalized in SBC for Mega Campaign
  - 3 New Year's Day Holiday
  - 4 CONFERENCE OFFICE REOPENS
  - 4 WORKER'S MEETING
  - 5 – 15 Ten Days of Prayer
  - 9 C.H.A.M Council Meeting
  - 10 Let's Move to Live (Launch)
  - 16 Women Consecrated for Service
  - 13 Year-end Audit Meeting
  - 15 Footprints of Jesus Virtual Campaign
  - 19 Departments and Coordinators Meeting
  - 20 Executive Committee Meeting (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
  - 23 AHPA & Health Ministries Reconsecration
- \*\* January 15 – February 2022 (booked for the Footprints of Jesus Virtual Campaign with Evangelist Glen O. Samuels) \*\*

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

As we draw closer to the end of the year 2021, and prepare to welcome in the new year, 2022, I am asking that we give careful attention to the following dates and unite in prayer regarding them.

**1. December 31, 2021 - Launch of the Atlantic Caribbean Union/ATCU 2022 Prayer Initiative.** We are requesting that you make this a part of your New Year's Eve praise and worship service. Please take a few minutes to introduce the prayer cards which will be sent out electronically to you. Encourage every member to save it on their phones or computers for easy access. You will be hearing more from me on this as we draw closer to the end of year.

**2. January 1, 2022 - Day of Prayer and Fasting.** This date has been set aside by the General Conference for Adventists in every country to unite in prayer, giving God thanks for His preserving and protecting care; and to seek His presence and blessings upon us throughout the year 2022. Let us reflect on our prayers and take them to the God, who is longing and anxious to bless His people.

**3. January 5 - 15, 2022 - Ten Days of Prayer.** This is an annual event that benefits the Church around the world. It will begin exactly ten days before the start of the mega evangelistic campaign which will involve all the English-speaking unions of the Inter-American Division. We will be having Evangelist Glen Samuels from the Jamaica Union as our speaker for this campaign. Let us unite in praying for the preacher and for the success of this campaign as we prepare for breaking the glass ceiling in evangelism (in the English-speaking Unions). The Ten Days of Prayer will end on the very evening that the Footprints of Hope Evangelistic Campaign begins. What a glorious opportunity for us to do

more for God at this time, than we have ever done before.

*-Pastor Kenny Deveaux, President, South Bahamas Conference.*

#### ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quinquennial Session of the Atlantic Caribbean Union of Seventh-day Adventists, the persons below were elected to serve as Directors & Coordinators for the following departments:

**Assistant to the President for Evangelism** – Dr. Kent Price

**Children’s Ministries** – Dr. Cheryl Rolle

**Communications** – Dr. Henry Moncur

**Education** – Dr. Cheryl Rolle

**Family Ministries** – Pastor Michael Smith

**Health Ministries** – Sis. Hazel Fletcher

**Human Resources** – Elder Roderick Sands

**Ministerial** – Pastor Michael Smith

**P.A.R.L** – Dr. Henry Moncur

**Personal Ministries & Publishing** – Dr. Kent Price

**Sabbath School** – Mrs. Jennifer Kerr

**Spirit of Prophecy** – Pastor Michael Smith

**Stewardship** – Pastor Michael Smith

**Trust** – Elder Roderick Sands

**Women’s Ministries** – Sis. Arleen Sands

**Youth Ministries** – Dr. Kent Price

#### OFFICE CLOSURE FOR HOLIDAYS

The South Bahamas Conference Office will close for the holiday season on **Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.** and will be opened to the public, and resume normal business hours on **Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.**

*The Adventist Book & Nutrition Centre* will be closed as of **Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021,** and will resume normal operational hours on **Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

*– Administration.*



#### HAPPENING THIS WEEKEND ADRA Bahamas - Disaster & Famine Relief Offering

This Sabbath, December 18<sup>th</sup>, our Church will be collecting funds for the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering, which helps ADRA respond immediately to disasters as they occur. *Get the latest updates at facebook.com/ADRABAS.*

*-Ms. Shavonne Sherman  
Communications & Marketing Manager  
ADRA, The Bahamas.*



#### CHILDREN & ADOLESCENT MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT C.H.A.M (Virtual) Night of Fun & Games December 18, 2021 @ 6:30p.m. - 8:30p.m.

Ages 4 – 15 years.

**Theme: Modern Superheroes for Christ.** Children and adults in attendance are asked to come in costumes.

Please log your child onto the meeting with their name and age group indicated in their participant’s name tag. Example: ‘Devon – A’

**The children will be catered to in three categories:**

**A – 6 years & under**

**B – 7-11 years**

**C – 12 – 15 years**

Zoom Meeting ID: 933 2709 3588

Passcode: FUNTIME

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



#### Adventist Book & Nutrition Center NOTICE

2022 Sabbath School supplies are available for pick up at the Adventist Book Center. Church Treasurers are asked to bring their accounts up to date before the New Year.

#### SAVE THE DATE

The Adventist Book & Nutrition Center will have a 20% storewide Christmas sale **Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.** Social distancing will be in effect. Our online website is also available at [sbcabnc.com](http://sbcabnc.com). Don’t forget to bring your reusable shopping bags.



#### HEALTH MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

##### Health Ministries Department

On behalf of the Health Ministries Department, I wish to take this opportunity to say from the bottom of my heart, thank you to all of the Local Leaders, members of AHPA, and persons with a passion for health, the wider membership and the Administration of SBC. Thank you for your obedience and commitment to the work of the Lord. Continue to be faithful and be the hands and feet for the finishing of the gospel because Jesus is soon to come. Have a safe, healthy and happy holiday. My prayer for 2022, God’s willing, is that you will get closer and closer to Christ.

#### Thank you

Thank you to all of the persons who attended the year end get together for AHPA and Health Ministries on Sunday, December 12. Special kudos goes out to the hard-working committee who planned and executed the event with precision.

#### Health Leaders 2022

All persons serving as health leaders for 2022, please contact the Health Ministries Director at [lifestylecounsellor64@gmail.com](mailto:lifestylecounsellor64@gmail.com) or WhatsApp 826-8486. Thank you.

#### Let’s Talk About Happiness

On Sabbath, May 11 the Health Ministries Department of the Inter-American Division (IAD) and by extension Health Ministries, SBC was under the theme ‘Let’s Talk about Happiness’. This message was presented at three churches: New Englerston (Dr. Idamae Hanna), Message of Hope (Mrs. Justina Knowles) and Hillview. The Health Director, presented at the Hillview church. In attendance were some of the members of Adventist Health Professionals Association and also some of the Local Health Leaders. The focus of the presentation was on mental happiness and stability. Persons were encouraged to stop focusing on pursuing happiness because it is not found in themselves, but rather true happiness comes only from the true source of happiness – Jesus Christ.

*-Mrs. Nathelyn LaCroix,  
Health Ministries, Director.*



#### WOMEN’S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

##### Thank You for Your Service!

On behalf of the Women’s Ministries Department of the South Bahamas Conference, I would like to thank our Local Leaders, in New Providence and on the Family of Islands, my Council Members, our GEMS and their Mentors, for their willingness to be used by God as a conduit of His love, peace and grace during 2021.

I am additionally grateful to all women in the South Bahamas Conference, for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout this year.

As God’s Beloved Daughters, we anticipate an even more generous out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, as we embark on greater exploits for Him in 2022.

My hope and prayer for each of you is a joyous season and the blessings of the New Year, filled to overflowing with the spirit of God!

#### Devotional Update.

Ladies, the Devotionals have been ordered! Kindly contact your Local Leader for information on availability. Please also note that all sale proceeds will be used for Women’s Ministries Community Outreach Programs in 2022.

#### Upcoming Events

Wednesday Pause & Pray Special Edition  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 – 12:00p.m -12:30p.m.

**Prayer Focus:** The Joy of Giving and Being a Good Steward

**Zoom ID: 98113813577**

**Password: 094045**

#### Women’s Ministries Holiday Gift Boxes Give-Away

Please see your local leader for details on how to participate.

#### Important Request

All new and returning Women’s Ministries Leaders for 2022 are asked to submit their names and contact information to Mrs. Tanya Miller at the South Bahamas Conference Office on or before Tuesday, December 28, 2021.

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

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions or need additional information on any of our initiatives, kindly email us at [SBCwomensministries@sbcadventist.org](mailto:SBCwomensministries@sbcadventist.org).

*hs --Mrs. Jacqueline Gibson, Women’s Ministries Director.*



#### Grant’s Town Holiday Toy Drive

The Adventist Youth, Family, Community Services and Children’s Ministries of the Grant’s Town Church are hosting a Holiday Toy Drive for children of the Bain and Grant’s Town community between the ages of 4 -12. Toys or donations can be dropped off at Grant’s Town Community Service Center Mondays & Wednesdays – 8:00a.m – 12:00 p.m., Tuesdays – 8:00a.m – 3:00p.m, Thursdays & Fridays – 8:00a.m – 12:00p.m. Donations will be accepted until December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If you would like further information, please contact 456-3546 or 454-0816. – *Ms. Scharlee Thompson.*



#### EVENING OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

The Music Department of the Good News Seventh-day Adventist Church invites you to “An Evening of Praise & Worship with Open Praise & Friends” on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Good News Seventh-day Adventist Church, Great Britain Street, Flamingo Gardens. Please come and be blessed!! A love offering will also be collected. (Covid protocols will be enforced).



#### Please Email Weekly Announcements

To: [sbclogos@gmail.com](mailto:sbclogos@gmail.com)

Or [logos@sbcadventist.org](mailto:logos@sbcadventist.org)

**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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**SUN SETS NEXT SABBATH  
December 25, 2021 @ 5:27p.m.**

