



The Secret of Church Unity



Let us be honest. Conflict in the church is not a modern invention. After all, we live in the context of a cosmic conflict that began in the family of God in heaven long before we entered the scene. Conflict existed among God's people in the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament churches. It exists today, and it will likely continue to exist until Christ returns.

In the parable of the wheat and the tares, Jesus taught that the wheat (the children of God's kingdom) and the tares (children of the wicked one) will grow together in His field until the end (Matt. 13:30, 38, 39). It means that until the harvesttime, the church will continue to be mixed with true and false followers of Christ. Given this reality, conflict is inevitable in the church as we engage in mission work for Christ.

Additionally, we must not ignore what Scripture presents regarding the reality of our spiritual enemy in the unseen realm. Jesus spoke of Satan as one who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). Church history has shown that when Satan cannot destroy the church through persecution from the outside, he weakens it through conflicts and compromise from within. Destroying the church's unity for mission is one of his most effective tools. Through church conflicts, Satan often damages the witness of the church and discourages new and seasoned believers.

When tensions rise among us, we often see one another as the problem, forgetting that there is a greater enemy who delights in stirring up pride, suspicion, and division. I remember reading an illustration about red ants and black ants being placed together in a glass jar. If you put 100 red ants and 100 black ants inside and leave them alone, nothing happens. They move about, coexist, and carry on without conflict. But if someone comes along and shakes the jar, the ants suddenly begin to fight. Each ant assumes the other is the enemy, without realizing that the true cause of the chaos is the hand that shook their world. In much the same way, when tensions rise among us we often see one another as the problem, forgetting that there is a greater enemy who delights in stirring up pride, suspicion, and division. Remembering who really "shook the jar" can help us view our conflicts more accurately.

When we recognize that our struggle is not merely "against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12), we begin to see conflicts and disagreements in the church differently.

Understanding this larger spiritual reality can help us pause before conflicts escalate and respond with wisdom instead of hostility.

In 1 Corinthians 1:10 Paul appeals to believers that "there be no divisions" among them, and that they be "perfectly joined together in the same mind." It is not practical to expect everyone in the church to be of the same mind in the sense of agreeing on every single point. How then does Paul appeal to believers to have the same mind? The answer is found in Philippians 2:5, where Paul writes, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." True unity, then, does not come from pressure to all have the same personalities or the same viewpoints on everything, but rather from personal surrender to Christ.

Imagine a church family in which each member feels that the highest place is at the feet of Jesus. How differently would we resolve our differences and disagreements? Only when each member individually has the mind of Christ can the church collectively reflect Christ. When Christ becomes our Lord, our pride weakens. When Christ becomes our example, our desire to win arguments decreases. When Christ becomes our focus, our need to protect our personal ambitions or ego fades. The more closely we walk with Christ, the closer we move toward one another.

In a divided world filled with tribalism, political polarization, and cultural fragmentation, the church has the opportunity to demonstrate a different reality: a unity rooted in Christ and His mission. When we lift our eyes to the cross, our personal grievances lose their power. And when we step into mission, our internal conflicts shrink in significance. A church centered on Christ and engaged in mission possesses a shared reason to stay united that is stronger than division.

Adapted article by Puia Fanai from Adventist Review



CALENDAR OF EVENTS JULY 2026

- 4-11 ATCU Pathfinder Camporee (Cayman)
- 5 Continuation of Lay Certification Evangelism Training
- 5 Joint Board Training
- 5 Men's Health Hour (webinar/in-person event)
- 13 Health Ministries Quarterly Meeting
- 16 School Board Meeting
- 18 Youth Talent, Arts and Worship Sabbath
- 18-20 Haitian Men's Retreat
- 19 Church Music Coordinators' Meeting
- 19 Health Promoters Certification Graduation
- 25 Youth Closing Sabbath (local)



PUSH ATCU INITIATIVE 2026

- June 28-July 4 Graduating Students
- 5-11 The Government and People of The Bahamas
- 12-18 Recovery of the Sick
- 19/25 Self Control
- 26-Aug 1 Improved Social and Economic Conditions



VENEZUELA RELIEF OFFERING

For the next two Sabbaths, the South Bahamas Conference will receive a special offering to assist our brothers and sisters in Venezuela who have been affected by the recent earthquake. Members who wish to contribute may do so by writing "Venezuela Relief" under the offering section of the tithe envelope and indicating the amount being given toward this special relief effort. Thank you for your continued support of ministry and for extending compassion to our church family in Venezuela during this time of need. May God bless you for your generosity.

-Administration



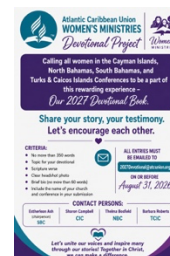
BIBLE CLASS

There will be no Bible class for the month of July. Bible Class will resume the second Monday in August. For further information, contact Pastor Lynden Williams at lwilliams@sbcadventist.org.bs



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

The Atlantic Caribbean Union Women's Ministries Department is calling all women to be a part of their 2027 Devotional Book. Interested individuals are asked to email their stories and testimonies to 2027Devotional@atcunion.org on or before August 31, 2026.



WHOLISTIC LIFESTYLE

Wellness & Prevention Health Lecture Series II
Join Wholistic Lifestyle with guest presenter, Dr. Mark Sondavol, on the topic, "Healing the Broken Mind" on July 19, 2026, from 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm via Zoom. For more information: WhatsApp: 828-6387 or email: lifestylecounselor64@gmail.com Join via Zoom: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84423390600>. Meeting ID: 844 2339 0600



BEREA CHURCH

The Berea Church will continue its Youth and Lay campaign, under the theme, Rise in Hope Evangelistic Series, each Sabbath in July and will conclude August 1, 2025. Join the members for a spiritual blessing and rise to new heights.



NEW PROVIDENCE CHURCH

The New Providence Church youth department will conclude its 3-Day Revival on Sabbath, July 18, 2026, under the theme "Password to Freedom." The services will begin at 11am. Attendees can look forward to health tips for a strong mind and body, youth praise and worship, powerful messages that inspire, and uplifting fellowship.



CENTREVILLE CHURCH

Centreville Seventh-day Adventist Church presents "The Bible Speaks Campaign 2026" from July 12 to July 25. Services are held nightly at 7:00 PM at 5th Terrace, Centreville, with Thursday nights off. The campaign features messages from Dr. Leonard Johnson, Host Pastor Colin Thorne, and Dr. Gervon Marsh.



BETHEL CHURCH

The Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church is organizing an evangelistic campaign entitled "Voice of Youth" under the theme: "Jesus, Our Only Hope." The campaign will run from July 25 to August 16, 2026. It will be preceded by a Week of Prayer, which will take place from July 18 to July 24, 2026, and will be led and preached by our young people.



BETHANY CHURCH

Welcome to Bethany Church's Cactusville VBS from July 20th to July 24th, 2026! This exciting program is open to children ages 4 to 15 and will run from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm daily.



BEREA CHURCH VBS

Saddle up for VBS Cactusville at Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church! All children ages 4 to 15 are invited to join us for an exciting Vacation Bible School from August 10th through August 15th. The program runs daily from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.



ADVENTIST LAYMEN'S SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES Convention 2026

ASI Bahamas is inviting all to the 2026 Inter-American Division's ASI Convention in Punta Cana, the Dominican Republic, August 12-19, 2026. For more information call 556-0492 or 428-4251.



BAHAMAS ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND

Alumni Weekend will be held from October 30 to November 1, 2026. Come and enjoy a weekend of memories, Bahamas Academy style!



ENDITNOW CAMPAIGN

End It Now Emphasis Day will be held globally on August 22, 2026. The year's theme is Moved with Compassion. Let us learn how we can be more compassionate, more proactive, more helpful, and more like Jesus. For additional information, contact your local church's women's ministry leader.



SABBATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

The South Bahamas Conference Sabbath School Department is excited to present Friendship Sabbath on September 26, 2026. This special day is a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend to Sabbath School as we come together to share Jesus. Mark your calendars, invite someone close to you, and join us to experience the love of Christ together!



Please Email Weekly Announcements

To: sbclagos@gmail.com

Or logos@sbcadventist.org.bs

By Tuesday at 3:00 p.m.

Visit the Conference website:

<http://southbahamasconference.org>

for the Logos publication archives and the ATV658 NEWS, as well as weekly programming.

SUPPORT YOUR MEDIA NETWORK



Connect by TuneIn Radio
@ WORD SBC 88 3FM
On Cable TV Channel 988



@SBC MEDIA NETWORK

YouTube @South Bahamas Conference

SUN SETS NEXT SABBATH

Saturday, July 25, 2026

@ 8:01 p.m.

Have a Happy Sabbath