



## **OUR POCKETS ARE NOT EMPTY**



“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10, NIV). This promise of Jesus embraces all dimensions of existence, and it can start now. For it to become a reality, one has to overcome the “Empty Pocket Syndrome”—the paralyzing feeling of inadequacy and insufficiency while facing life challenges and responsibilities.

An example of the empty pocket syndrome is Gideon, the hiding mighty warrior (Judges 6:11, 12). When the visiting Angel called him a “mighty warrior,” he could hardly believe it. But the Visitor was not wrong in His assessment. He knew the capacity and potential of Gideon, though unused and latent. He admired the young man for who he could become.

So, how do you overcome the empty pocket syndrome and live abundantly as a faithful partner in God’s mission?

### **CAUSES OF EMPTINESS**

There are several causes of the empty pocket syndrome. The repetition of oppressive, traumatic experiences is a major one.

Another paralyzing factor is the comparison game. While facing life challenges people begin comparing their own strength to the strength of others.

The fear generated by past failures and several missed-the-mark experiences fuel the empty pocket syndrome. We are terrified by the image in the rearview mirror and conclude that the future can only be a replicate of the past. Past and present performances are not always the

best indicators of what one can accomplish.

### **REVERSING THE EMPTY POCKET SYNDROME**

How do we undergo a change of mindset? During His encounter with Gideon, the Angel tried to convince the hiding farmer that he had received the power. “The Lord turned to him and said, ‘Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?’ ” (Judges 6:14).

Many who feel inadequate to partner in God’s mission because of an apparent lack of resources can undergo a reprogramming exercise by reminding themselves of God’s resource options: (1) Not begging for bread (Ps. 37:25). (2) Needs are satisfied (Ph. 4:19). (3) Capacity to produce wealth (Deut. 8:18). Each of these options is a clear statement that our pockets are not empty.

It is essential to deconstruct the two false assumptions mentioned earlier that feed the comparison game. Our differences from others do not disqualify us from service. First, the Bible recognizes and affirms a diversity of gifts (1 Cor. 12:8-10) of various nature (Exod. 31:1-5). Second, a variation in quantity of resources received is not equivalent to absence of resources; little is not the same as nothing. The widow who first declared that she had nothing at home and later acknowledged that she had a little oil, learned that even a little could make a big difference (2 Kings 4: 1-7).

The feeling of helplessness is often the result of seeking in the wrong direction. We look at our purse and bank account, see limited resources, and conclude that we are empty. These words of Jesus contradict our conclusion: “‘Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them’ ” (Matt. 25:14). The quest for money, for hard currency, often leads to frustration and blinds us to the reality of God’s raw materials, which He has already provided. Time, energy, and talents are some of these intangible resources. When they are used regularly and consistently, they produce wealth (Prov. 10:4).

Abundant life and partnership with God are reachable ideals. Our pockets are not empty. Someone has placed something valuable in them.

*-Adapted article by Pastor Aniel Barbe, Associate Director of the Stewardship Department for the Adventist Church*



### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER**

- 23 Stewardship Emphasis
- 23 IAD Council of Deacons and Deaconesses – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Online)
- 24 Joint Elders Meeting
- 28 Executive Committee Meeting
- 30 Publishing Emphasis
- 30 ATCU Bible Connection (South Bahamas Conference)



### **BIBLE CLASS**

The South Bahamas Conference Bible Class resumes Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, under the theme Focus on Revelation. For further information contact Pastor Lynden Williams: [lwilliams@sbcadventist.org.bs](mailto:lwilliams@sbcadventist.org.bs) or 803-9793.



### **INAGUA DISTRICT Funding for the Pastors Residence in Inagua**

Membership of the New Life Church is small and transit. Therefore, to grow the work we need a stationary person there which will require a residence. Thus, we are building a Pastor’s residence. Brothers and sisters, New Life Church is seeking your assistance in the construction of this residence. Your help is desperately needed. Funds can be sent to the South Bahamas Conference by the online giving portal or to new life church’s account at Bob # 1611350004323.

*-Missionary Elder Winston Ash*



## MASS REUNION CHOIR

### Upcoming Events

The SDA Mass Reunion Choir under the theme, "One Spirit-One Mission-One Voice", will host its Celebration & Recognition Service in honor of its pioneers, past directors, and instrumentalists for the contributions made to this institution over the years. Date: Sabbath, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at the Grants Town SDA Church. You are cordially invited to join us in celebration!

-Allison M. Rolle  
Coordinator



### ASI SABBATH

The ASi Bahamas Chapter invites all to worship with the organization for a special ASi Sabbath which will be held at the Hillview church on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Divine Hour begins at 11:00 a.m. Come and see how God has used his people to share His gospel in the marketplace.



### SBC RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

The South Bahamas Conference Retirees Association will hold its monthly meeting at the Philadelphia S.D.A. Church (Elizabeth Estates) on Thursday, September 28th, at 11:00 a.m. Final plans for the upcoming trip to Eleuthera (Oct. 27 - 30, 2023) will be discussed. Interested nonmembers can contact Rowena Smith at 359-3169, Dr. John Carey at 557-2037, or David Knowles at 425-1191 as soon as possible for more information.

-Sis. Rowena Smith  
President



### SBC IMPACT 300 RALLY

Jesus said: "Go and make followers of all people in the world" (Matthew 28:19). The South Bahamas Conference plans to upload the great commission of the church with a special evangelistic initiative: **SBC IMPACT 300**. SBC Impact 300 half-night Zoom prayer meeting will be held on September 30th, 2023, from 8:00 pm-12:00 am.



### MEDICAL MISSIONARY WORK

"Christ, the great Medical Missionary, has left us an example. Who will follow in His steps, ministering in His name, not for

money, but for love's sake? The true medical missionary is moved by the spirit of loving service. Genuine medical missionary work is sacrificial."

All persons interested in being a part of Medical Missionary work kindly send a WhatsApp or email to 826-8486 or [Lifestylecounsellor64@gmail.com](mailto:Lifestylecounsellor64@gmail.com).

-Nathelyn LaCroix



### AGAPE CHURCH

#### Early Morning Prayer Meeting

The Agape Church invites you to their Early Morning Prayer Meeting held every Sabbath morning from 8 a.m.-9 a.m. at the church. We believe that God has a blessing for each one of us. We hope to see you there! A light breakfast will be served.

-Agape Prayer Coordinator



### CHAM WEEK OF PRAYER

The children and adolescent department will host its week of prayer in October from the 8<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. There will be joint services held on Friday and Sabbath at the Living Faith church.



### YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Bible Connection 2023

Astra Bowlin will represent the South Bahamas Conference during the Atlantic Caribbean Union's Bible Connection, which will be held in the afternoon on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Maranatha Church.

#### World Pathfinder Day 2023 RECAP

Last week pathfinders across the South Bahamas Conference Celebrated World Pathfinder Day under the theme "Go with Jesus". On September 10th, Pathfinder Week was launched by the various clubs. The purpose of Pathfinder Week is to create awareness and a culture of mission. During the week, Pathfinders, Parents, Counselors, and Directors wore their scarves to School and work. Pathfinders also participated in an online Day of Prayer that reached over 5k people.

On Sabbath, Sept 16, World Pathfinder Day 2023 was electrifying as Pathfinders ushered, led Sabbath School, sang, and preached in churches across our

Conference. The celebration continued in the afternoon beyond the church walls. From 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., clubs impacted their communities by delivering care packages, bread, and water. In the evening, the clubs gathered at the Hillview church for the festival of mission. The service concluded with a lantern ceremony honoring those in the organization who passed this year, including Pathfinder Director, Sherry Burrows.

Let us continue to pray for our Pathfinders, Parents, Counselors, and Directors as they prepare our youth to go with Jesus when He comes the second time.

### National Youth Month

October is deemed National Youth Month in The Bahamas, where the youth of the nation are celebrated for their achievements. This year, Youth Month will begin with a special service at the Hillview Church on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All young persons are invited to attend.



*Please Email Weekly Announcements*

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

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

By Tuesday at 3:00 p.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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@South Bahamas Conference

SUNSETS

Saturday, September 30, 2023

@ 6:58 p.m.

*Have a Happy Sabbath!*