

SOUTH BAHAMAS CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST



ANNUAL MEETING 2020

THEME

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OUR SOON COMING KING



Maranatha
Seventh-day Adventist Church

Prince Charles Drive, Nassau,
The Bahamas

www.southbahamasconference.org

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

FOR JANUARY 1, 2019 – DECEMBER 31, 2019

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ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR EVANGELISM REPORT

Knowing that the average age of the worldwide membership of the Seventh -day Adventist Church is 52 years or over. It is obvious that there must be a determined effort to study what is happening in our churches regarding evangelism. Hence, a part of the mandate for the new Administration of the South Bahamas Conference of Seventh-day Adventist was to look closely at the methods and approaches of evangelism we have used in the past few years, with a view to building on, and improving what works, and to go back to the drawing board to revamp what is no longer working.

Findings:

1. In some churches people were being baptized, but there were no monthly reports submitted by the Clerks.
2. In some churches, baptisms were being reported by the Clerks, but retention of those baptisms were a small percentage of the report.
3. As a conference most of our resources (money and human) were earmarked for one method of soul-winning, namely, public evangelistic campaigns.
4. Most new members are from one segment of the society.
5. We were baptizing a lower percentage of Bahamians compared to other nationalities.
6. The large number of persons baptized are unemployed.
7. Most persons baptized were small children of non-Adventist parents.
8. The number of members in our churches who were supporting public evangelism efforts are decreasing.
9. ****** Bible Workers** are responsible for reaching and preparing most persons for baptism.

Response To Findings: A paradigm shift is needed.

1. The conference will continue to conduct public evangelism campaigns, but more than a budget must be submitted from the church to the CFO. Along with every budget, there must be a comprehensive plan for assimilation and discipleship of each members who comes into the church through an evangelistic initiative.
2. All churches were asked to do the following exercises so that we can facilitate additional methods for soul winning. The other soul winning methods are referred to as streams of evangelism.
 - a. Conduct a spiritual gifts inventory of your active membership.
 - b. Research the demographics in their community. Get to know your constituency so that your approaches to evangelism will be relevant to the spiritual needs of those persons.
 - c. Submit a minimum of four streams of evangelism where the spiritual gifts of your members are used to assist in the soul-winning efforts in each church. Examples of different streams can be: Community Services outreach programs, conducting a group Bible lesson study, friendship evangelism, inviting persons to tune into radio/ TV programs, prayer ministry, invite friends to church, etc.
3. Centurion Award will only be granted to churches that baptize over 100 persons (regardless to size) and retain 50% or more.
4. Provide new incentives to encourage congregations to get involved in evangelism efforts. Reward Churches that are impacting their communities, casting a vision and executing it, nurturing members spiritually, providing excellent leadership for the members, pastoral care, and developing innovative ways to do the work of evangelism.
5. Be intentional about maintaining and reaching millennials.

AUDIT DEPARTMENT REPORT

In conformity with established protocol, I bring greetings from the Audit Department of the South Bahamas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The content of this report reflects audits conducted during the 2019 calendar year, which involved inspections (see audit responsibility below) up to December 31, 2018.

Audit Responsibility

The Audit Department has been tasked with the responsibility to audit the membership records of the local church secretary, the accounting records of the local church treasurer, the primary, intermediate and secondary day schools, industries and any other subsidiary organization of the conference. The auditor should provide a report, indicating whether each church or small organization has been audited or reviewed during the year, or during the regularly programmed period determined by the Division in harmony with the working policy. (IAD WP Handbook, p. 219 and 534).

Audit Summary

The South Bahamas Conference has designated a total of 51 entities that are eligible for audit for the 2019 calendar year. Among these entities were forty-nine (49) Churches, one (1) Day-School, and one (1) Book and Nutrition Centre. Throughout the 2019 calendar year, the Audit Department was able to successfully audit 100% of the entities designated for audit. A detailed written report has been made available to the Administration of the Conference, as well as to each Governing Board of the respective entity. Also, the Audit Department conducted workshops and training throughout eighteen entities.

Audit Results

Overall, the average score of all entities audited within the South Bahamas Conference during the 2019 calendar year was 85.7%. Of the 51 entities audited, 27% scored between 90 and 100%, 51% scored between 80 and 89.99%, and 22% scored under 79.99%. The Audit Department noted that the areas that require more focus among the entities are as follows:

- Remittances sent on the dates indicated by the local field (72% Failed)
- Working with a budget approved by the board (62% Failed)
- Reconciling bank accounts (44% Failed)
- Bank deposits made in a timely manner (22% Failed)
- Entities holding board meetings (14% Failed)

Conclusion

The Audit Department would like to thank the Administration of the Conference and the Union for this opportunity. Further thanks are extended to the various Chairman's, Treasurers, Clerks and Elders of all the entities who assisted in the audit process. As we await our Master's imminent return, I pray God's blessings upon you and your families.

BIBLE STUDY & SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

The responsibilities of the Bible studies coordinator are to encourage the Church in the systematic study of the word of God and teach sound methods in interpreting scriptures and applying them to the life of the believer.

This was accomplished last year by going to several churches upon invitation to teach methods of Bible study, with a focus on the book of Revelation. Attendees to these seminars are exposed to various tools that have been made available by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the wider Christian body of believers. These tools include books, websites and Bible software. This practice will continue in the new year with a weekly Bible class. In addition, emphasis will be placed on creation sabbath and the revitalization of the annual Bible conference. Last year in conjunction with Sister Sandra Burrows, we were blessed with the ministry of Dr. Arthur Chadwick of Southwestern Adventist University as the speaker for creation Sabbath and Pastor Tim Rosenburg of the Idaho Conference who spoke on the subject of Islam and Christianity from the book of Daniel.

Spirit of Prophecy

The coordinator is responsible for encouraging members to read and study the writings of Ellen White (co-founder and prophet of the Seventh-day Adventist Church). Upon invitation the coordinator speaks at local churches in the conference on matters relating to the interpretation of her writings and interested subjects. The coordinator also informs members relating to material that is available to understanding her writings as well as how to access them free of charge.

Churches are encouraged to place greater emphasis on Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath in the month of October, and elect Spirit of Prophecy coordinators within the local churches.

This year a joint meeting is planned to train members in the understanding of the writings of Ellen White, and how to use them.

CHILDREN & ADOLESCENT MINISTRIES REPORT

The Children & Adolescent Ministries Department of the South Bahamas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was successful in providing spiritual development for the children of our Conference as we taught them how to grow into a loving and serving relationship with Jesus Christ. Throughout the year the Department focused on training, evangelism and the cultivation of our children's talents and gifts to the honor and glory of God. Leaders in our churches were encouraged to provide programs and activities to foster productive ministries in our churches. One example is the way we approached the planning and execution of the annual Vacation Bible School program held in the summer of 2019. We saw CHAM leaders sharing resources and ideas, assisting one another in their church's VBX programs, and lending support by attending graduation ceremonies. This level of comradery is commendable and will be our approach in the future.

TRAINING. This area is fundamental to the CHAM Department's objectives. With regard to CHAM Leaders, this year we placed emphasis on the training of Vacation Bible School personnel and Sabbath School Teachers. The instruction given focused on rekindling a love for Sabbath School and developing innovative approaches to this ministry; which is critical in the development of our children.

CULTIVATION OF TALENTS AND GIFTS OF THE CHILDREN. It is the mandate of this Department to also train our children for ministry in the areas they are gifted in and to assist them in the realization of new gifts and talents. In the month of September, we exposed our children to several facets of art instruction which was facilitated by Artist, Mr. Franko Moncur. The productivity of that session was seen in an art competition, and exhibition which displayed their work. To inspire the budding artists before the competition, CHAM Leaders and over 100 children visited the National Art Gallery for an exclusive tour with Mr. Richardo Barrett, Artist and Curator at the Gallery. The CHAM Department also hosted a Child Preachers Workshop over 40 children attended, expressing a desire to preach God's Word. Many of these children are utilized in our churches on a regular basis to preach on Children's Sabbaths and other special occasions. The preachers and presenters selected for this year's Children & Adolescents Week of Prayer meetings were trained in this workshop with Ministerial Intern, Jon Dorsett.

EVANGELISM. This is the life blood of our church and this year we have seen many children sharing the good news of Jesus and His salvation with their peers in a variety of evangelistic programs. During *Global Youth and Child e Da (GYCD)*, the children of the South Bahamas Conference were seen ministering at children's homes, singing to elderly persons in the community, distributing meals, etc. They were at the forefront of the Global Children's Day March and they gave out over 1,000 pieces of children's literature to their peers. A combined children's choir of almost 200 strong ministered in song at the GYCD rally on the Edmond Moxey park. During the *CHAM Week of Prayer*, they preached and dramatized messages highlighting *Steel Values* that were taken from the character of Jesus (faith, perseverance, humility, fidelity, and integrity). As a result, four (4) children were baptized.

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CHILDREN. Our children need a safe environment to develop physically and socially. In June and November, we held the first Children's Retreat in over 10 years at the Adventure Learning Center Campgrounds, Marshall Road. The youngsters were in an environment where they could be themselves and learn more about Jesus. In November, the Children's Fun Day was attended by more than 600 children who enjoyed go-cart rides, karaoke, paintball, bouncing castles among other fun activities as they interacted with one another.

It was indeed my pleasure to lead the Children & Adolescent Ministries Department into 2019, but I could not have done so without the support of Mrs. Cindy Stuart, Assistant CHAM Director and the many leaders from our churches in the South Bahamas Conference. Together we are motivated to make 2020 an even greater year for service and commitment to the children of our Conference.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Communication Department of the South Bahamas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists continues to ensure that information is disseminated from the Conference to the members of our churches via radio programming on our station - WORD SBC 88.3 FM (daily), a weekly news broadcast on the Adventist Cable Television Channel 658, the Adventist Page in the Nassau Guardian and the weekly publication of the Logos. In addition to these platforms, we are able to use other forms of media namely, the Conference Website, our YouTube Channel and Facebook Page. Through these platforms, our Department is doing its best to share in the work of evangelism throughout the Bahamas and the world.

The Department hosts a state-of-the-art website that is updated in a timely fashion, and we provide access to the radio (WORD SBC 88.3 FM & Life Talk Radio) and television programming twenty-four hours a day (ATV 658 & Hope Channel). Programming from ATV 658 is now able to be accessed on the website. The Logos publication and the Adventist Page that appears in the Nassau Guardian every Thursday can also be viewed and downloaded by members. In the immediate future programming from the radio will also be included on the website.

A training workshop was conducted for local church leaders on how to use the Easy Worship software, and more than 40 persons attended and were certified. Persons on our family of islands also received the information along with the video presentation from the training session. We continue to encourage our churches through the communication leaders to improve their facilities (i.e. Mixer Boards, speakers, projectors, flat-screen televisions, video cameras, etc.) to lend to a better worship experience. Early in 2019, assessments were carried out in 10 churches in an effort to upgrade the audiovisual in their sanctuaries and tips on how to remain current are given regularly.

One of the highlights of the year was the vast increase in donations to our Department. On average, over the past eight years, we have received about five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) in donations, with the majority of these funds being solicited during our annual Media Pledge-a-thon. In the year 2019, during the annual Media Pledge-a-thon held in May, we received over forty-four thousand dollars (\$44,000.00), which is over 700% in increase. Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) of the funds raised went toward the purchase of a new tower for our radio station, WORD SBC 88.3 FM. The Conference says thank you to our members and community friends who supported this effort; and those who make regular contributions. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

The tower was purchased and shipped to the Bahamas in December 2019 and will be erected shortly. It is presently laid out on site and the painting and assembling have started. The new 150 ft. stand-alone tower will allow us to effectively transmit of our radio programming. This project should be completed by June 2020.

I wish to thank the Conference Administration for their support of this Ministry and to Pastor Barrington Brennen, my predecessor, for the valuable contributions made to this Department. To our Media team who work tirelessly to provide coverage of Conference events and produce programming and edit data daily, your diligent work is greatly appreciated. Thank you to our pastors, and volunteers who sacrifice to ensure that we have news stories and programming material to share with our communities. Let us continue to work together as we seek to carry the gospel to all the world.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

In January 2019, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) commenced its training on hurricane preparedness for the 2019 hurricane season. Pastor Campbell enrolled in the training and took advantage of the opportunity to learn from the various Government Agencies and NGOs. With the knowledge obtained from the NEMA training, the first South Bahamas Conference Community Services Hurricane Disaster & Preparedness Fair was birthed. Held at the R. M. Bailey Park on the Whit Monday Holiday, June 10th, 2019, this Fair allowed each community services department in New Providence to raise funds that would assist their local church's response in the event of a disaster. Highlights of the event included: NEMA providing vital information on hurricane preparedness; performances by the SBC Pathfinder Band, the Mount Moriah Transformers Marching Band, and the world-famous Royal Bahamas Police Force Band.

On September 1st, 2019, the unimaginable occurred when Hurricane Dorian made landfall in the Northern Bahamas, severely impacting Abaco and Grand Bahama. Category 5 Hurricane Dorian also impacted New Providence where many homes were severely flooded. Following the passage of Hurricane Dorian, the Community Services Department established a command center at the South Bahamas Conference Headquarters, on Tonique Williams-Darling Highway, to coordinate receiving and distributing goods and services to assist those who were impacted by the storm. The Bahamas Academy Gymnasium on Wulff Road was quickly activated as a shelter to receive the evacuees, specifically those from the Abacos. Countless calls, meetings, and sleep deprivation became the order of the day for Pastor Campbell, the staff of SBC, and the faithful volunteers from the churches.

As the all-clear was given, Pastor Campbell traveled to Abaco with NEMA, along with other first responders such as personnel from the Red Cross, the Department of Social Services, Water & Sewage, and Bahamas Power & Light (BPL), to assess the damages.

Upon returning to New Providence, contact was made with the North Bahamas Conference (NBC) and water and other supplies were sent to Grand Bahama for distribution by the Community Service Department of the North Bahamas Conference.

The Adventist Disaster Relief Agency (ADRA) assisted the efforts of the CSD by providing financial support as well as their expertise in organizing and managing disaster response and recovery efforts. Within a few weeks, containers landed with water, food, clothing toiletries, etc., ready for distribution, and we are grateful for the donations that are still coming in.

Despite the extraordinary challenges during the past year, the CSD remains committed to fulfilling its mandate. We thank those churches that still operate a weekly soup kitchen, and we encourage each member to take an active role in supporting their Community Services Department.

As the experiences of the past year have shown us, The Bahamas will inevitably have its share of the problems that we never imagined happening in our part of the world. Let us face new challenges resolved to use them as opportunities to be agents of change in our community. Together we can fulfill the mandate of the Community Services Department, giving help and spreading hope in Jesus name.

EDUCATION REPORT

During the course of 2019, the education department was successful on many fronts. We believe that every child should have the opportunity to receive a Seventh-day Adventist Christian Education and we thank God for those churches who continue to support Seventh-day Adventist Education.

As a result of our weeks of spiritual emphasis, and the consistent work of our dedicated Chaplain, Johny Davilmar, five students were baptized and eight were awarded certificates after completing Bible studies.

One of the new academic initiatives that Bahamas Academy has embarked on is the IXL online program. This program seeks to help students who are experiencing challenges in Math and English. Positive results are being seen as a direct result of this program.

This year the school utilized the expertise of its alumni as speakers for our Honours Convocation programs. Mrs. Latoya Burrows, Dr. Teoria Murray and Mr. Todd Beneby made us proud and we say thank you for giving back to your alma mater.

Bahamas Academy and The South Bahamas Conference have joined hands in embarking on a new scholarship program to ensure that the future of Bahamas Academy's staff is secure. Presently there is one student at Northern Caribbean University, studying to receive the Bachelor Degree in Music Education.

Hurricane Dorian has affected our country and we as a church community have reached out to our brothers and sisters in those affected areas. The school has opened its hearts and doors to 32 displaced students.

The secondary division of Bahamas Academy was re-accredited just last term by the visiting committee from the Adventist Accrediting Association headed by Dr. Faye Patterson from the Inter-American Division. The finer details will be received shortly.

Our annual parenting seminar was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019. Guest speakers were Superintendent Mark Barrett, Dr. Alpheas Allick, Mrs. Joan Scavella and Mrs. Monique Hepburn. We also take this opportunity to extend special commendation to Ms. Alicia Bernard, History Teacher for achieving the 2nd highest results in the 2019 BGCSE examinations in The Commonwealth of the Bahamas. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

A heartfelt thank you is extended to the Bethany, Centerville, and Breath of Life churches for hosting the school as we presented programs to them. Others are scheduled to follow shortly.

We continue to request your prayers as we seek to restore the image of our maker in our children, preparing them for service in this world and for wider service in the world to come.

FAMILY MINISTRY REPORT

For the year 2019, the Family Ministry Department while focusing and encouraging our local church directors to explore innovative ways to enhance this vital Ministry at the Local Church via the regular programs, i.e., Marriage Clubs and Singles Ministries, particular attention was given by the Conference Family Ministry Department to Divorce persons and those contemplating divorce.

A ten (10) week program for healing and transformation, entitled "**Let's Talk Radical Recovery,**" *Rising Above Divorce In Confidence and Love*. Over the ten weeks Six (6) main topics were highlighted through lectures and discussions:

Reconnecting With Family
Helping Your Children
Surrendering to Forgiveness

Embracing Change
Facing Reality
Redefining Your Life

Two Bahamian Psychologists, namely Dr. Giavana Jones and Dr. Helen Rolle, with specialty training in addiction treatment, women's trauma recovery, and relationship issues led the presentations and discussions. Also making presentations were Pastor Barrington Brennen and Mrs. Stanya Davis. The lead coordinator for this training was Ms. Charlisa Cash, whom we owe a depth of gratitude for facilitating this much-needed program.

We are happy to report that at the end of the ten weeks; the participants gave raving reviews and were grateful for this seminar and recommended that the program be facilitated in 2020 as well. Additionally, two persons recommitted to their relationship, and we continue to work with and encourage them during monthly counseling sessions.

Several programs are in the pipeline for 2020, including a possible visit by the Family Ministries Directors from the General Conference, a singles boat cruise with another of our sister conferences, and a weekend trip to one of our family islands.

We crave your continued prayers for our Local Church Family Ministries Directors who have taken up the mantle for 2020, while we thank those that served so willingly during 2019.

We look forward to an exciting year in Family Ministries and wish everyone a **LOVING** New Year.

HEALTH MINISTRIES REPORT

Fun/Run/Walks

- **January 10 – Launch of ‘Let’s Move To Live’**
- **By-monthly walks - 24 walks took place.**
- **Community ‘I Want To Live Health’ Walk**
- **April 22 - 8 Weeks To Wellness Fun Run Walk**

January 13 – Training for all health leaders and assistants. The Health Director presented on the mission and vision for Health Ministries and activities scheduled for the year.

January 20 - 26 - NAD Health Summit – New Mexico. The theme was **Healing of the Nation**. Two Persons Attended

February 17 - AHPA Prayer Breakfast. Theme: **Healing Begins with Hope** – Speaker, Mrs. Justina Knowles

Feb. 25 May 2nd 8 Weeks to Wellness Community Program. – Theme: **I Choose To Live Healthy**. Some topics covered: Prevention and Management of High Cholesterol, Diabetes, Blood Pressure, Backyard Farming and Mind Body Connection.

March 24-29 – Uchee Pines, Seale Alabama. **Lifestyle Medicine and Lifestyle Change Conference** Twenty-five (25) persons attended.

April 1 – 3 - ATCU Mental Health Summit. Facilitated by Loma Linda Psychological Team. 25 persons attended included pastors.

April 3 - ATCU. I Want To Live Healthy training for Leaders. Facilitated by Mrs. Belkis Archbold, Health Director, IAD.

July 24 – Youth Vegan Cook Off. Three teams participated. Ages 10-17. Alkaline (winners), Bethany (2nd place) Hillview (3rd Place).

Public Health Lecture

April 1 – 8 Weeks to Wellness Mental Health Lecture. Facilitated by Dr. Carlos Fayard of Loma Linda. And Dr. Tracey King of Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre

The Change . Facilitated by AHPA

September 7 – Public Health Lecture **Surviving the Hurricane**

Family Island

- Long Island – Mrs. Nathelyn LaCroix
- Exuma – Dr. Alpheus Allick
- South Andros May 31 – June 2 Uchee Pines Wellness & Prevention Seminar
- San Salvador. Fun run walk during Convention Weekend

Training

- June 2 – 15 - Uchee Pines Wellness & Prevention Seminar/ **Medical Missionary Training** (Nassau). 123 participants
- July 9 – 13 - Third Global Conference on Health and Lifestyle. Topic: **Your Brain, Your Body** Loma Linda University Health, California
- July 16 **SELD Leadership Training**. Miami, Florida
- August 11 – CPR Training for health professionals. 21 persons trained

Partnership with External Organizations and SBC Departments

Two Sessions of **BreathFree2** Programs were done in conjunction with the Healthy Bahamas Coalition, Ministry of Health for The Bahamas Department of Corrections during the months of March – May and September - November. 24 persons participated.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

In February 2019, the South Bahamas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists began the process of officially creating a Human Resources Department. During this time, Job Descriptions were created for all office personnel, Pastors, and several Departmental Directors, and we updated and completed our Workers Handbook. We've also implemented quarterly birthday celebrations as a means of showing workers that they are special and appreciated.

Effective June 1, 2019, the medical insurance policy of the South Bahamas Conference changed to provide a more cost-effective medical plan that provides the same or similar coverage.

In March of 2019, we welcomed Mr. Harold Dorsett II to our Media Department, where he serves as Television Coordinator and in August of 2019, we welcomed Mr. Stanley Philord to our Treasury Department, where he serves as an Accountant.

During the month of September, our brothers and sisters in the Northern Bahamas were greatly impacted by the effects of Hurricane Dorian. As a result of this, we welcomed Pastor Wilson Isnord and Ministerial Intern Waylon Johnson to the employ of the South Bahamas Conference.

Currently, there are fifty full time employees at the South Bahamas Conference, including office staff, Adventist Book & Nutrition staff, Bible Workers and Pastors. Of these fifty employees, seven of them are on valid work permits.

We look forward to all that 2020 has to offer and with God's help we will continue to spread His love and message with those we come in contact with.

MEN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

In the book Education, Ellen White writes; The greatest want of the world is the want of men-men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.

In 2019, the Men of South Bahamas Conference continued to work assisting wherever as need arose, whether it was in Bible work or transportation, we did our part. Not leaving our families out, we made them a priority and ensured we entered our home with a friendly face, gave counsel and advice where needed if discipline was required, we did that, but in love.

During the year, various churches hosted programs, but from the Conference level, the following programs were done:

- April 7: Adventist Men Prayer Breakfast @ Camp BaMiVoCa
- October 17: Men & Children Symposium
- September 10: Father's take your child to the classroom
- November 19: International Men's Day

Thanks to the many churches with established Men s Programs and we wish to encourage more of our churches to get on board and not just establish a Men's Department but ensure that our men are there helping our children and others who need assistance. Thanks to all who assisted the department at every event to ensure its success, but I especially thank, Ms. Dawne Forbes, T'Nee Moss and Abigail Neely for the role they played with programming and serving at the various functions.

Get involved in 2020 in one or all of the following programs:

1. Feb 2, 2020 - Men & Boys Prayer Service
2. September 15, 2020 - Father take your children to school
3. October 18, 2020 - Father & Children Summit
4. November 19, 2020 - International Men s Day (IMD)
5. December 5, 2020 - Adventist Men Chorale Concert

Men of South Bahamas Conference let's be Trendsetters leading our families and others to Jesus Christ and the leader that others look to for guidance. As we continue to work in the Master's vineyard, let us keep our eyes on Christ Jesus, our only hope, and take 2 Timothy 2:15 as our guide, Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth .

MINISTERIAL DEPARTMENT

The Ministerial Department has one overarching goal for the quadrennium:

To equip Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses (and future leaders) with the ability to create the environment for greater spiritual, emotional, educational, and evangelistic growth within our churches.

This goal is to be achieved by fulfilling two main objectives.

- a. Training, retooling, and exposing pastors and lay leaders to broader perspectives of ministry.
- b. Provide Conference support for initiatives, and affirm the hard work, efforts, sacrifices, and achievements of church leaders.

2019 Year in Review

1. December 2018, a letter was sent to all serving Elders thanking them for their service. This communique was accompanied with a list of opportunities for elders, Deacons, Deaconesses and other church leaders to attend global church leadership conferences, local training, mission projects, and times for fun and fellowship during the year 2019.
2. Training programs and activities from this Department concentrated on the following areas:
 - a. Building a strong team of pastors and local church leaders.
 - b. Created a path to ordination for pastors and elders.
 - c. Continuing education through Inter-American Division Certification Programs.
 - d. Encouraging mentorship for future leaders.
 - e. Created a tool to measure the overall performance of Pastors and churches.
 - f. Real “Church Growth”, and greater involvement of membership.

The Ministerial Department hosted two major training conferences: Total number of attendees at both events was 524 persons. The following Subjects were presented.

SOAR (Solution to Obstacles Adventist Retreat) List of Subjects Covered: New Methods To Impact Your Com-munity For Christ Using The Health Message, Succession Planning- Transitioning Youth For Leadership, How To Get Your Pastor To Listen To You, The Role Of Women In Church Leadership, The Power Of Visionary Leadership, The Peril Of Leaders Who Do Not Know Their Spiritual Gift(s), How To Organize And Conduct Successful Meetings, The Elder And Sermon Preparation, Faith Based Initiatives-Partnering With The Government & NGO s, Retention Strategies 101, Maximizing Media Opportunities In Your Church, The Deacon & Deaconess Understanding Your Role and Function And Basic Protocol, Successful Church Growth Strategies, and How To Become An Effective Bible Worker.

ALERT (Advance Leadership Evangelism & Retention Training) List of Subjects Covered: Leading The Church In A Changing World, Ministry In The Market Place, Praise & Worship- It’s Ministry, Not Entertainment, Bridging The Gap Between Boomer s & Millennials, Developing Leaders Around You, Leading During A Paradigm Shift, Business Tips For Christian Entrepreneurs, Investing In Your Church, Good Health- An Excellent Plan For Retention, Partnering With Government To Advance God s Kingdom, How To Develop Lesson Study Guides To Reach Youth & Children, Challenges Of Being A Millennial Pastor In A Boomer Controlled Church, Making Your Website An Evangelistic Tool, Important Issues For Millennials, Evangelizing People via Customer Service Principles, Making Music Ministry Meaningful, Ministry via Social Media, The Art Of Building Great Relationships, and The Spirit Of Courageous Leadership.

PERSONAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

Goal: To equip and mobilize the laity of the South Bahamas Conference for effective Personal Evangelism and Discipleship.

Projects in 2019

In 2019, the Personal Ministry department, in collaboration with the Adventists Services Institute (ASI), convened an annual ***People to People Equipping*** seminar for the expressed purpose of equipping the church membership of the South Bahamas Conference for Public Evangelism, Retention and Discipleship. Over 200 persons gathered at the Philadelphia Seventh day Adventist Church for the event. Mr. Eugene Benjamin, responsible for ASI Evangelism in the Inter-American Division, Pastor Kent Price ATCU, Ian Greene President of ASI SBC, and an exciting array of other resourceful persons presented life-changing information in the areas of evangelism, retention and discipleship.

The equipping was more than just acquisition of information. It was for life application. Therefore, churches were organized into teams to use the acquired information and systematically plan for the *ASI Reviving the Spirit of Service Campaign* and Retention thereafter. The churches went about the planning and preparation with a view to be ready for the overseas speakers in New Providence and the Family Islands. In the month of August 2019, a ***one-week lay evangelistic series*** in 9 sites in New Providence and three sites in the Family Islands produced over 200 baptisms. An example of intentional retention initiative took place at Hillview. Hillview formed a retention committee under the leadership of Ovil McDonald. In collaboration with SBC Personal Ministry Department, this committee planned a retention event in South Andros. Over 30 new believers travelled and learned how to affirm their faith and operationalize their faith on a daily basis and in worship services.

Projects for 2020

1. Annual ***People to People*** - Equipping and Deployment Seminar.
2. Retention Committees in every church.
3. Annual week of Bible Study with emphasis in the local church.
4. Multi-Generational Church growth
5. Retention activities for New Believers.
6. Reviving Personal Ministry 10 minutes promotion.
7. Reviving the first Sabbath of every month as Personal Ministry Day.
8. Reviving Lay Pulpit Exchange on the first Sabbath of August.
9. Exploration in church and family discipleship.
10. Baptism Day in November.

Questions to ponder as you engage 2020 mission with volunteers

Does your church have a mission statement? Has the mission statement been followed? Has the mission statement been referred to as a guide for programs and ministries? Are the volunteers familiar with the mission statement? Do volunteers know how their work contributes to the mission? Does your church regularly establish goals for its life and programs? ***Mission can motivate and unite people to accomplish important tasks done by volunteers.***

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Publishing Ministry within the South Bahamas Conference is to proclaim the eternal gospel hope to the world in this generation through the use of publications, including new media.

Our goal is to disseminate our message throughout this field to help to encourage and equip each individual to share the good news of Jesus and His second coming.

List of actions outlined by the Department during this period:

1. To encourage total involvement of church members in literature evangelism.
2. To promote publishing book of the year.
3. Organize training seminars for Literature Evangelist.
4. Recruit student and full time Literature Evangelists.
5. Organize consecration service for Literature Evangelists
6. Organize summer student program
7. Encourage every church to establish a library

Major achievements of the Department for this period:

During the first quarter of last year the publishing department worked in harmony with the Youth department on Global Youth Day in distributing hundreds of priorities in various communities.

During the second quarter of last year a training seminar was conducted by Pastors K. Price and N. Thompson for local publishing coordinators. The training highlighted the ABC's of door-to-door literature sales. Also, the publishing department with the help of the local church engaged in World Impact Day which focuses on the "Mass Distribution of the Missionary Book of the Year."

During the third quarter the publishing department again worked along with the Youth department in training and preparing its campers to qualify for publishing honors.

Each summer the publishing department of SBC welcomes to its field students from the territory to earn a scholarship through the door-to-door literature sales distribution program. During the fourth quarter of last year the publishing department welcomed Tisma Jugerson Jempsy and Sabine Jempsy (both from Haiti) to its field to engage in its literature outreach program.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY (PARL) REPORT

According to the Inter-American Division states that the role and function of the PARL Department is to work mainly with governments, internal organizations, and religious authorities. Our scope of activity deals with human rights legislation, geo-politics, protocol, and government. The PARL Department could be, without too much exaggeration, called the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the church.

In the year 2019 the major focus was to lay the foundation for this Department to fulfill its mandate in an effective and efficient way.

1. Through the PARL Department, South Bahamas Conference has reinstated its Observer Status as members of the Bahamas Christian Council, and meetings are attended on a regular basis.
 - a. As a part of this body, the South Bahamas Conference is doing its part to build bridges with other denominations, provide a forum to solve conflicts, make contributions to improve legislation, defend those who are persecuted for their faith, and promote and protect religious freedom.
 - b. Representation for the Seventh-day Adventist is made during discussions on subjects that can negatively impact the function and advancement of our church.
 - c. Serve as a voice to protect the principles, biblical beliefs, and national interest of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Bahamas.
2. Created a forum to discuss and to learn more about the need to be advocates for human rights.
 - a. Conducted a workshop on the subject The Church- The Greatest Advocate For Human Rights. Facilitator, LaShell Adderley.
 - b. Conducted a workshop on Geo-Politics, namely the problem of migration, and what solutions can the church provide.
 - c. Provided information for PARL Leaders in our churches interested in attending 2 Major Conferences on Human Trafficking.
3. Addressed the subject of students taking exams and members being forced to work on sabbath.
 - a. Crafted a letter (Template) to assist students who were asked to take exams on Saturdays, as well as members who have a challenge with working on the Sabbath. Our success rate has been about 63%.
4. Forster good relationships with Government Officials and Community Leaders.
 - a. As Director: Made courtesy calls on several Members of Parliament, Government Ministers, Senior Law Enforcement Officers, Members of the Judiciary, and Business Leaders in the community.
 - b. Encouraged Pastors to work with leaders in their community.
 - c. Conducted workshop on the following subjects: Faith Based Initiatives- Partnering With The Government & NGO's, Partnering With Government To Advance God s Kingdom, and The Art Of Building Great Relationships.

Just recently, the PARL Director was invited to pray at the Swearing-In Ceremony for the newest member of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Justice Loren Kline, at Government House.

SABBATH SCHOOL REPORT

The Sabbath School Department of the South Bahamas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists spent several months holding training sessions for Sabbath School Superintendents, Secretaries and Teachers during 2019.

In March, Pastor Leonardo Rahming and Mrs. Jennifer Kerr trained roughly 60% Sabbath School officers in New Providence on the purpose of Sabbath School, its mission, the importance of record keeping, the community and studying the word.

This full-scale training continued with the Redemption Seventh-day Adventist Church in April 2019.

The training of Sabbath School officers was taken to various Family Islands:

- May 2019: San Salvador
- September 2019 – Acklins & Crooked Island
- November 2019 – Long Island.

Training for 2020 continues January 24-26, with Curtis Hall, who will be covering topics such as: Keys to Mission Clarity, Keys to Mission Success and How to take your class on a journey.

It is our hope to continue training our officers, and the church at large on the importance of Sabbath School, as we go into 2020.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

In 2019 the Stewardship Department challenged its members to put God first by accepting the following:

- 1 To recognize that God is the owner of everything.
- 2 To recommit themselves to God.
- 3 To commit to faithful service in the programs of the church.
- 4 To faithfulness in returning the Lord's portion of our increase.
- 5 To living healthy lives that will enable them to carry the three Angel's messages to our communities.

In spite of the economy, and the hurricane, we can certainly say that God is still good. Our year to date figures show an increase in tithe of about 2%, and a 23% increase in our offering. A detailed financial report from the treasury department will show how God has blessed His Church in 2019.

Stewardship emphasis days were conducted at the following churches:

Bethany	Berea
Cat Island	Ephesus
Gambier	Hillview
Inagua	Peardale

In addition to these programs, local churches also held programs to encourage faithfulness and commitment among its members.

A family budgeting seminar was presented at the Ephesus, and Berea churches and the staff at Bahamas Academy. These seminars allow for vital questions to be addressed.

The area of time is one that needs some attention as attendance in our churches seem to have fallen. I wish to take this opportunity to ask each of you to encourage your fellow brethren to improve in their faithfulness in coming together as a community of believers.

As we enter into 2020 it is my prayer that God will continue to sustain us with His powerful hand and that we will acknowledge His leading as we do our part to remain faithful to our calling to be disciples.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

The beginning of 2019 came with a great feeling of expectancy as the women of the South Bahamas Conference were poised to begin a new year that was full of promise for effective ministry. The theme for the year was God's Beloved Daughters: Ministering through Soul Winning, Teaching, Embracing and Nurturing; and we were steered by the text from Romans 10:15, How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News.

Here is a brief synopsis of our year in review:

Our first quarter highlight was our Consecration Service in January, dubbed If Your Shoes Could Talk. This inspiring and thought provoking service was held at the Grants Town Church, where local Women's Ministries Leaders for the current year, along with women and GEMS from the local churches, were challenged to leave that service determined to give their ministry shoes wonderful stories to tell during the 2019 Women's Ministries journey.

During our second quarter, our momentum increased as local churches were actively engaged in various ministry initiatives. In May, our Zone 2 churches embarked on a random act of kindness which involved cooking and serving over 200 lunches to persons at the Great Commission on Wulff Road.

Additionally, during the second quarter, we visited two family islands. In May, a group of women converged on the island of Eleuthera for a weekend dubbed Women on God's Mission. Sis. Marva Farquharson was our keynote speaker for the event and Elder Curtis Bryan, SBC Men's Coordinator, accompanied us to minister to the young men at the local High School. Another highlight of this visit was meeting with Sis. Laura Anderson, who at that time was the oldest living Adventist in the South Bahamas Conference. In June, a team of women visited Great Inagua to observe the Women's Day of Prayer with the sisters there; and what a wonderful sitting this was.

As a department, our third quarter began on target when Hurricane Dorian hit us. Being grounded on God's Word while believing there is a specific work for us to do, we immediately galvanized our women and GEMS to launch The Pillow and a Prayer project. Countless hours were spent as hundreds of pillows were sewed, stuffed, decorated and affixed with a prayer for distribution, not only to hurricane victims in the various shelters, but to nursing homes, hospitals and homeless persons living under the Potter's Cay Bridge. Care packages were also distributed to those affected.

Conclave 2019 was the pinnacle of our fourth quarter activities. Under the theme, God's Beloved Daughters: Rescued, Restored, Redeemed and Released, hundreds of women from the South Bahamas Conference came together for our in-reach initiative to be refreshed and revived, after we had poured into others what God had blessed us with. Pastor Brenda Billings of the North American Division came and watered our souls; and we were truly blessed. From Friday evening vespers, to Sabbath morning services, to our Sabbath afternoon ask Pastor Brenda session and then into our Saturday evening Girls Night Out social, we sang, prayed, cried, laughed and fellowshiped with our sisters.

The year 2019 is now in our rearview but as a Department, we are thankful and grateful to God for the way that He led. As we look forward to 2020 with great expectancy, we also reaffirm our commitment in helping to do our commitment in helping to do our part to finish this work so Jesus can quickly come.

YOUTH MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT REPORT

EVANGELISM:

- 135 Youth Baptisms reported.
- Lord Transform Me Reaping Campaigns: **Pathfinder** = 59 **Adventist Youth** = 32
- Cat Island Youth Revival (Pr. Moss) = 5, Eleuthera (Pr. Simms) = 2, Crooked Island (Pr. Gordon) = 3, Winter Youth Crusade (Pr. Franklyn) = 17, Good News Investiture (Pr. Sturupp) = 2
- Bahamas Academy WOP (Pr. Moss & Pr. Davilmar) = 5, Ignite Youth Congress Retreat = 4, Pathfinder Camporee = 2, Anatol Rodgers Pathfinder Club = 4

TRAINING:

- **Pathfinder Directors & Youth Leaders workshop- Leaders participated** = 44, Churches = 14
- **A.C.L.A.S.S.: Adventist Certification & Leadership Assessment for Salvation and Service-** 10-hour workshop. Pathfinder Directors & Adventist Youth Leaders certified = 110.
Churches represented: *Ephesus, Berea, Bethel, Breath of Life, Centerville, Johnson Park, Good News, Grant's Town, New Haven, Message of Hope, Maranatha, Philadelphia, New Providence,*

Family Island Youth Congress:

- Exuma- Adventurer & Pathfinders inducted = 20
- San Salvador- PCM Ambassadors inducted = 14
- North Eleuthera- Adventurers & Pathfinders inducted = 16

Summer Youth Interns: 5 churches-Ephesus, Johnson Park, Hillview, Grant s Town, New Providence.

Masterguide Training & Hikes: investees = 15, churches = 4, hikes = 4

Senior Youth Leadership Core re-training: youth = 9, churches = 6

Youth Choirs & Worship Leaders Workshop: participants = 201, churches =

13 **Church reference letters submitted for A.R.M./I.P.I.P. Insurance** = 12

International Pathfinder & Youth Groups Insurance 2019 = 1000

MISSION:

- **SBC Pathfinder Band Mission Trip, Tallahassee:** participants = 43, churches = 11
- **Public Campus Ministry Congress, Panama:** participants = 11, churches = 6
- **International Pathfinder Camporee Oshkosh, Wisconsin:** participants = 71, churches = 7

SPORTS:

- **Basketball League:** Churches =
10 *Champions 2019* = Living Faith
- **Adventist Track & Field day:** churches = 9
Champions 2019 = Hillview

SERVICE:

- **S.B.C. & A.T.C.U. Bible Connection 2019 Winner:** Elder Torri Knowles, Berea AY Leader
- **SBC Pathfinder Camporee:** campers = 121, churches = 7
- **IGNITE Youth Retreat:** churches = 22
- **Adventist Youth Awards:** awardees = 248, churches = 14
- **Investitures** = 279, Pathfinders = 141, Adventurers = 138. Churches = 10
- **Global Youth Day Community Service Projects 2019:** Churches = 24, Projects = 1,500
- **Youth Marches**

March- Global Youth Day, **October-** National Breastfeeding Day March, National Youth March,
November- Remembrance Day March. Churches = 15



SOUTH BAHAMAS CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FOR 2019