Striving for Excellence
The lady could not contain her joy as she smiled again and said, “Sir, because I am serving my country.” This was a little amusing for the businessman. He said, “You are serving your country by smiling!” The little lady said, “Yes sir, I smile and all the customers coming to the mall feel happy and relaxed. They shop more, my boss is happy and pays me more. Since I am paid more, I can take care of my family. Since I can take care of my family, they are happy. As all the customers buy from us, the demand for goods is more, and since the demand is more, there are many factories. Since there are many factories, there are many jobs. Since there are more jobs, people in the country are happy.”

Ah! What motivation for excellence! We too can live with excellence. We do so not for financial gain, not for factories to receive more orders, not for the improvement in the gross domestic product of country or company, and certainly not because we get paid more for our excellence in performance. We do so for the same reason Adam was challenged to perform with excellence. We came from the hands of an excellent God who has modeled excellence to us and who has afforded us the opportunity to occupy this space we call time.

Sincerely,
Pastor Eugene F. Daniel
President

President’s Column

The lady smiled broadly and said, “No sir, I am working here for 10 years and I like my job.” The man was shocked and asked, “Why have you been doing this for 10 years, and why do you like your job?”

The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Caribbean Union is to prepare the people of the region for the glorious Second Advent of Jesus through the proclamation of the everlasting gospel and to make loving, obedient disciples of Jesus Christ, who, having experienced His transforming grace, will go forth under the power of the Holy Spirit to share joyfully with others the good news of salvation.

MISSION STATEMENT

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VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is a united, praying, consecrated force of ministers and lay persons, old and young, male and female, empowered by the Holy Spirit, aimed with the Word of God and the cross of Christ aggressively and efficiently fulfilling the gospel commission. (Matthew 28:19, 20; Revelation 14:6-12)

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Jim Collins In his book “Good to Great” Pg. 1, Made the following statement: “Good is the enemy of great, and that is one of the reasons why we have so little that becomes great. We don’t have great schools, principally because we have good schools. We don’t have great government principally because we have good government. Few people attain great lives, in large part because it is just so easy to settle for a good life. The vast majority of companies never become great, precisely because the vast majority become quite good and that is their main problem.” Borrowing from the sentiments of Collins, we do not have great churches because we have good churches, and we do not have great conferences and organizations because we have good conferences and good churches. A few pages later he says “Greatness is not a function of circumstance. Greatness, it turns out, is largely a matter of conscious choice.”

The church above all else should epitomize the philosophy of excellence in its operations and if in our estimation we are good, we should strive to do better. The reality is, this does not just happen automatically. The fact that we believe that we are the remnant church and that we serve the King of Kings, does not automatically guarantee, success or excellence. There is the constant need to evaluate our operations and to do regular assessment to see if we are “cutting the mustard” as the late Don Crowder would say.

Today we serve congregations who are a lot more literate than a few years ago. Many are professionals in their own right. Many are expected to function at a certain level of competence or demand that their employees deliver excellence on the job. Should these individuals expect any less from the church and its leadership? Should our church members expect that church workers deliver a fair day’s work for a fair day’s pay? Should they expect that we be on time for our appointments and that we be organized and professional? Should they expect that we make good on our promises and that we be fair in our judgments?

The apostle Paul captures the theme of striving for excellence in the passage Phil. 3:13,14. Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (RSV)

Here is a man who seemed to have been consumed with a passion for Christ and His work. Of course you may ask, does excellence matter to God? Does God care about quality? Is what we do a few good things and well things are done? Does it make any difference to God whether the instruments are in tune; the praise team has rehearsed the songs, etc. Is having a passion for Christ and His work the same as doing things well? This quarter we seek to raise the issue of excellence and challenge our workers to come up a little higher. We have featured a few individuals who themselves have demonstrated a hunger for excellence.

We welcome Pastor Danforth Francis back to the Caribbean Union and anticipate learning from his wealth of experience gained in the Mission land of Africa during the last 18 years.

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EXCELLENCE SHOULDBE OUR QUEST

The human family is fascinated with excellence. That which is superior has always been lauded. It is one of those magnetic ideas that cause millions to place their excellent stars on pedestal to worship them. No wonder God has called his followers to so live that those who see us may glorify him. Place Him on the pedestal and worship Him. In other words there is a call to excellence.

Societal norms, fads, and fancies suggest what the standards are, which means that excellence today may not be excellence tomorrow. Notwithstanding that flexibility, the practicing Christian does have a fixed standard of excellence to which he or she must attain. Paul refers to the “mark”, “High calling” and lest the readers should believe that the excellence of which I write were some abstract idea, Paul clarifies in clear terms when he wrote of Jesus in this wise: “Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they”. Heb 1:4.

Christ then is our pattern of excellence and He is the only pattern we have to follow. Moreover being like Him will be compensated with eternal life, so there is a powerful enticement and reason to stretch every nerve to attain such excellency.

What then is in this for us individually? Let me suggest three issues:
1. Synchronization of Profession and Practice
2. Single mindedness
3. Stick-to-it-ive-ness

Nothing is more debilitating, devaluing and destabilizing than for a Christian not to live up to what he preaches. We as Seventh-day Adventists have high standards on paper, but could it be that we are not practicing those standards in our boardrooms, committees, communities and families? Don’t you think the time has come for us to be regarded as a loving rather than a legalistic community? Ellen G. White puts it powerfully: “If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one. But, though professing to be converted, we carry around with us a bundle of self that we regard as altogether too precious to be given up.” (OT 190.1)

What a model for evangelising!

The adversary of our souls is willing to do all and anything that it takes to have us not reach the “mark”. Busyness is the 21st century’s challenge. Our church, not turning to the left or the right are excellent indeed but we must endure to the end otherwise all our efforts would be in vain and we would not have achieved the excellence for which we drive and need to attain.

Our inspired friend E.G White rightly puts it this way: “the Christian must put forth the utmost exertion in order to gain the victory. In the Corinthian games the last few strides of the contestants in the race were made with agonizing effort to keep up undiminished speed. So the Christian, as he nears the goal, will press onward with even more zeal and determination than at the first of his course”.

So as we eye the final events of earth’s history let us with renewed effort lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us and run with zeal, passion and stick-to-it-ive-ness, to the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus.”

“Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”

Hebrews 1:4

Pastor R. D. Francis presently serves as Personal Ministries/Sabbath School Director at the Caribbean Union Conference. He is a career missionary who has spent the last eighteen years working as a departmental director and administrator at the Conference, Union, and Division levels of the church in the West-Central Africa Division. He has a passion for nurturing and transmitting our values.
Undoubtedly, this was the premiere programme of the youth department for the year 2010. Gospel Mega fest was held under the theme. “Transforming Lives, restoring character, saving our youth” and indeed it was a life changing experience, which the young people of the Grenada Conference vowed never to forget. Beginning Sunday November 28th and concluding Sabbath December 4th 2010, young people converged at the National stadium nightly to be empowered with great gospel preaching from our youth and youth pastors. Every night, life changing prayer sessions were conducted to boost the spiritual temperature of the attendees. Above all, it was quite thrilling to experience the profound manner in which young Dwaindell Gilbert (14 years) expounded the word of God and brought conviction to hearts. Other speakers included youth preacher, Sis. Keisha Charles, Pastor Samuel Sayers, Pastor Elvis Hillaire, Pastor Enoch Isaac, Dr. Clive Dottin (Youth Ministries Director, Caribbean Union) and Pastor Steve Riley, from The South Caribbean Conference.

The Caribbean Union’s Participation in Pentecost and More was uplinked from Barbados from the ‘Victory in the Cross’ Revival Crusade. The crusade was in its fourth week and was preached by Evangelist David Beckles, President of the East Caribbean Conference.

I have always been impressed by Pastor Beckles’ sincere, down-to-earth style of preaching and on Friday night March 18th, he was true to form as he challenged us to guard against committing the Unpardonable Sin and quenching the voice of the Spirit. I was even more impressed however by his this-one-thing-I-do approach as he gathered the New Converts, all 54 of them for an after lunch indoctrination session. I am not sure if he had lunch himself, for he never arrived home to partake of the sumptuous table spread by Sister Beckles for Pastor Abner De Los Santos from the Inter-American Division (IAD) and myself).

11:30 am was our uplink-time, when the video feed from the tent was to be uplinked to the rest of the Division, as we joined the other Unions in simultaneous mass baptisms. Pastor Los Santos did the Baptismal rite while the Pastors in the large pool constructed for the occasion, performed the Baptism. A total of 2,700 persons were baptized from the main site, Venezuela, while throughout the Division it was recorded a total of 12,000 precious souls. Truly the days spoken of in Joel are upon us.

We Thank Brother Clifford and the communication team from Barbados for their hard work in facilitating the uplink. We can only get better.
Marriaqua community. Moving, living organization with members which indicates that the church is a viable, together for nurturing and conservation.

Evangelist, Pastor Claudius Morgan. Evangelistic crusade which was held in 2011. and glory of God on Sunday March 20, 2011. La Croix in the Marriaqua Valley, was dedicated to the honour Church, located at La Croix in the Mar –

The Living Streams Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at La Croix in the Marriaqua Valley, was dedicated to the honour and glory of God on Sunday March 20, 2011. The church started as a result of an Evangelistic crusade which was held in March 2005 in which two hundred and thirty six persons gave their lives to the Lord after five weeks of powerful, penetrat- ing, Pentecostal preaching by the dynamic Evangelist, Pastor Claudius Morgan.

The new members opted to remain together for nurturing and conservation. They adopted the name “Living Streams” which indicates that the church is a viable, moving, living organization with members coming from a wide cross section of the Marriaqua community. The group was officially organized into a full fledged church on December 29, 2007 with a charter membership of 152. In August 2009 a parcel of land was pur- chased on which a permanent church structure was erected much to the gener- osity and collective sacrifice of the mem- bers and well wishes.

At the dedication ceremony, the laying of the cornerstone and the delivery of the sermon was done by Dr. Eugene Daniel, President of the Caribbean Union Conference of SDA, while the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and the prayer of dedication was done by Pastor Dermoth Bacchus while the opening of the main door was done by Bro. Bertram Bacchus while the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and the prayer of dedication was done by Pastor Dermoth Bacchus, the first Elder and chairman of the Build- ing Committee.

The mission of the Living Streams church is to proclaim the good news of salvation to every household within its territory through preaching, teaching, and personal witnessing, thus influenc- ing people from all walks of life to have a viable relationship with the Lord and to be ready to live in His presence.

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INAUGURATION OF SOUTH LEEWARD MISSION

The historical event of the Inauguration of the South Leeward Mission took place on the island of Antigua during the weekend of March 5 & 6, 2011.

This grand event began as hundreds gathered on Sabbath March 5th in an island-wide service of celebration, under the Theme: CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE - FULFILLING OUR MISSION. In attendance were delegates and well-wishers from the five islands which would form the new Mission – Antigua & Barbuda, St. Kitts & Nevis, along with Montserrat. Mention must also be made of a small contingent that came from the South Caribbean Conference in Trinidad. Sabbath School was ably conducted by Pastor Kay White, who marshalled the troops engaged in the various aspects of praise and the study of the Word.

The next phase of the morning's service moved into the introduction of the newly elected administration, Pastor Carson Greene as Secretary/Treasurer, and President of South Leeward Mission, Pastor Desmond James and his wife, Sister Aline James. The congregation applauded the new leaders as an indication of confidence and appreciation for their leadership abilities.

The greatest drama of the morning came during the exchange of pleasant-ries by the newly elected president to his former boss, Pastor Silton Browne, President of the North Caribbean Conference. The flowery speech ended in an emotional moment of hugs and tears by the two leaders that overwhelmed and silenced the spell-bound audience.

The Divine Service was the highpoint of the service. Dr. Eugene Daniel, President of the Caribbean Union was God’s mouthpiece to speak to the hearts of God’s people. Dr. Daniel addressed the first part of the Theme, Celebrating Our Heritage, and immediately acknowledged outstanding members of the congregation who made valuable contributions in building our heritage. Among the list of names mentioned were Pastor J.S.U. Burton and his wife who were present in the audience.

Sunday, March 6th, brought much excitement and anticipation with the dedication of the New Administration Building of the South Leeward Mission. A large crowd gathered on site with many dignitaries including Dame Louise Lake Tact, Governor General of Antigua & Barbuda; Dr. Winston Baldwin Spencer Prime Minister of Antigua & Barbuda; Sir James Carlisle, former Governor General, other Ministers of Government and leaders of the church from around the Caribbean. Dr. Eugene Daniel was the keynote speaker, who focused on the Headquarters of the Mission as God’s Embassy in that part of the world.

The Dedication Prayer was followed by the Laying of the Corner Stone and the Cutting of the Ribbon which led to the entrance and viewing of the palatial Mission Headquarters. Truly, a significant achievement.

The focus then shifted to the St. John’s Seventh-day Adventist Church to begin the Session. At the arrival of Dr. Israel Leito, President of the Inter American Division, the Session was called to order after the posting of flags, by the Path-finders and the singing of the National Anthems of Antigua & Barbuda, St. Kitts & Nevis and Montserrat.

It was a significant moment when Pastor Silton Browne, President of the North Caribbean Conference, challenged Pastor Desmond James to take care of the five islands transferred from the North Caribbean Conference under his care. In accepting the challenge, the flags of each nation were given to him as a symbol that South Leeward Mission was now a reality.

Dr. Leito gave the keynote address and shared that as citizens, God’s people are called to live a life worthy of his calling, and then gave status to South Leeward Mission.

Dr. Eugene Daniel and the newly elected Secretary, Pastor Carson Greene, led in the selection of representatives on the organizing committee. The acceptance of the large or organizing committee came shortly after, and business was in progress as both the Nomination of the Standing and Plans and Recommendation Committees were put in place.

The anticipated delegates and members after hours of waiting, finally got the report of the Nominating Committee.

The report was presented as follows:

- Religious Liberty
- Personal Ministries & Sat. School
- Pastor Wayne Knowles
- Education & Children Ministries
- Dr. Eulalie Semper
- Health Director
- Mrs. Sonia Smith
- Youth Director

Pastor Kendol Doyle

The report was voted overwhelmingly by the delegates. Six Ruth Browne did the Resolution of Gratitude to God for His leading, and after the prayer of consecration, those who endured to the end, left one by one with a sense that an era had ended, and a new day had dawned on a long awaited territory – South Leeward Mission of Seventh-day Adventists!
The air hung heavy with anguish and the grey, overcast skies consorted with it. It was a lamentsful occasion. Hundreds of smartly clad uniformed squads waited in readiness for their marching orders in the gloom of the bleaky Sunday morning. At the head of the procession stood a solemn band of clergymen, behind them came the guard of honour - on duty beside the hearse, following was an extensive train of Master Guides, Pathfinders, Adventurers, and Community Services members. In their midst was the Mercury Drum Corp and the plaintive strains of “Taps” (the famous military funeral bugle call) on their drums and trumpets which bore witness to two facts: it was a time of mourning, and the dead had led a life of notable service.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Guyana was struck with grief the moment Pastor Ashton Meigwell Alleyne, one of its long serving and outstanding ministers, passed away on the night of January 22, 2011. The 55 year old worker, who had succumbed to prolonged illness, was the first minister to die in the Conference of its long serving and outstanding ministers. Pastors, family and friends expressed the grief of their loss. Many a youth buckled in tears under the weight of the pain of losing one who had played such an instrumental role in their development. And the tributes poured in, many from notable figures of the Guyanese society and the local and overseas Adventist fraternity. These persons included the Mayor of Georgetown, the Honourable Hamilton Green; Ministerial Secretary of the Caribbean Union, Pastor Andrew Farrell; Youth Ministries Director, Dr. Clive Dottin; President of the Suniname Mission, Pastor Lyndon Gudge; and representatives from other sister Conferences and Guyanese organisations in North America. On Sunday, fading daylight brought the curtains down on the sad affair, and on Monday, by the time the body was delivered to the earth, night had already fallen.

But even with our feeble attempts to “immortalise” him, Pastor Ashton Alleyne remains asleep in the grave, awaiting the “midnight cry when Jesus comes again”. The Guyana Conference expresses its deepest condolences to his family - Sister Ruby Alleyne, a woman of might who had been to him a source of encouragement and pillar of strength in his time of sickness and who he had promised to fuhn gosPel MinistrY to fUll gosPel MinistrY you believe and what you believe.” He prided and a firm conviction in “whom Christ should live above the reproaches of this life and let the world see you as a true ambassador of heaven“.

The charge was given by Pastor Andrew Farrell, Ministerial Secretary of the Caribbean Union while Pastor Den mon the Grenadines Region, assigned to the Georgetown/Fancy district, was ordained to full gospel ministry, at a very impressive service which was held at the Calder church on Sabbath, October 23, 2010. The service was well attended by family, friends, church leaders, members of the community, and the Ministerial Association. The sermon and prayer of ordination were done by Dr. Eugene Daniel, President of the Caribbean Union. In his sermon, the ordinand and congregation were challenged to bear the name of Christ and the church with deep humility, holy pride and a firm conviction in “whom you believe and what you believe.” He further stressed that “representatives of Christ should live above the reproaches of this life and let the world see you as a true ambassador of heaven”. The charge was given by Pastor Andrew Farrell, Ministerial Secretary of the Caribbean Union while Pastor Der mon the Grenadines Region, assigned to the Georgetown/Fancy district, was ordained to full gospel ministry, at a very impressive service which was held at the Calder church on Sabbath, October 23, 2010. The service was well attended by family, friends, church leaders, members of the community, and the Ministerial Association. The sermon and prayer of ordination were done by Dr. Eugene Daniel, President of the Caribbean Union. In his sermon, the ordinand and congregation were challenged to bear the name of Christ and the church with deep humility, holy pride and a firm conviction in “whom you believe and what you believe.” He further stressed that “representatives of Christ should live above the reproaches of this life and let the world see you as a true ambassador of heaven”. The charge was given by Pastor Andrew Farrell, Ministerial Secretary of the Caribbean Union while Pastor Der mon the Grenadines Region, assigned to the Georgetown/Fancy district, was ordained to full gospel ministry, at a very impressive service which was held at the Calder church on Sabbath, October 23, 2010. The service was well attended by family, friends, church leaders, members of the community, and the Ministerial Association. The sermon and prayer of ordination were done by Dr. Eugene Daniel, President of the Caribbean Union. In his sermon, the ordinand and congregation were challenged to bear the name of Christ and the church with deep humility, holy pride and a firm conviction in “whom you believe and what you believe.” He further stressed that “representatives of
The message was loud and clear. Pray for, guide, and challenge children and the youth of the church to establish a close relationship with Jesus through a prayerful connection. It was a message which resonated across hundreds of Seventh-day Adventist churches throughout Inter-America, on Mar. 12, 2011 as a week of spiritual emphasis activities concluded on the Adventist World Church’s call for spiritual revival and reformation.

“In God’s kingdom children are always first,” said Pastor Israel Leito, president of the church in Inter-America, as he spoke to more than 1,000 church members at the University of Southern Caribbean (USC), Auditorium in Trinidad, one of 21 large hosts sites throughout Inter-America organized for the special program.

Pastor Leito challenged church leaders and members to honor children and young people and strive to actively inspire and guide them to heaven.

“Brothers and sisters, we must take care of our children. Love them. God asks us to care for his inheritance,” he added.

Caring for the children is what Dinorah Rivera, children’s ministries director for the church in Inter-America, emphasized as her words echoed in the auditorium via Skype during the program which was streamed live on the internet.

“Our church should make a conscious effort to better provide and invest in children,” Rivera said. “We must nurture the intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual needs of our children. That is why it is so important to involve them, very intentionally in being constant in prayer, in developing their special relationship with Jesus that will last for life.”

It’s about shaping today’s young generation for a committed discipleship through constant prayer and the study of the Bible, emphasized Pastor Leito.

“Give God a living sacrifice useful to Him,” said Pastor Leito as he called on the youth for spiritual revival. “Imitate Christ and live a life of love just as Christ loved us.”

“We need this revival, we need our young people, we must deal with them with respect,” challenged Pastor Leito as he addressed church leaders and members.

“God needs you more than you think,” he added as he spoke to the youth in the congregation and online young viewers.

There are currently more than 1.5 million Adventist young people in Inter-America. It’s that army of thousands of young people that can be powerful, said Pastor Benjamin Carballo, youth ministries director for the church in Inter-America.

“If we are an army constant in prayer, we can be a powerful army,” said Carballo, as he addressed the youth. “It’s time to stand up as a new generation of young people in church. A young generation of young people powerful in prayer, a young generation of young people powerful in the Word, a young generation of young people powerful in testimony.”

“If you make a firm and permanent decision to connect with God and have a relationship with Him through prayer and Bible study, you will be winners through the battles of life,” Carballo added.

The division-wide spiritual revival and reformation initiative, called “Constant in Prayer,” calls on all members to a constant prayerful life and study of the Word. The Constant in Prayer theme echoed throughout the worship program.

Dedicated prayers were offered for the children and the youth as well as group prayer sessions, testimonials, and numerous musical numbers led by the young people of the Caribbean Union region.

Other young people from other church regions of Inter-America connected live during the webcast program to share prayer requests and testimonials.

Pastor Clive Dotin, youth ministries director for the church in the Caribbean Union territory, challenged the youth to move forward and commit to serving God. He called upon the hundreds of children and young people during the worship program to catch the vision of “Constant in Prayer” and keep it in their hearts.

Activities in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, included the distribution of more than 2,000 magazines by the young people. The magazines talk about importance of prayer in the violent and drug-infested communities throughout the city.

Elsewhere throughout Inter-America, similar programs took place during the special day. From Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean to the northern tip of South America, prayer sessions, children and youth-led activities took place.

In El Salvador thousands gathered at Plaza del Salvador in the capital city to pray, perform dramas and hand out flyers to onlookers.

In Haiti, thousands of pathfinders and master guides marched and sang on the streets of Limbe, near Cap-Haitien, with messages of hope and invitations for prayer revival.

In Colombia, young people took to the streets of Medellin to pray for motorist and pedestrians.

In Costa Rica, thousands of pathsfinders took to the streets of Limbe, near Cap-Haitien, with messages of hope and invitations for prayer revival.

Pastor Wellington was the main presenter, who shared with us some relevant information from the Spirit of Prophecy, and clarified many statements made my Mrs. White which are used out of context. Many comments were also made during the presentation by Dr. Jim Nix, that highlighted the influence and impact that Mrs. White had on the SDA church.

The meeting ended on a high note of praise that brought to an end the impressive visit of two distinguished church leaders in our church. 

Earl Daniel
Communication Director, NCC
UNION OFFICIALS VISIT TOBAGO

It was a tremendous blessing for the brethren of Tobago, when two officials from the Caribbean Union visited during the period January 14-19, 2011. Dr. Hilary Bowman, Director of Education and Mr. Berte Henry, Treasurer were active participants in the Festival of Education.

Dr. Bowman was the main speaker at the Education Convention at Scarborough on January 15. The theme was “Adventist Education, Essential and Eternal”. Mr. Henry was one of the three facilitators at the workshop that was conducted on January 16, particularly for the School Board Members, Pastors and Directors of the Tobago Mission. The other facilitators were Pastor Clyde Lewis, Treasurer of the Tobago Mission and Dr. Bowman who also conducted a Workshop for all the teachers of the Tobago Mission on Wednesday 19th January 2011.

Workers and members benefited immensely from the visit.

Wilfred Desvignes
Education Director

COMM ITMENT PAYS OFF

The commitment of the Tobago delegates at the Caribbean Religious Liberty Association (CARLA) Conference held January 19-23, 2011 in Grenada was justly rewarded. Tobago Mission received two awards for its performance in 2010. The first for being the most active PARL Association in the Caribbean Union and the second for being the outstanding Association overall for 2010. The forty-one (41) delegates at the convention were elated at the good news.

These accomplishments were not attained single-handedly but as a result of collaboration, co-operation and devotion to the cause of Religious Liberty by every member of the Association.

To God be the glory, great things he hath done.

Wilfred Desvignes
PARL Director

YOUTH 10 HOUR TRAINING

Youth empowering youth is a précis of the Tobago Mission of SDA’s Youth 10 hour Training Program 2011. Conducted at the Harmon High School Auditorium, the program welcomed and enlightened over one hundred and fifty youth leaders and secretaries from the various Adventist churches on the island.

Presentations were done on topics of Leadership, Group Dynamics, Event Planning & Coordinating, Worship, Witnessing, Mission and other pertinent issues that leaders needed to have an authority on. Seven rigorous hours of training was completed on Saturday and the other three were done on Sunday morning.

Attendees were elated to be a part of the experience. They were grateful for the insightful and comprehensive information disseminated to them. The entire event culminated with a certificate presentation. Each candidate received a wallet sized certificate that they could use to present anywhere as evidence that they have completed the General Conference’s Youth Department Training component towards investiture into the AY Leadership training program.

One outstanding part of the training program was done on Sunday morning, where senior leaders joined hands to play a “Santame Sezie” game as the junior leaders looked on. The objective of the game was to encourage senior leaders to be in the forefront leading acceptable social programs, as guides to the junior leaders.

Shakespeare said, “All’s well that ends well.” He must have been referring to the Tobago Mission’s Youth Departments 10 hour training conducted from January 22 & 23, 2011.

Pastor Lowell Kester Ottley
Youth Director

I N N E S H A  D E G A N N E S, BAPTIZED ON HER BIRTHDAY

It was a glorious occasion for Innesha De Gannes, a Form 5 student of Harmon School of Seventh-day Adventists, when she got baptized on her birthday, Monday 7th February, 2011 at the Scarborough Seventh-day Adventist Church. Two other students were also baptized during the chapel program. Reon Toby also from Form 5 Class and Londun Duke from Form 1.

Approximately three hundred (300) students witnessed the baptism which was conducted by Pastor Hugo Murray, immediate past Principal and speaker for the recently concluded School’s Week of Prayer. The School’s Chaplain, Mrs. Anita Kirk, other teachers such as Ms. Kerleen Alexander, Mrs. Tracy Dick Noel and Mrs. Louise Wilson gave special words of encouragement to the new believers in Christ. The exercise was indeed a testimony for Adventist Christian Education.

Mr. Wilfred Desvignes
Education Director
On May 14, 2011, The Inter-American Division along with the Publishing Ministry of the Caribbean Union Conference, will be celebrating the first ‘Adventist Book Day.’ This activity was conceived by Dr Pablo Perla, president of the Inter-American Division Publishing Association, and it was voted at their Publishing Board held in Puerto Rico in 2010, as a reminder that literature still has the power to transform lives.

Each member throughout the union is encouraged to purchase a book and distribute to family members, friends and neighbours. The Adventist Book Centres (ABCs) will be having special activities and discounts during the weekend of May 13-15, 2011, and we are encouraging the church members to visit them.

Judith Smith
Publishing Ministries Director, Caribbean Union Conference of SDA
Hello again, parents, grandparents and guardians. We thank you for your comments and emails. For those of you who are new to parent point, you may contact us at, candrews@vipowemet.net

As we proceed up the developmental ladder we are considering the child during the period 3 – 5 years. What a delightful time this can be for caregivers. Just to see the child initiating play situations that copy adults in their environment, brings joy to the heart. Also characteristic of this age in many children is the imaginary friend. I still remember my special friend Sambu who lived in the mountains east of my home and how he would tell me lots of nice stuff when we played together.

While “NO” is the recurring word of the previous stage, the operative word for the 3-5 year old is “WHY”. Guardians, be not frustrated by the incessant, “Why?”, instead view this as an opportunity to help your child explore his world.

Family relationships are crucial at this stage. Your little one needs to be positively affirmed as he negotiates his ever expanding world. Therefore, surround him with aunts, uncle, cousins and grandparents who demonstrate that they are on your child’s team. You are the arbiter of the circumstances that enable her to gain a sense of purpose.

Check out www.kidsviewmag.org with your school age child.

Happy Parenting!

Wilfred and Sandy were busy playing house in the garage. Suddenly from the street near their home they heard one loud bang and then another. “Let’s go out of the gate and see what is going on,” Wilfred suggested.

I don’t think we should, warned Sandy. “Remember what Mother told us.” Mother had told the children that under no circumstances should they go out of the gate unless she or another adult was with them. But curious Wilfred was willing to disobey Mother and go out of the gate alone. “BANG! BANG! BANG!” There was the sound again, even louder this time. “Let’s go, Sis,” Wilfred begged, but before his sister could answer, he had run out of the garage, opened the gate, and dashed into the street.

Shocked at her brother’s disobedience, Sandy wondered what she should do. She was the big sister, one year older than Wilfred. A big sister was responsible for her brother, right? But she could still hear her mother’s voice reminding them, “Don’t go into the street without me or another adult. You must trust me. I know what is best for you.” Should Sandy run into the street to protect her brother, or should she stay in the garage as her mother had told her to?

The loud banging sounds continued and now people were shouting. “I hope Wilfred is OK,” Sandy thought, her game of “house” forgotten. Moments later, Mother came to the door and called, “Wilfred and Sandy please come here.” What was Sandy going to tell Mother about Wilfred? Slowly she went into the house alone.

“Where is Wilfred?” Mother asked.

“He, he, he went out of the gate to see, to see what was making the loud banging sounds,” Sandy stammered.

With trembling hands, Mother untied her apron and slipped on her shoes. “Those sounds are gunshots. They are coming from the abandoned house down the road. I believe there is a conflict between the police and some people in the house. I’m going to look for Wilfred. He had no right to go out of the gate alone. He should have obeyed,” Mother said.

“Oh, Oh,” whispered Sandy as Mother closed the door. “Wilfred is in big trouble.” Sandy rushed to her room, knelt down and prayed, “Dear Jesus, I am so sorry that my brother did not trust Mother enough to obey her. But please forgive him. Please protect him. Please help him to come home safely. Amen.”

By the time Mother unlocked the gate and was about to step into the street, who do you think she saw running towards her? It was a very frightened Wilfred. He held on to Mother tightly and cried, “Mother, they were shooting at each other. I could have been hurt. I am sorry I did not trust you and obey you. Please forgive me.”

When Wilfred was safely in the house again, Mother sat down with both him and Sandy. “Children, I love you and I want you to trust me always. By God’s help I will always try to lead you in the right way.”

“Yes, mother,” they said together. Then Wilfred added, “And no more chasing gunshots for me.”