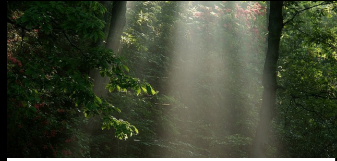


Streams of Light

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BERMUDA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



September, 2022



Kenneth Manders
President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2022

YEAR END PROGRAM

Our Year-End program was held at the Hamilton church on December 31st. Thanks to their media staff and the conference ATV crew, the program was viewed virtually and aired on ATV live. We began our service with a necrology of those who died in Christ in 2021. Sixty (60) of our members fell asleep in Christ in 2021. As I sadly reflected on the passing of many brothers and sisters in Christ, it dawned on me that I eulogized twenty-eight of the 60 members and spent much time ministering to the families of others who passed. I thank God, that these all died in Christ and now await the sound of the 7th trumpet, at our Lord's return.

After two spirit-filled praise and worship songs, led by Michael Spencer and the Inspirational Choir, we were blessed to hear two pre-recorded powerful testimonies from Calvin McNorton, whom the Lord delivered from glaucoma, and from Larry Simmons Jr., who courageously rescued a car accident victim whose car went overboard. The Lord used him to save someone's life. These testimonies reminded us that we all survived 2021, by God's grace. As president, I shared a few highlights of the soul winning activities across the conference. Hamilton, Pembroke, and Somerset churches led the way in soul winning respectively. And the Lord blessed the Hamilton, Southampton, and Warwick churches to lead the way in tithe return for 2021.

Our Children were blessed with a special prerecorded presentation by Pastor Jeremiah Greene who creatively taught the children that faith, hope, and love are three of the top qualities that adorn

the character of God's children; even when we are tempted to be sad, bad, and mad.

Our Youth and Young adults were blessed by three powerful plays written by Joelle Williams and Dr. John Duncan. The first play was artistically portrayed by Joelle Williams' daughter, Anaya Williams, who reminded us how isolated we have all felt at times, especially during this pandemic. She showed that even Christians have felt this way, even though they know that God promised never to leave them nor to forsake them.

In the second play, Patrice Hill dramatized the confusion many felt during the pandemic when everyone was confronted with the choice to be vaccinated or to remain unvaccinated. To be sure, many a home and church have battled over making that decision for themselves. It should be stated that the official SDA Church stand is clear. The church supports the Bible, the inspired writings of Ellen G White, and science, and is therefore in support of people being vaccinated. The church, however, leaves that decision to one's conscience.

The third play was enacted passionately by Dion Ming who portrayed the pain that families experience when they lose a loved one and how that experience can challenge one's faith. We certainly thank the Youth department and all who participated in bringing to life real experiences that we all have faced during these difficult times. A special thanks again to Joelle Williams and Dr. John Duncan and the supporting cast for these productions.

This Sabbath evening program of music and drama was followed by great Biblical preaching by Pastor James Doggette Jr. who presented a powerful message entitled Honey on the Ground. This sermon reminded us of how close the Lord is to provide for His people because he is only a prayer away.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On November 29, 2021, the executive committee voted to approve a lay pastoral program that afforded us to install Elder Dwayne Burgess as a volunteer lay pastor in the Rockaway SDA Church of service on January 1, 2022. We believe that Elder Burgess and his wife Kim will be a great asset and blessing to this congregation as they give leadership to the Rockaway congregation and seek to win souls in the Southampton West community.

OFFICER'S TRAINING

Our annual officers' training was conducted virtually this year by Dr. Patrick Vincent, a soul-winning veteran. Dr. Vincent met with local church leaders on Sabbath afternoon and instructed over 200 church members from across the conference on Sunday morning. He reminded us that the church can make no meaningful impact on the community without making meaningful contact with people in the community. He taught that evangelism is a contact sport and that church members must impact the lives of those whom they come in contact with and those within the sphere of their influence. His program was based on the premise that "if we would humble ourselves and be kind and courteous, tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where there is only one" (Testimonies Vol 9, p 189).

His presentation was designed to equip us all to reach souls within our concentric circle of contacts. Each member was encouraged to pray for 7 persons that we want to see in the Kingdom, and to begin building a relationship with them. He reminded us that we have been found to help find others; that we have been told the gospel story so that we can tell others; that we have been won to win others; and that we have been saved to save others. All materials were given to the pastors to implement in their churches.

ANNUAL WORKERS' MEETING

Our annual Workers' Meeting of 60 conference employees was held on the virtual platform beginning with prayer, and a sermon presented by Dr. Gene Donaldson. He shared a powerful message from Mark chapter 2 where four friends let a man down through the roof of a house where Jesus was teaching so that he could be healed. These four friends illustrate what we are called to do as modern-day disciples.

During the breakout period, Dr. Donaldson met with the pastors to share more witnessing methods of soul winning, while the teachers met with Dr. Arlene Callwood, as she facilitated a workshop on team building. The conference administrative secretaries and the ABC staff met with Skills Path facilitator Dr. Wilney Audain, who conducted a workshop on customer service.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE WORD OF GOD

In February, Black History month, I joined my colleagues in the regional conferences in the purchase of Dr. Calvin B Rocks' initiative on Social Justice in the Word of God. Hundreds of these booklets were given to our members across the conference to use during February. I also asked pastors to join me in making four (4) presentations covering the material, which was aired live on ATV, and live streamed through the Hamilton YouTube page. Pastors Steede, Hill, Hendrickson, Hetsberger, and I facilitated this powerful and Biblical study of Social Justice in the Word. The booklet taught four basic areas of study: Social Justice in the Old Testament; Social Justice in the Ministry of Jesus; Social Justice in the Book of Revelation; and A Prophet Among You.

CONFERENCE EVANGELISM

With Covid 19 still plaguing our Island, we decided to have an Island wide virtual Evangelistic Meeting with Dr. Gene Donaldson, who preached on the 28 fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church. The meetings ran for three (3) weeks from March 6 through 26. At the conclusion of the meetings some nine (9), precious souls were baptized into the lord's Remnant church. We thank the churches for their support and look forward to reaping more souls for Christ as we continue to preach the everlasting gospel of hope and wholeness.

CONFERENCE HIRES NEW PASTOR



The Executive Committee accepted our recommendation to hire Dr. Richard Martin as a pastor for the Bermuda Conference. Dr. Martin, an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister in the Alleghany East Conference, will commence pastoral ministry at the Devonshire Church of Love on August 6, 2022. He will provide pastoral care to the Devonshire church and will be assigned a conference department as is our custom. He is married to one of our very own, the former Kylah Allers. On Sabbath June 18, I was able to visit Devonshire church and thank Dr. Simmons for his four years of service at Devonshire.

CONFERENCE HIRES NEW PRINCIPAL



The Executive Committee and School Board accepted our recommendation to appoint Linda Holdipp as principal of Bermuda Institute, beginning in August. Linda is currently the acting principal in one of Bermuda's public schools. She is an alumna of Bermuda Institute and has taught in both elementary and middle school. The Bermuda conference welcomes Linda back to Bermuda Institute in her new role.

THE ROYAL GAZETTE

I received an opportunity to share the Word through the *Royal Gazette*, which published my article on Remembering the Sabbath on Holy Saturday. With Good Friday behind us and Easter Sunday before us, many in the Christian community may overlook the significance of today – Holy Saturday – the day when Jesus rested in his tomb.

It comes right before the resurrection and, as such, is overshadowed by the significance of Easter Sunday. But for Seventh-day Adventist Christians, Holy Saturday is an extremely meaningful part of Holy Week.

Seventh-day Adventists observe the seventh day of the week, Saturday, as the Sabbath. Remembering

the Sabbath day is the fourth of the Ten Commandments and a major foundation of the Adventist denomination. The Sabbath is a 24-hour period, observed from sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday each week. This practice dates back to creation and is also kept by those of the Jewish faith.

Pastor Kenneth Manders, president of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, explains its significance:

“The seventh day is the day that the Lord blessed and sanctified at the end of creation. He completed his work and rested. He then asked us to keep it holy.” Observing the seventh day as the Sabbath is one of the 28 fundamental beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists. It was established in Genesis at the end of “creation week” and reinforced in The Ten Commandments, outlined in Exodus 20.

The Sabbath is a day of rest, reflection, enjoyment and, worship for God’s people. When God rested on the seventh day, He set for us an example. He gave the weekly Sabbath as a day of rest and worship for all of mankind.

“He created the Sabbath for mankind. There is a blessing in it. It’s not a holiday or an excuse not to work. It is a sacred time where we are called to commune with the Lord,” Mr. Manders said. Sabbath keeping is a practice mentioned several times in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testament. However, the majority of Christian denominations have abandoned Sabbath keeping, specifically the reverence of the seventh day of the week. Instead, the day of rest and collective worship is held on Sundays throughout most of the western world.

This change formally came about in 321AD, when the Roman Emperor Constantine I issued a civil decree making Sunday a day of rest from labor across the Roman Empire. Centuries later we continue this tradition, in both religious and secular circles.

“The one commandment that Christendom has tried to forget is the one that the Creator specifically asked us to remember,” Mr. Manders emphasized. “Exodus Chapter 20 and Verse 8 says to ‘remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy’. The world has found its own rationale to justify breaking this commandment, but Adventists are commandment-keeping Christians, and we believe that the fourth commandment is still as relevant and important as

the other nine.”

While the world may observe Sunday as the day of rest, the Bible has been clear and consistent on the seventh day as the Sabbath, he added.

“There are some who will say that Jesus nailed the Sabbath to the cross and done away with the practice. But this is simply not true. Jesus died for our sins. Not to give us license to sin but to absolve us of the penalty of sin through acceptance of him as our Lord and Savior.

“Jesus was in no way doing away with the practice at Calvary, but instead showed us how to keep it.”

In Luke’s account of the crucifixion of Jesus, there is a specific reference to the keeping of the Sabbath. The setting is immediately following the crucifixion, Jesus has just been taken down from the cross and put into a tombstone. Joseph of Arimathea and a small group of unnamed women prepared spices and ointment for Jesus’ body.

However, according to Luke 23:56, they “rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment”. The women returned on the first day of the week to complete their work but found that Jesus was not in the tomb.

“The Lord has been so consistent, in that in creation he finished his work on the sixth day – Friday – and then he rested on the seventh day, Saturday, the Sabbath. Jesus was crucified on a Friday. He finished his earthly work on that Friday, and he rested on the Sabbath again,” Mr. Manders said.

As we continue in our Easter celebrations, may we also reflect on what Jesus did between death and resurrection – he rested.

“We highlight Good Friday because he died and paid the price for sin. We highlight Easter Sunday because he rose from the dead. But let us not overlook that he rested on the Sabbath,” Mr. Manders said.

“From creation to redemption, we see the same example of resting on the Sabbath and keeping it holy.”

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

On June 6, the General Conference held its 61st session in St. Louis MO. The Atlantic Union of the North American Division was given an allotment of 21 delegates for the GC Session. Bermuda was allotted two delegates. Pastor Cyril Millet and I were privileged to represent the Bermuda Conference at the world church meeting.

BERMUDA INSTITUTE

Pastor Millet and I left the GC on the final Friday of the Session to participate in the 12th-grade graduation exercises where Mr. Wayne Edwards participated in his final graduation exercise as our school principal. As Chairman of the school Board, I was able to thank him for his eight years of service as our principal and wished him much success as he embarks upon the next phase of his ministry in Christian service in the United States.

CAMP MEETING 2022

The Camp Meeting experience is one of the highlights of the year for the Bermuda Conference family. It’s a time when the conference family comes together to Pray, Praise, and to hear good Biblical preaching. It’s a time when the Holy Spirit is promised to be poured out on God’s people. Many of our constituents have expressed that this Camp Meeting was their best experience ever. To this we say to God be the glory, great things He has done.

Dr. Lola Moore Johnston was our first speaker for



the evening service which began on Friday night. She addressed our theme “Living by Faith”, with four powerful sermons.

1. "A Healing Faith"- Using the story of the woman healed of hemorrhaging, this introductory message presented a thorough treatment of how faith enables the believer to experience the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. Luke 8:43-48

2. "Lord, Take Wheel" used the story of Mary, the mother of Jesus to demonstrate that true faith is not just the belief that God is able to grant our desires, but that God is trustworthy for us to submit to God’s desires. Luke 1:26-38

3. “Have A Seat” uses the story of Jesus’ visit to the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus to challenge believers to submit to the Lord’s leading as we attempt to do work and ministry from the Kingdom. Luke 10:38-42

4. “Don’t Give Up”, based on Galatians 6:9 encouraged believers to hold on to their faith despite delay and hardship based upon the faithfulness of God.



Our second speaker, Pastor Debleaire Snell, the Speaker Director of Breath of life Ministries, and the Senior Pastor of the Oakwood University Church, carried the services from Monday until our final Sabbath July 2. This gifted preacher preached about having the faith of Jesus, using various stories from

the life of Christ to help us to build our faith in God. He shared that Christ on the cross demonstrates God’s love for us which ought to motivate and revive our faith in Him.

Our early morning Manna speaker was Dr. James Yansen. He addressed our theme “Living by Faith” by using the life and ministry of the prophet Elisha.

He showed us that the call to live by faith is never convenient; but that it must always take priority in our lives. That faith requires a radical commitment to Christ, and that living by faith requires faithfulness in every post of duty, no matter how seemingly insignificant. We learned that living by faith challenges us to seek God’s blessings and favors in our daily lives and inspires us to radically trust in God’s power and His divine providence. He shared that it is God Himself who plants the seed of faith in our hearts; that God initiates, sustains, and matures our faith. As such, we can be faithless and hopeless and still experience grace-filled miracles in our lives. Living by faith affects those who come within the sphere of our influence, that faith bears witness to God’s sovereignty even to unbelievers; that living by faith allows us to live in the shadows of God’s divine protection.



MUSICIANS & SINGERS HONORED

Each year, the Bermuda Conference administration gives recognition to our constituents who have made contributions to various areas of the work. This year, musicians and singers were recognized for using their gifts through the ministry of music, making contributions in their local churches, and conference functions. The honorees presented at Camp Meeting 2022, on June 25: Warren Williams and the Warrenaires, Sherman Swan and The Brothers, Sydney Simmons and The Southampton Mass Choir, Lloyd Matthew and Word, Juliet Pear-



man and Gifted Praise, Luanne Wainwright Dill, Eileen Rodriguez, The Southampton Inspirational Choir, Conrad Roach, Cheryl Kerr, Daniel Hill, The Master’s Touch, Beresford Richardson, Brass Praise Ensemble, Diamonds in the Rough, Douglas Tucker, Raymond George, Corene McNorton and The Hamilton Mass Choir, Victor Walters, Michelle Spencer, Gerald Simons, Edith VanLowe, Gayle Newton-Taylor and Chorale Dynamics, and Gregory Todd.

It needs to be stated, that there are several other musicians and singers that will be recognized and honored God willing, at next year’s annual Camp Meeting experience.

Each year, the Premier, the Hon. David Burt, JP, MP and other ministers of Government bless us with their presence at Camp Meeting. This year, the Governor of Bermuda, Her Excellency Rena Lalgie kept her promise to me and attended our Camp Meeting on July 2, the final day of a very successful and Spirit-filled event. She has Adventist family ties and is very much acquainted with our message. We placed Pastor Snell’s new book: *Unrealistic Faith* in the hands of all our dignitaries.

Each year, at Camp meeting I seek to raise funds in support of the Bermuda Institute. This year we raised \$19,000.00 for a new school van during the Camp Meeting experience. I am happy to report that the Lord has helped us to raise the \$50,000.00

to purchase a new van which will be used to advance the mission at our beloved Bermuda Institute. I wish to thank the constituents of the conference for their sacrificial gifts and our parent organization the Atlantic Union Conference for their generous donation toward this project.

A HISTORIC COMMISSIONING SERVICE

This 35th Annual Camp Meeting was made complete by a sacred commissioning service for Pastor Michelle Hill, Pastor of the Pembroke Seventh-day Adventist church. She has become the first woman in the history of the Bermuda Conference to become commissioned with ministerial credentials. As conference administrators, Pastor Tull and I were glad to officiate this event and to welcome hundreds of supporters who came in person to witness this milestone in Pastor Hill's ministry. We received video greetings from leaders and pastors from the world church and the NAD territory affirming her candidacy.

Dr. James Yansen, our early morning manna speaker, preached a stirring message reminding Pastor Hill that her call comes from God and that she is called to win souls for the Kingdom. As President, I was privileged to read Pastor Hill the Ministerial Oath, Pastor DeJuan Tull shared a charge, Pastor Debleaire Snell prayed the prayer of consecration, and her pastoral colleagues in ministry surrounded her in the laying on of hands praying that the Holy Spirit would use her in a mighty way.

Pastor Hill expressed her appreciation to all who supported her in her journey. These included: Dr. Jeff Brown, Pastor Brenda Billingsy, Elizabeth Talbot, Dr. G. Alex Bryant, Desirae Bryant, Heather Crews, and her very own church elder, Kirk Simmons.



Camp Meeting 2022, ended with our annual conference picnic held at Clearwater Beach. We thank the conference Youth and Sabbath School departments for this event where hundreds of Bermuda conference constituents enjoyed food, fellowship, and fun.

I wish to thank the Lord and all our departmental leaders, our office and pastoral staff, and a host of others that helped to make our Camp Meeting experience a huge success. I must join my voice with the dozens of others who believe that this Camp Meeting was the best. The LORD be Praised!





From the Executive Secretary . . .

2022 Statistical Report...To end of 2nd Qtr.

	Total Start	Baptisms	P.O.F.	Trans In	Adjust	Trans Out	Death	Drop	Missing	Adjust	Total End
DEVONSHIRE	440						3			1	436
HAMILTON	908	6				6	5			1	902
MID. HEIGHTS	359	2					2				359
PEMBROKE	258	1					2				257
REST. MIN.	228	4				1					231
ROCKAWAY	90			2				1		2	89
SOMERSET	372	1		1	1	2	2				371
SOUTHAMPTON	586	2		4		3	5	1			583
ST. DAVID'S	88		2								90
ST. GEORGE'S	284					1	1			1	281
WARWICK	289	1					1	2			287
CMH	35										35
TOTALS	3937	17	2	7	1	13	21	4		5	3921

PASTORAL CALLS

NAME	NEW APPOINTMENT	POSITION
Pastor Ulric Hetsberger	Washington Conference Effective November 1, 2022	Pastor
Pastor Cyril Millett	Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada headquarters	Secretary/VP for Administration



Seventh-day Adventist Church
BERMUDA CONFERENCE

SECRETARIAT OFFICE

September 14, 2022

P.O. Box HM 1170
Hamilton HM EX
Bermuda
Telephone: 441-292-4110
Email: info@bermudaconference.bm

Dear Delegate,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I'm writing to welcome you as a delegate to the 3rd Quadrennial session of the Bermuda Conference which will be held on **Sunday, September 25, 2022, at the Bermuda Institute auditorium**. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Your service to God's church and the Bermuda Conference is greatly appreciated.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is organized and directed by the committee process. Each committee from the local church board to a constituency session should have clearly defined objectives. The objectives for the conference session are:

1. Elect an executive committee, offices and directors for the next quadrennium;
2. Consider proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws;
3. Receive reports;
4. Convene a meeting of the Association to receive reports and consider changes to the bylaws.

To facilitate your role as a delegate, please see this link which will direct you to the online session book. Here you will find the agenda, proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws, reports from the various officers and directors, and all other supporting documents and material to inform and empower your work.

www.bermudaadventist.org/doc
Password if needed - 1844sda2022

If you are unable to serve, please inform your pastor as soon as possible so that an alternate may be selected.

Thank you once again for your dedication to the Lord and to His church.

Sincerely yours,

W. DeJaun Tull
Executive Secretary



The following information is on the Conference website:

- Past Streams of Light articles (December 2018-July 2022)
- 2018 Constitution and Bylaws
- Proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws
- Strategic documentation
- Bermuda Conference 2022 Employee Manual
- 2022 Conference Calendar
- Video information about how constituency meetings work within the Seventh-day Adventist church https://player.vimeo.com/video/278024033?app_id=122963&wmode=opaque
- Video information on how our Church Structure works https://player.vimeo.com/video/277481706?app_id=122963&wmode=opaque
- Other updated information

We invite you to visit and enter the information below:

URL 1: bermudaadventist.org/doc

or

URL 2: doc.bermudaadventist.org

Password: **1844sda2022**

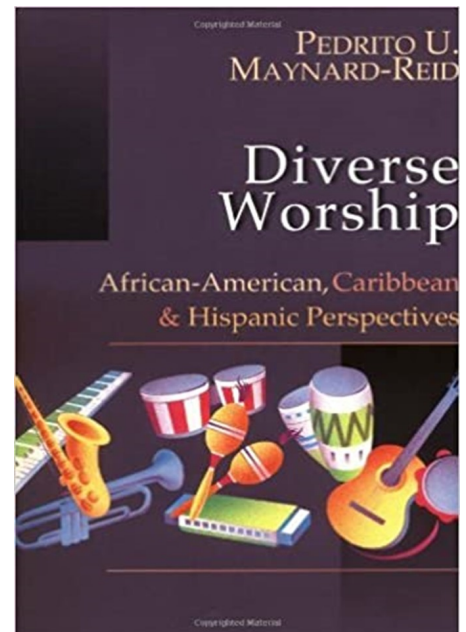
INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES/HUMAN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

By Loida Ratteray

Coming off of the heels of a very successful and intentional Quadrennial (2014-2017) focus on Intercultural Ministries, 2018 and on was scheduled to be a time for minimal education and more implementation for the churches. However, do to Covid-19 much of the planned social activity between church and community cancelled. 2018 and 2019 saw little movements of intentional inclusiveness within some of our local churches.

As we seek to fulfill the Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist church as Proclaimed in Revelation 14, the Southampton Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bermuda partnered with the Intercultural Ministries department in facilitating Seminars on Diversity and worship. This objective was to bring appreciation and celebrate all people groups and an understanding of worship styles in the SDA Church in Bermuda. The Seminars presented by Dr. Pedrito Maynard-Reid who at the time was Assistant to the President of Walla Walla University for Diversity. Since he has also served as Professor of Biblical Studies and Missiology in the School of Theology since 1990 he was able to speak to the issues that plague any society that may have challenges because of Nationality, Race, Culture and of course Worship.

With a desire to proclaim to and unify every nation, tribe, tongue, and people in the Bermuda Conference the presentations were seen as successfully informative. Anyone seeking to have a multi-cultural environment felt encouraged as you left being conscious of the cultural conditioning in our own worship traditions and now desiring to learn from and appreciate the richness in the worship traditions of others.” As we grow closer to Jesus through the revelation of the truth revealed in the Scriptures may Christ Prayer for unity recorded in John 17:21 “that we all may be one”, be fulfilled within this intercultural church here within the Bermuda Conference.



THE ASSOCIATION OF FILIPINOS IS RECOGNIZED BY THE INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES OF BERMUDA CONFERENCE

Bermuda is a diverse community composed of not only natives, but other islanders, Portuguese, other Europeans, North Americans, South Americans, and Asians. The community has a small section of Filipinos who come to work on the island in various roles. Many expatriate Filipinos workers hold blue collar jobs who help keep the island running. Despite the recent Covid-19 economic conditions, many are still here and have made Bermuda their home. Some are married to Bermudians and are now naturalized citizens.

The Association of Filipinos in Bermuda was formed by five members: Narita Longno (president), Rowena Comber, Melba Diaz, Sonia Loudermilk, and Ghenie Edwards in 1995, to help promote and foster unity among Filipinos residing and working in Bermuda. It aims to encourage and develop the skills and talents of its members through continuous social, cultural, athletic, and educational programmes. It also assists distressed Filipinos in Bermuda.

Recently, The Association started to raise funds for a couple who were working on the island and became casualties of a gas installation accident. With the help of the community, the Association

was successful in amassing funds to pay hospital expenses, in addition to assisting with the funeral expenses. As a result, the bodies were extradited back to the Philippines.

On Sabbath, May 28, 2022, Pastor DeJaun Tull, director of the Intercultural Ministries Department of the Bermuda Conference along with Pastor Kenneth Manders and Associate Human Relations/Intercultural Directors Ernestine DeGraff and Loida Ratteray recognized the efforts the Association contributes to the community. They were awarded a plaque and received a donation towards their fundraiser. After the church service highlighting Filipinos in Bermuda, a lunch was hosted which provided an opportunity to meet members of the association and to foster relationships.

Pastor Tull's message that day focused on Matthew 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (NIV). Our call is to share the gospel with all members of our community regardless of their race until Jesus comes. May God continue to bless this ministry and future events.





Pictured from Left to Right: Rowena Comber, Melba Diaz, Sonia Loudermilk, Pastor DeJaun Tull, Narita Longno, Ernestine DeGraff, Ghenie Edwards, Dr. Kenneth Manders, Jefferson Halili, Isis Wellman, Loida Ratteray



From the Treasurer . . .



“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history” EGW Life Sketches, p. 196

*God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.
The Lord of hosts is with us...Ps. 46:1 & 7*

TREASURER’S UPDATE

Bermuda Conference continues to be very blessed. God has shown He is in charge and curses have become blessings – all things do work together for our good....

We will discuss briefly where the Conference stands financially to July 2022.

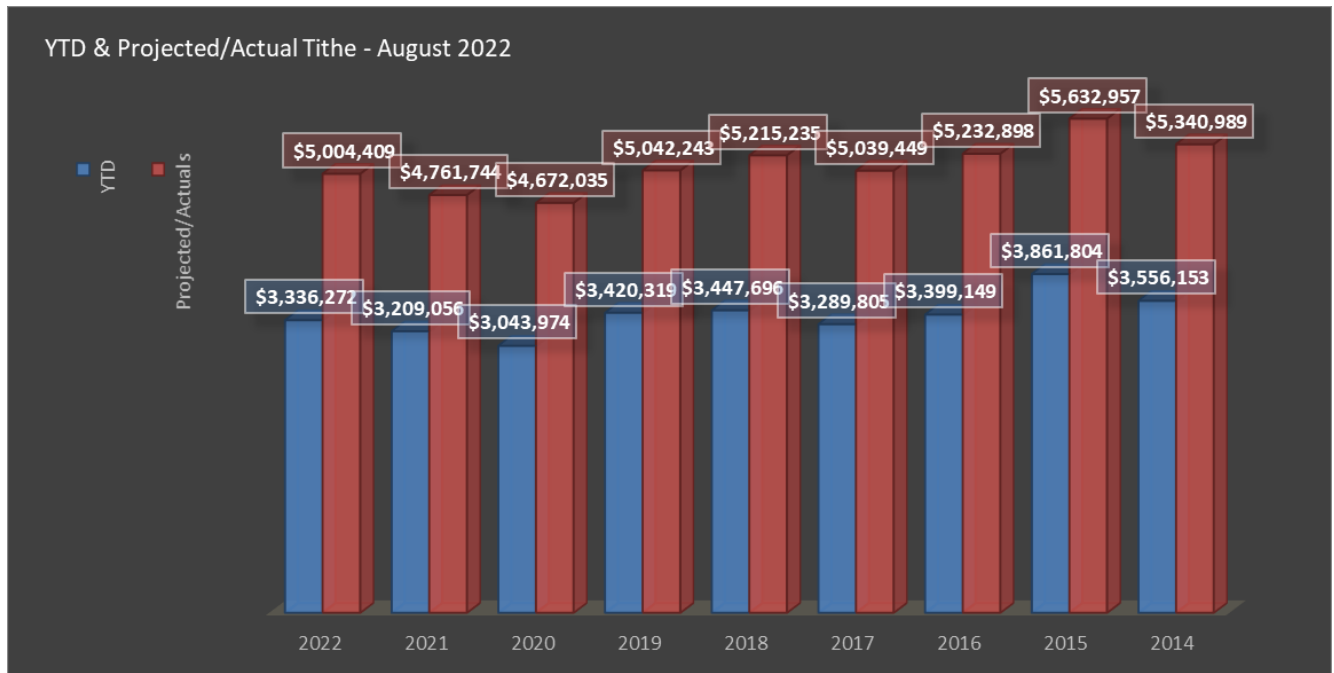
The assistant treasurer remains vacant.

The objectives of the Treasury are:

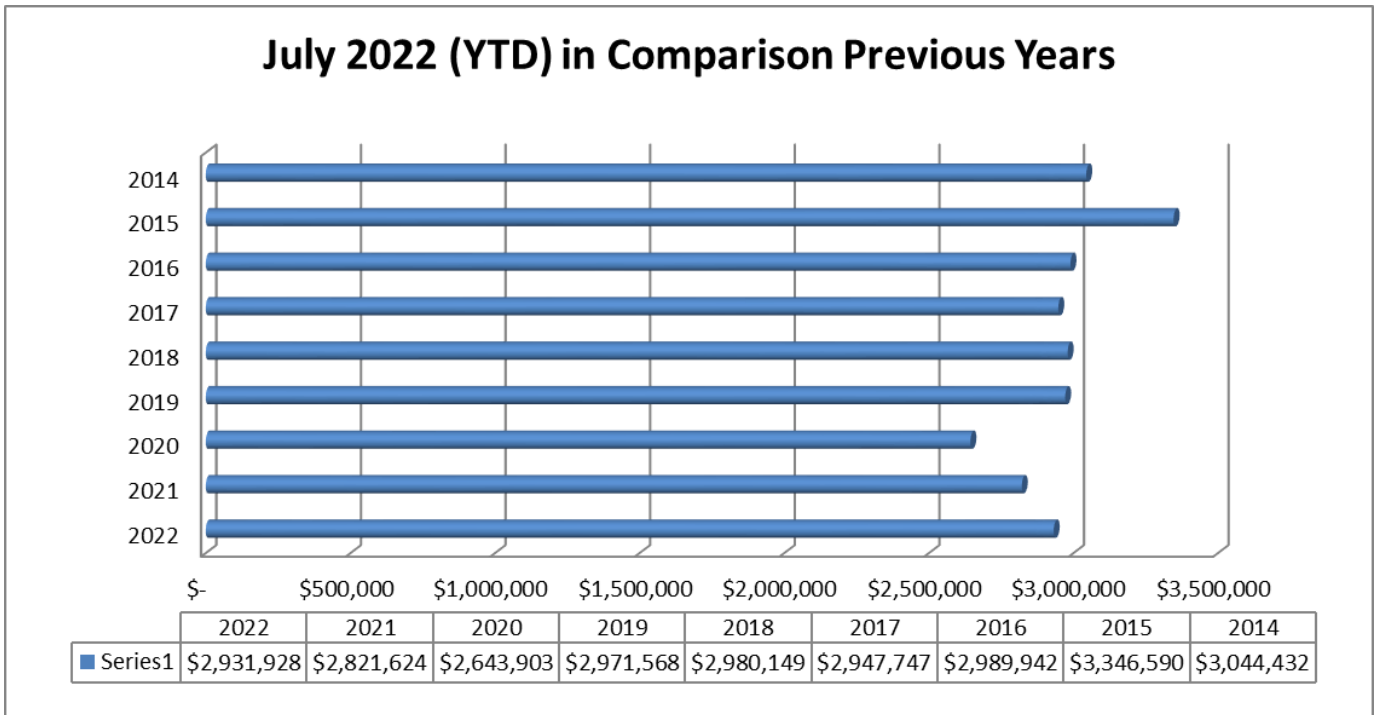
- Open, clear and timely communication to stakeholders (local committees, members, & Union.);
- Ensure that the assets of the Conference are effectively managed and identify opportunities to be more efficient ensuring value for dollars spent;
- Identify risk and implement mitigating strategies to reduce/manage risk;
- Provide timely and accurate financial reporting to key stakeholders;
- Work with the stewardship directors to improve faithfulness.

On the following pages are a few charts summarizing where the Conference and churches are from a tithe perspective. The first chart shows year-to-date (YTD) tithe, comparative number for previous years at July, and projected tithe for 2022 with comparative tithe for previous years..

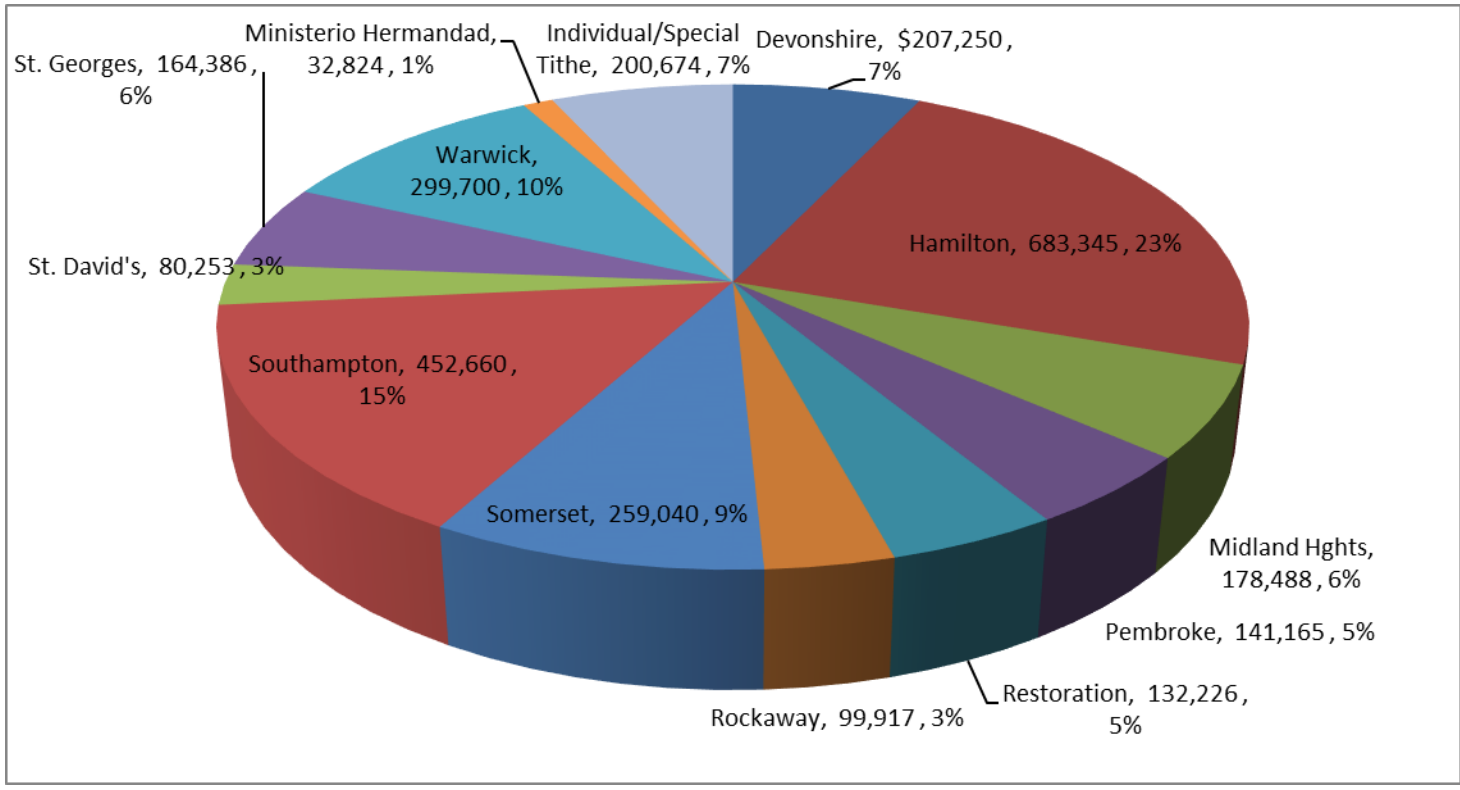
This report shows that tithe has decreased excluding peak in 2015 and valleys (2020 and 2021) caused by the pandemic, by approximately \$300k over the 9 years.



The chart below shows the trending of tithe for last 9 years – 2014 to 2022. The overall trend is consistent with trend in the chart above, tithe is generally decreasing over the years. This trend exists even after excluding the years, 2020 and 2021, which were hardest hit by the COVID pandemic.

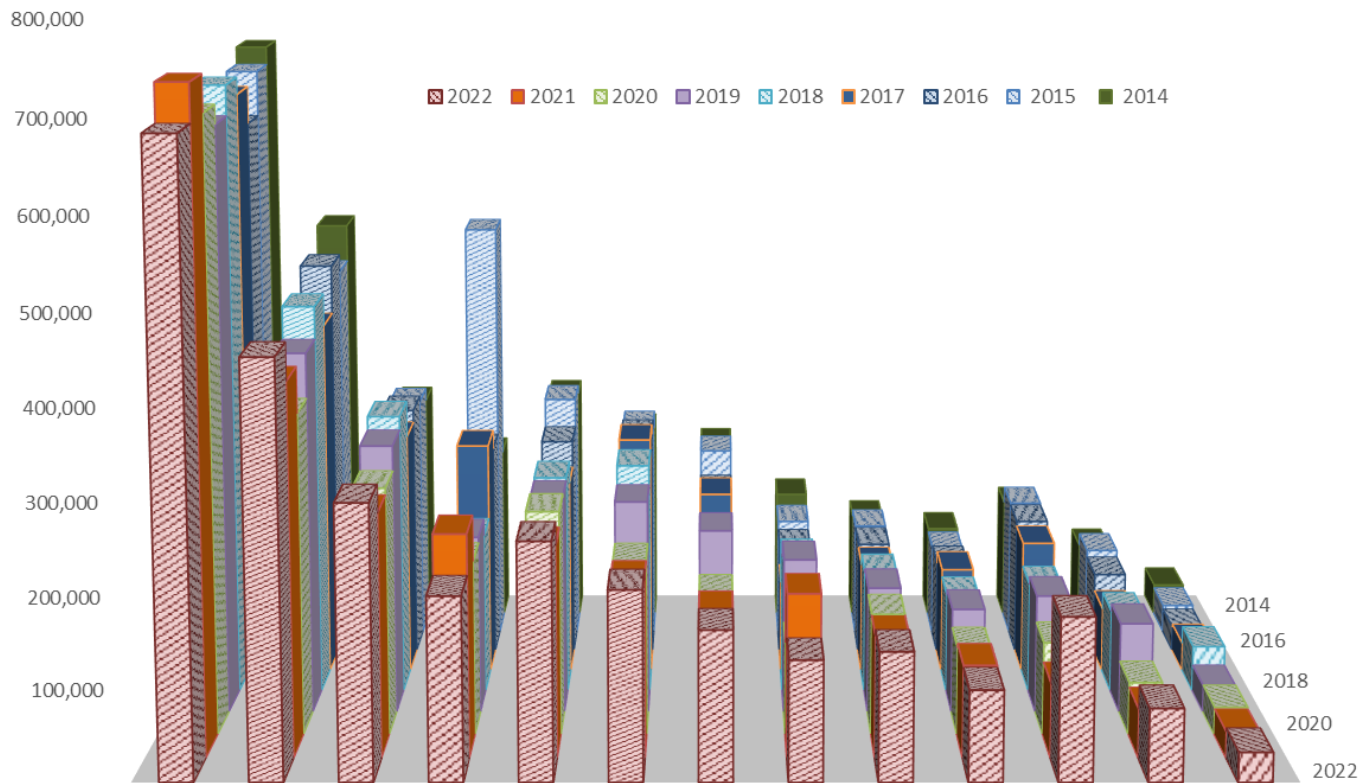


The two charts below show each churches tithe. The first shows the percentage contributed by each based on year-to-date tithe. Hamilton contributes 23%, Southampton 15%, Warwick 10% etc.



The chart below shows the tithe contributions by church over 9 years.

Y-T-D TITHE COMPARISON - JULY 2022 - 2014 (BY CHURCH)



	Hamilton	Southampton	Warwick	Individual/ Special Tithe	Somerset	Devonshire	St. Georges	Restoration	Pembroke	Rockaway	Midland Hghts	St. David's	Ministerio Hermanda d
2022	683,345	452,660	299,700	200,674	259,040	207,250	164,386	132,226	141,165	99,917	178,488	80,253	32,824
2021	726,782	410,221	268,617	245,885	232,777	195,225	161,239	180,854	134,371	102,237	81,532	53,236	28,647
2020	684,534	358,139	276,211	194,488	250,118	193,840	157,959	103,380	135,292	97,417	103,504	58,470	30,551
2019	662,115	408,869	304,366	200,695	245,756	241,110	208,185	174,919	142,542	118,181	133,578	101,605	29,645
2018	696,793	446,384	320,039	181,464	249,305	263,137	147,889	156,668	138,642	111,547	124,240	92,531	51,510
2017	677,107	408,912	278,157	267,763	223,563	274,869	210,296	105,028	125,820	120,320	151,828	72,765	31,321
2016	633,527	465,345	292,250	245,758	254,596	262,957	194,673	127,178	129,589	106,181	157,745	92,659	27,483
2015	686,337	444,710	285,091	495,839	288,509	256,289	224,884	137,247	131,292	103,312	160,065	101,022	31,993
2014	707,501	488,065	269,720	204,390	278,319	235,419	216,543	151,294	123,104	107,639	140,590	86,250	35,598

FINANCIAL POSITION

Whilst there have been numerous challenges in the last 30 months with income (tithes and offerings), COVID-19 has also resulted in less spending; therefore, the overall financial position is somewhat stronger than before the pandemic. There are improvements in current, liquidity and working capital ratios. In the audited financial for 2021 the Conference was substantially at all NAD targets for liquidity and working capital.

GCAS AUDIT

The General Conference Audit Services (GCAS) completed the 2020 and 2021 audits since the last reporting. The opinions given were unqualified (clean). There were no audit adjustments but as always there are areas to be improved.

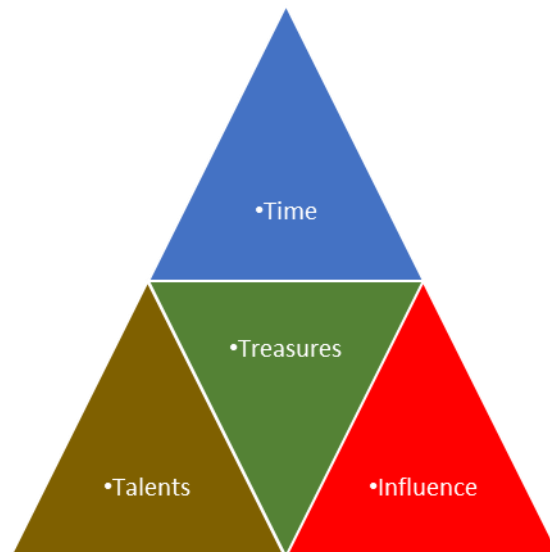
TRUSTEE

All properties are rented except Sousa Estate and Duplex West. The properties are being prepared for rental.

Approval was received for the retaining wall at Sousa Estate and it is substantially completed. Additional approval is required for the wall that runs along the road. The adjusted plans are with planning and approval is expected shortly.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

We are stewards – holding assets for God! Let us use what He has given us for His glory!



'I entreat of you to send your treasure before you into heaven by using the Lord's goods to advance His cause in the earth.... Settle your accounts with high heaven.' HP 305.6

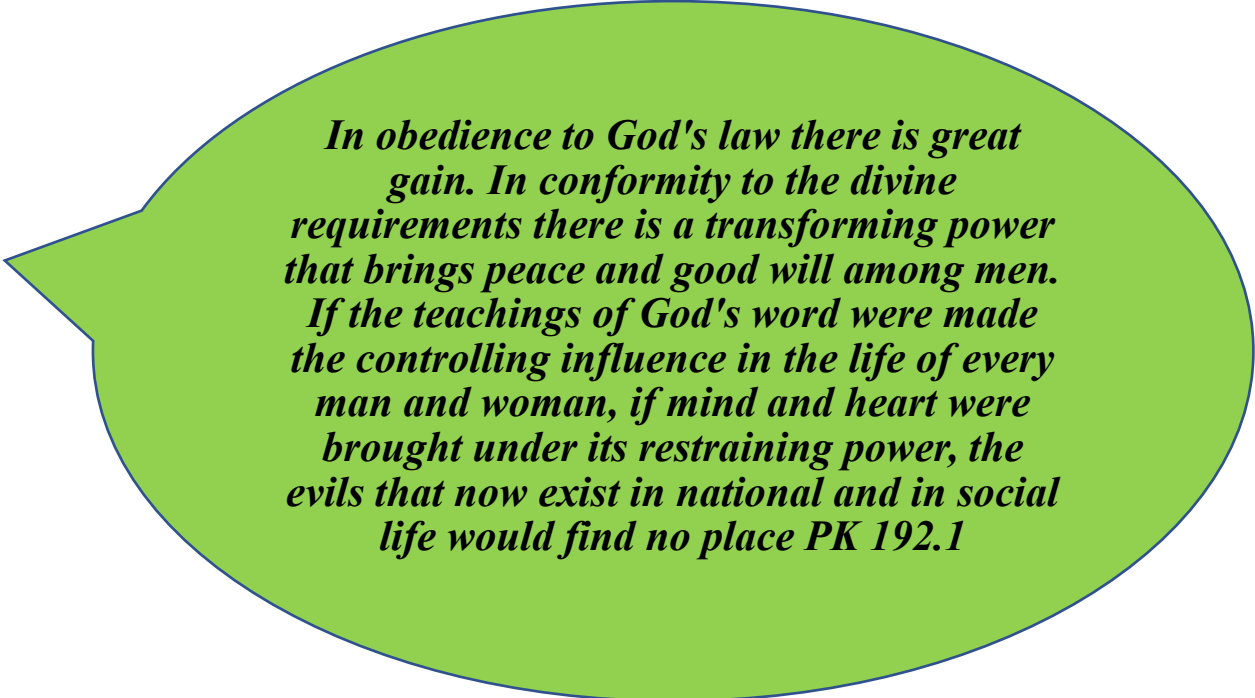
THANK YOU

Thank you must be extended to the church treasurers and their teams for the tremendous efforts in ensuring the effective management of church finances.

I appreciate the support given by Conference workers, particularly Roslyn Amory and Sherma Webbe Clarke whom I have worked closely with for a number of years. I appreciate your willingness to help make the Conference work, generally and the treasury specifically, rewarding and able to the objectives of its existence.

To my fellow administrators, Pastors Manders and Tull, it has been my pleasure to work with you for the past eight years. God has been in charge and I praise Him for anything positive that has been achieved.

Thank you Bermuda Conference and I pray God's continued blessings for our Conference.



In obedience to God's law there is great gain. In conformity to the divine requirements there is a transforming power that brings peace and good will among men. If the teachings of God's word were made the controlling influence in the life of every man and woman, if mind and heart were brought under its restraining power, the evils that now exist in national and in social life would find no place PK 192.1

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