T he very mention of the word “change” brings panic to many persons. As a general rule, people do not like the idea of change and try to avoid it entirely. Such persons are fearful of the consequences of change, and therefore express a preference for the status quo. Their denial of change creates for them an illusion of happiness, not realizing that to deny change is to disengage from a path to the future. Someone facetiously remarked that the dinosaurs became extinct because they refused to change. Within corporate and religious environments we hear of churches and corporations that have disappeared. What is descriptive of churches and corporations is also true for the individuals. They too experience and respond to change in very personal ways. Some may have to work differently with new processes and marketplaces ideas that in some places went out of business.

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THE KEY TO TRANSITIONAL LEADERSHIP

The late Dr. William Sloane Coffin, former chaplain of Yale University, cautioned that we must be prepared to recover the ideals of tradition as well as recover from the dread of it. From this mindscape: What are the gaps in our leadership criteria and how can we develop a mechanism to reduce them? Research on adaptive change suggests that institutions can experience breakthrough, by confronting their problems and by facing the truth about themselves through a self-aware process of addressing underlying realities that hinder growth. Given that complex and rapid changes are part of institutional life, I think that transitional leadership could mediate between what is and what should be. Traditional leadership thinking, however, (observed in the Caribbean and abroad) is indexed with the paradox of a divinely ordained perspective. This means that more than “the will of God” decides the next crop of leaders. That divine will is expressed in a “nominating committee” tasked to make essential decisions. These decisions teach a graphic lesson steeped in typical sentiments. They are often shaped by how loyal potential leaders are to the Church’s mission (not necessarily how competent or resourceful); how much time they have given to service (not necessarily how effective or innovative that service has been); and whether they are in “good and regular standing” (not necessarily what added value they bring to the overall development of the Church).

Further, potential leaders are bedeviled by how much they get along with those in higher authority. In the theatre of the sacred, this is measured by outward display of virtue, guarded discretion and indebtedness to experienced leaders. Unfortunately, such leadership criteria have not always been effective. But the cost of this narrow morality exceeds the benefits of nurturing and evaluating potential leaders in sync with the Church’s strategic needs. In order to succeed, experienced leaders must align organizational processes and structures with a mission-driven, customer-focused culture, where participatory approaches are affirmed. We cannot expect that potential leaders will thrive without determined efforts of mentorship. This means that scouting for talent should match diverse constituencies’ desires with the Church’s mission to break new ground and to broaden relationships and vision. Objective criteria must be established to fulfill transcendent goals and measurable objectives. Yet this must emerge from a philosophical rationality that underscores the ultimate purposes and principles of Church leadership. Experienced leaders must begin to identify potential leaders and generously share their experience with them. They should help them navigate dangerous currents, seize opportunities for Church growth and respond to new internal challenges and emerging external trends. Initiating innovative programs at the Church, school and higher educational levels that encourage creative mentorship can’t be neglected. But these efforts should be guided by a compelling understanding of where the Church ought to be. I detect that forward thinking leaders are not afraid to storm the gates of hell for a heavenly cause. Yet, despite this realization, not enough commitment and resources are directed to questioning old ideas and fostering an ethos that achieves the goal of transitional leadership. Given our enlightened awareness, Church members are becoming increasingly skeptical of obvious inefficiencies. They are openly (through social networks and during religious meetings) raising critical concerns that challenge “the Lord’s anointed.” Harry S. Truman indicates that “progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.” In this sense, pagan wisdom may transfer greater good than repres- sive righteousness. Perhaps we are at a point of embracing transitional leadership as a kind of soul work, which balances talent and clarity of purpose with an effective process. Dr. Isaac Newton is an International Leadership and Change Management Consultant and Political Advisor. He specializes in Government and Business Relations and Sustainable Development Projects. Dr. Newton works extensively in West Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. He attended the University of Southern Caribbean and is also a graduate of Oakwood University, Harvard, Princeton and Columbia. He has published several books on personal development and written many articles on economics, education, leadership, political, social, and faith-based issues. Dr. Newton is an ordained minister and has worked as an independent consultant for the Education Department of the General Conference of SDA. As a life coach, global leader, inspirational speaker and practitioner, Dr. Newton has preached on every continent save Australia. He is the president of Paramount Communications Inc. (www.paramount-communications.com)

THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF TRANSITIONAL LEADERSHIP

In large measure, traditional leadership practices are robbing the Church of the mind, body and soul health. Too many of us continue to ignore principles that govern a temperate lifestyle. These contradictions have translated into leadership dilemmas that haunt our local Churches and regional conferences. Perhaps transitional leadership could form the framework for improved organizational results that could just as well become a sustainable nexus of healthy leader, Church and community. The Carnegie Commission on preventing deadly conflict validated that leadership significantly influences health outcomes. The issue though is that very few Church leaders have systematically examined this relationship or understood the implication of the absence of strong, competent leaders endorsed by transitional leadership. Inevitably, leadership is a key variable in the promotion of health and the prevention of disease.

For example, research shows that the relationship of experienced leaders with potential leaders enlightens the soul and fosters positively and relatively healthier lifestyles. Stressors are eliminated or nonessential as information and resources are exchanged and incompetency no longer perpetuates sickness and disease. Assuming that the interpersonal relationships spawned from transitional leadership are healthy, one could imagine several benefits. First, it could help to redefine health and healthcare to a more holistic interplay that focuses on mind, body and soul. Second, both the process and point of leadership transition presents ideal opportunities for constructive change that strengthened effective relationships. Third, the psychological benefits of solid transitional leadership outweigh the imbalance of a handicapped leader. There is strong evidence of the causal link between poor leadership and psychological stress. Where there is lack of competency and a succession plan, the effects of non-transitional leadership could lead to emotional pressure and depression. But effective coaching evidenced in transitional leadership results in being mind and trusting relationships. Fourth, transitional leadership decreases risk for stress-related chronic conditions triggered by repeated activation of the stress response system in the body. These include: high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, stroke and heart conditions. Another spell off from this is the likelihood of other members being burdened with the leader’s responsibili- ties to the point that they are unable to support temperate work-Church-family life balance in their own lives. While the transitional leadership process supports positive healthy lifestyle, the dependent variable remains the leaders and their leadership styles. This could lead to a paradox where there is a right process but a wrong person. For example, an experienced leader, who is not equipped with the competencies to transition potential leaders, could end up doing the Church more harm than good. Such leaders are less likely to adapt to changes. Ultimately, transitional leadership practices should spring from a well-rounded, confident Christian disposition. This means that experienced leaders should not merely focus on facilitat- ing change. They must also be able to recognize incompetency, identify future talent, and create the environment to develop strong, competent leaders. Because Christ articulates that we should prosper and be in good health, every Church leader should authenti- cally create the synergy to demonstrate principles of holistic living. There is no justifiable reason why our Church leaders can’t be nurtured with the necessary skills evidenced by a sound mind. Add to this emotional well-being and physical wellness.

Dr. Cheryl Samuel is a Healthcare Consultant specializing in Health Care Management, Quality Assurance, Disaster Preparedness and Clinical Research. Dr. Samuel works extensively in the Caribbean and United States on several major Health Initiatives such as the Mission of Hope. She received her Doctorate in Health Care Administration from Central Michigan University. She served as an Associate professor of Central Michigan University. As a registered nurse, she had written many articles on the principles of health, social and emotional issues. Through integrated project delivery and strategic planning, she has helped diverse organizations promote health, integrate their mission with quality care and design innovative change management strategies.

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EFFICIENT COMMUNICATIONS IN TIMES OF TRANSITION

Was Montaigne correct when he pointed out that “most of the grounds of the world’s troubles are matters of grammar”? While times of transition can be exciting and energizing, they often prove difficult both for the leader and the followers. Beware: The costly turnover of membership and low morale are often due to poor communications.

Yes, effective communications by itself cannot solve all “leadership transition” problems. Other crucial factors include management styles, ministry trends and integration goals. But for successful transitions to be realized, trustworthy communications that lead to clear decision-making processes must be given priority.

The context of a new leader having to navigate a new environment as well as a new position means that all eyes are on you. Some eyes will be wishing for your success and others will be praying for your failure. Although you might be tempted to make a sudden impact, be mindful that church members may desire to take things slowly.

Articulating clear expectations is essential. Don’t be guilty of focusing on your personal needs at the expense of responding to possible anxieties embedded in the transition process. You should also realize that there are different communication styles (driver, analytic, relater, amiable and expressive). Take the time to research your style’s strengths and weaknesses, and the impact it will have on your audience.

Knowing how to use the power of persuasion is something that you will need to master. This involves framing the right messages for the congregation, getting the members’ buy-in, and being alert to both said and unsaid expressions. The value of fostering great interpersonal skills will convert to your improved capacity to manage inevitable differences.

As helpful as technology and social networks are, don’t let them replace focus groups and individual conversations. Together these can contribute to information exchanges with far-reaching effects on sustaining productivity and safeguarding morale. If you concentrate on regular open two-way communications in a variety of forms, you will reduce feelings of isolation and powerlessness.

But, beyond the personal and interpersonal dimensions of communications, you need to do a church “Communications Audit.” This is foundational to designing a strategic pathway. It will provide answers to the following questions: Can your church communicate more effectively? Are you getting the most value for your communications dollars? Are current communications efforts meeting the real wants and needs of your audience? Are there communications gaps you need to bridge?

What can you do differently? Are your communications being received, understood, and acted upon by the audiences that receives them in the ways you intended for them to be gotten? Could it be that you are not looking at the overall communications practices to see how everything fits together? This audit is necessary to meet the needs of your diverse constituency and to tailor specific communications vehicles such as the newsletter, website etc. to meet those needs.

As you communicate in the language of the people, and you take care to consciously and unconsciously, directly and indirectly pay attention to their feelings, needs, wants and desires, you may discover that “communication is depositing a part of yourself in another person.” Anonymous. You can do it.

Neal C. Wilson, who served as president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church from 1979 to 1990 and the father of the denomination’s current president, died today (14th, December, 2010) at a care facility in Dayton, Maryland, United States. He was 90.

As president, Wilson furthered the church’s mission in the former Soviet Union two years before the fall of communism there, helping obtain permission to establish an Adventist seminary and administrative headquarters near Moscow in 1987. He also oversaw the 1980 adoption of the church’s Fundamental Beliefs, the creation of Adventist World Radio, and oversaw the relocation of the denomination’s world headquarters from Takoma Park, Maryland to its current location in Silver Spring.

During his tenure, Wilson visited 170 countries where the church operated institutions of healthcare, education, evangelism and publishing. He was known to remember thousands of people, even after brief meetings.

“I regard him as one of the outstanding leaders in the history of this church...”

After retirement in 1990, Wilson served as an adviser to the denomination’s Euro-Asia Division. The U.S. Department of State would periodically call him regarding situations in the Middle East based on his understanding of the region from a 15-year post in Egypt, Johnson said.

“He could have been a statesman or a diplomat but he chose to give his talents to his church and we were all blessed by that,” Johnson said.

Neal Clayton Wilson was born in Lodi, California in 1920, the son of a missionary and church administrator. Wilson attended schools in Zambia, Malawi, South Africa and India before earning a bachelor’s degree from the church-owned Pacific Union College in Anger, California in 1944. In 1944, he earned a degree from the Adventist Theological Seminary, then located in Takoma Park, Maryland.

Wilson served the church in Egypt from 1944 to 1958, first as a pastor and evangelist and later as the regional administrative president. He then worked as an administrator in California and Maryland before his appointment as president of the church’s North American Division in 1966. He served in the post until his appointment as president of the denomination’s current president, Ted N.C. Wilson, was elected president of the Adventist world church in June.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Adventist Heritage Ministry, Adventist World Radio or Christian Record Services for the Blind.

Mr. Chelston Lee is a Public Relations and Communications Consultant and Media Relations Advisor. He specializes in strategic messaging, managing public opinion, crisis and image management, speech writing, and reputation repair in both corporate and political settings. Mr. Lee has a Masters Degree from the University of North London and has worked as a reporter for the BBC in London, PR consultant to the World Bank in Washington DC and manager of several radio and television newsrooms across the region. He is a member of the US National Association of Journalists, the Public Relations Society of New York and the Association of Caribbean Media Workers.

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Miracles Still Happen
by Joelle McNulty

What if you broke your neck three times?

That's exactly what happened to Rajandra Rampersad. He was a patient who came to the Community Hospital in January of 2009. He had broken his neck for the third time. The doctors at San Fernando General Hospital said he was "done" and would be paralyzed forever. His family wouldn't come visit and he was in custody as a bystander to a crime that he didn't commit.

Dr. Richard Spamm performed surgery on his neck, and what followed was nothing short of a miracle. As he had plenty of time to think and reflect upon his life, Rajandra began pondering spiritual matters. During this time, he learned many precious Bible promises. He read Ephesians 2:8 which says that we are saved by faith. He asked God to restore his health. He claimed Revelation 2:10 which calls upon believers to endure no matter what the trial is, and to be faithful unto death. He claimed Joshua 1:5-8 which challenges believers to be strong. He says, "These promises kept me strong." "In due season," as the Bible says, Rajandra began regaining strength in his limbs. After his stay at The Community Hospital, he attended a series of church meetings near his home and by the time this crusade came to a close, he was able to walk without his cane.

Rajandra is rejoicing in the Lord today. Not only has the Lord loosed his prison bonds, but He has made him whole physically, even when secular doctors said nothing more could be done and he would be paralyzed forever. God has also given him a lovely wife, Lorencia, whom he met while he was hospitalized at Community Hospital.

Rajandra says, “God is GREAT! He is a miracle-working God! God is listening, waiting to give you what He sees fit.”
Sitting in at the third quadrennial session of the St. Lucia Mission of SDA, under the theme “Modeling His Excellence,” I could not help but remark to myself that the church in my homeland had come of age. I was impressed by the organization, the caliber of the reports and the innovation and creativity of the directors as they detailed the execution of their duties during the period under review. Coming in the midst of relief work in the wake of the devastation of Hurricane Tomas, and with the threat of rain and more flooding in the La Bajee area where the meetings were being held, some members and directors whom I questioned echoed my sentiments as to the prudence of going ahead with the session. But the Lord came through that weekend as He did during the last four years, evidenced by a total of 3,624 persons baptized and a membership which now stands at 20,097.

That maturity stood out in my mind as I observed the way delegates conducted themselves during the business sessions. They were analytical, unafraid to voice their opinions and recommendations but very respectful. They showed a keen interest in the reports and actively participated in the discussions as well as during the sitting of the organizing and nominating committees.

The guest speaker, Dr. David Williams, under the ministration of the Spirit, created a very spiritual atmosphere as he challenged us to minister as Jesus did, mingling with people, relating to their needs, winning their confidence and thus creating a platform to say “follow me”. The officers elected to serve during the next quadrennium are as follows:

PERSONAL MINISTRIES & MINISTERIAL
Pastor Cauley Alfred
HEALTH, COMMUNICATION & MUSIC
Pastor Figuhr Fabien
FAMILY LIFE AND SABBATH SCHOOL
Pastor Dolston Morian
EDUCATION AND ADRA
Brother Donovan Rene
YOUTH, CHAPLAINCY & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
Pastor Roger Stephen
WOMEN’S MINISTRIES
Sis. Carmen Charles
CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES
Sis. Cavelle Regis

We pray God’s abundant blessings on the team as they press on during the new term of office.

As we entered the city of Castries on November 24, 2010, we could hardly tell that a dangerous hurricane had passed through the 238 square mile island of 160,000 inhabitants. However, as we (Ps. Figuhr Fabien, ADRA Director for the Mission, Bro. Irvin Adonis, regional director for Habitat for Humanity and I), made our way out of the city heading to the east coast, I could not help but notice the mud very evident on vehicles heading into Castries, testimony to the silt deposited by the overflowed river (especially in the La Bajee area). The authorities had done an excellent job in clearing the streets of the volume of silt that had accumulated as a result of severe flooding. Much of this silt was still evident around the homes which lined the river and across the street. Folks were still doing clean-up work on Nov. 24, three weeks after the disaster.

Downed banana trees, eroded river banks, hundreds of landslides, and collapsed roads bore mute testimony of the devastating effects of the floods as we wound our way from Castries to the southernmost tip of the island Vieux Fort, temporarily stopping off in Dennery which had been flooded two weeks before, when the Trou Madame river burst its banks after unprecedented rains in the forest. The village of approximately 8,000 persons was again flooded when Tomas came by forcing villagers to flush out their homes and to hang out household items to dry for the second time in less than a month.

The land-slides in the Barre de l’Ile area, the flooding in La Bajee, the 30 foot damage to the main road in Morne Repos however, was nothing compared to the destruction we witnessed in Fond St. Jacques and along the western part of the island. The hills literally came down in the area usually referred to as the bread basket of the island. Two-storied houses became single-storied, plantations were covered and homes were swept away by the raging waters which changed its course and inundated the entire village. Brother Fostin, the elder of the Fond St. Jacques Church, remarked that he kept praying ‘Lord you have to protect your people’ as the water circulated around his home in the early hours of Sunday morning, October 31. Many individuals will have to be relocated as the area has been declared uninhabitable. Reports are that seven people died in the Fond St. Jacques area and three or four persons are still missing in the Soufriere area.

The north-eastern part of the island was not spared either. The following day we visited the Grenade area where a section of the road was completely displaced by a landslide destroying seven houses in the process, leaving the house of Sis. Fedora Charles, the Business Manager of the St. Lucia SDA Academy, precariously perched with several of its pillars dangling in mid air.

Several of our fields responded to the calls for help from St. Lucia. St. Vincent and the Grenadines Region, East Caribbean Conference, the Grenada Conference, the North Caribbean Conference, the South Caribbean Conference came through with relief supplies, water, mattresses and cash. The Guyana Conference and the Surname Mission have promised a supply of lumber and building materials to assist in the reconstruction phase. The Maritnine Conference responded with a shipment of relief supplies, water and clothing. ADRA, the Community Services Department, the staff at the Mission office and the pastors on the island must be commended for the rapid response to the effects of the disaster, purchasing and distributing food and relief supplies, and assiduously in the clean-up process. This was facilitated by the ADRA offices of IAD and International who promptly approved the activation of our National Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan.

Theodore Jaria
Communication, CUC
PASTOR ORIEL FLEMING RETIRES

I t was a carefully selected moment among administrators, workers and retirees of the North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, an official announcement was made, that Pastor Oriel Fleming was retiring as of December 31, 2009.

This announcement was followed by moments of reflection by Pastor Silton Browne, President, Pastor Desmond James, Secretary, and Pastor Charles Heskey Ministerial Secretary, and many of his colleagues who had benefitted from his ministry.


He held that position until October 31, 1982, when he accepted the call to the Caribbean Union as Youth Director. The next fifteen years at the Union as Youth Director, and Church Ministries Director, endeared him to the hearts and lives of the people of the Caribbean and especially the youth of the Church. His mastery of the work with pathfinders has made the name Pastor Fleming synonymous with the word pathfinderng.

After these impressive years as youth director, he once more joined the workforce of the North Caribbean Conference as a district pastor on the island of St. Croix on January 1, 1996. He has served several districts with distinction, as Pastor, Evangelist, Advisor and Counsellor, until his retirement December 2005. We give God praise for his unselfish, dedicated years of service.

Pastor Earl Daniel
Communication Director, NCC

HONORING BROTHER CHARLEY MACK

Brother Charley Mack was honoured on Sabbath, November 20, 2010, at the Peter’s Rest Seventh-day Adventist Church, during an Investiture Service for Master Guides in Training. The service was conducted by Pastor Danny Philips, the Youth Director of the North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Also present were Pastors Silton Browne, President of the Conference, and Oriel Fleming, (one of our retired ministers) who also gave commendations.

Brother Charley Mack came through the ranks of Friend, Companion, Comrade and Master Comrade. In the 1940’s Master Comrade was equivalent to what is now known as Master Guide. Brother Mack, as he is affectionately called, was among the first group of individuals trained as Pathfinder leaders in the Caribbean, and has been a Master Guide since the early 1950’s.

He embarked on his educational pursuit at the Caribbean Training College, now University of Southern Caribbean (USC) in 1945. He was responsible for raising up a high school in Trinidad & Tobago. He also served in the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Trinidad where he gave active service.

Brother Charley Mack has played a major role as Chairman of the Board of Camp Arawak in St. Croix as they trained individuals who did not complete high school. He also made another major contribution as Chairman of the Board of the Vocational Advisory Council, which was a federal program. This Master Comrade/Master Guide is now in his 80’s, and is still actively serving the Lord, awaiting His second return.

We hope for him continued blessings in the Lord.

Pastor Earl Daniel
Communication Director, NCC
A young woman with a passion for service entered the establishment of Community Hospital of Seventh-day Adventists almost forty years ago.

Mrs. Sahoda Cynthia Nandlal became part of the staffing from 17th October, 1970 to 30th September 1982, her function being that of kitchen attendant in the Dietary Department. Her performance was characterised as responsible, committed and excellent. These outstanding characteristics led to her decision to break her service and to faithfully discharge her function as character builder and role model for her children who needed her influence in their formative years. During that time with her family, she was asked to fill in for the vacation staff. On March 3rd, 1989, she resumed permanent duty which lasted until December 31st, 2010. She was trained by Mrs. Cynthia Gibson, a dietician.

Mrs. Nandlal remained after work to update the diet sheet and ask questions to effectively carry out her duties. In her time and found working with them very harmonious and inspiring. She has seen the hospital through many phases: the good, the bad, and the ugly. Its lows and highs, but she never lost her focus and purpose for being at the hospital. Service to mankind and God was her motto. She shared with her children that passage of time.

Mrs. Nandlal has performed under a few administrators and dietary supervisors in her time and found working with them very harmonious and inspiring. She has seen the hospital through many phases: the good, the bad, and the ugly. Its lows and highs, but she never lost her focus and purpose for being at the hospital. Service to mankind and God was her motto. She shared with her children that passage of time.

The drama presentation highlighted different pioneers of the church. Tobago Mission placed second overall to St. Vincent, when the results were considered.

Tobago Mission was one of eight fields represented at the Roots Festival hosted by the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in St. Vincent on November 20, 2010. Under the directorship of Dr. Olvie Ottley, Youth Director of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, two delegates per field contested in the Roots Quiz.

An eleven team delegation from the Tobago Mission attended the event. Mrs. Hannah Tobias and Mr. Shalil Kerr represented the Tobago Mission. Each field presented a dramatic piece entitled “Touching Moments”. The drama presentation highlighted different pioneers of the church.

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EMBRACING CHANGE

TOBAGO MISSION TEACHERS GAINED NEW BRUNSWICK DEGREES

Mr. Lloyd Johnson and Mrs. Natalie Bernard Lovelace graduated with degrees from the University of New Brunswick Distance Learning Programme on November 21, 2010.

Mr. Johnson who is a teacher at Harmon School of Seventh-day Adventists pursued a Master’s Degree in Education Administration with emphasis in Curriculum Studies. This he completed one year ahead of the scheduled date. He teaches History and Social Studies at the senior level and is also the co-ordinator of the Evening School Program. He has been employed with the Seventh-day Adventist Church for over twenty (20) years.

Mrs. Lovelace, who teaches at the Scarborough Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, gained a Bachelor of Education degree in Elementary Education. She teaches Standard Three and has been instrumental in the school capturing the top prize in the Spelling Bee Competition. The SDA Church has been blessed to have her services in the field of Education for the past sixteen (16) years.

Other Adventist teachers (state employed) who graduated with Bachelor of Education degrees were Mrs. Michelle Baptiste-Wormell, Mr. Elvis Brown, Mrs. Sharon Caruth-Thomas, Mr. Milton Eastman, Ms. Sheenna Kerr, Ms. Alicia Marshall, Mrs. Shirley Marshall-George, Mrs. Janelle Simon-Archie and Ms. Mahalia Tobias.

The Tobago Mission congratulates all of its members and wishes them well in their future endeavors.

* Distinction

Mr. Wilfred Desvignes Education Director

The Tobago Mission held its Fifth Annual Teachers Retreat at the Tropical Pleasures Resort in Plymouth, Tobago, October 22-24, 2010. The theme was “Standing by the Flame, Reflecting its Rays”. Teachers were encouraged to maintain a closer relationship with Jesus and to reflect His influence among others. An outstanding feature of the Retreat was the selection of Mr. Estil Osborne, Principal of John Roberts Memorial School of Seventh-day Adventists, as the Mission’s ‘Teacher of the Year 2010’. Mr. Osborne has been a very successful teacher and principal for over fifteen years. He has demonstrated what a Christian teacher is supposed to be both in principle and practice. He was awarded a trophy and a monetary gift. The other finalists were Mrs. Annette Sookia, North Regional S.D.A. Primary; Mrs. Natalie Bernard Lovelace, Scarborough S.D.A. Primary; and Mr. Emil Philip, Harmon High School of S.D.A.

Mr. Wilfred Desvignes Education Director

TOBAGO MISSION TEACHERS GRADUATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN

Seven teachers from the Tobago Mission graduated with Bachelor’s Degrees from the University of the Southern Caribbean this year. They were among the first graduates from the Tobago Extension Campus of the University of the Southern Caribbean. It was a joyous occasion for the graduates, their spouses, relatives and friends.

The following seven can be considered as the first fruits: Florence Grimshaw, Bsc. Behavioral Science; Tresha Grimshaw, Janice Jack Wright and Patricia Smart, Bsc. Elementary Education; Kedisha Charles, Bsc. Business Education (Cum Laude); Ken Mapp, Bsc. Behavioral Science (Magna Cum Laude); and Louise Wilson, Bsc. Business Education (Cum Laude).

The Tobago Mission congratulates all of them!!!

Mr. Wilfred Desvignes Education Director

HARMON EXCELS AT CSEC

Harmon School of Seventh-day Adventists was commended for its outstanding performance in the areas of Mathematics, English, and Agriculture at the 2010 Caribbean Secondary Examination Council (CSEC).

Mrs. Jamila Joseph-Nichols, Principal of the School who was present at the Division of Education, Tobago House of Assembly Teachers Awards Function 2010, received a trophy on behalf of the school. Also present were Chief Secretary, Honourable Orville London, Secretary for Education, Honourable Claudia Groome-Duke, and Administrator in the Division of Education, Mr. Umslopagas Job.

Mr. Wilfred Desvignes Education Director

SHEVON SPELLS HIS WAY TO THE TOP

Shevon Prescott, a Standard Three student of the Scarborough Seventh-day Adventist Primary School emerged as winner at the finals of the Pepe’s Spelling Bee Competition in Trinidad. He held his own among all the other students and was able to spell every word correctly.

Mr. Wilfred Desvignes Education Director
Obituaries

Enisotha Ineta Brown

was born to Walter and Ellen Brown on September 05, 1930 in Newfield, Antigua, West Indies. Ineta (as she was called) attended Newfield Primary School and later received her secondary education at the St. John’s Girls School.

Ineta recognized her calling to be a teacher and attended Teacher’s Training College of Antigua. Her teaching career began at the All Saints Secondary School and the Princess Margaret Secondary School. Ineta also attended Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she studied Library Science and Clothing Management.

Ineta was introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church by a close childhood friend, Beatrice Brathwaite, which resulted in her baptism and a new relationship with Christ. Ineta had a passion for telling others about Christ and used every opportunity to witness to those within her sphere of influence. This was evident by a large number of her relatives who were led to Christ by her efficient witnessing.

In 1952 Ineta met Belgrove Jashly at an Adventist Youth Camporee. An aspiring pastor, Belgrove recognized that Ineta was chosen by God to complement him and his ministry. Their friendship matured over five years, while Belgrove completed ministerial studies at the University of the Southern Caribbean (then UCC) on the island of Trinidad. On July 09, 1959 Belgrove and Ineta were married at the All Saints Seventh-day Adventist Church, All Saints, Antigua. Together they embarked on a life of missionary service.

Ineta was an ardent supporter of Belgrove’s ministry, which took them to Anguilla, St. Maarten, Guyana, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Thomas, and St. Croix. Ineta and Belgrove relocated from the island of St. Croix to Loma Linda, CA where she spent her twilight years. On Sunday, December 05, 2010, after a lengthy illness, Ineta fell asleep in Jesus. She died with an unquestionable trust and confidence in God and her last words to her husband were, “I’ll see you in the morning.” She will be missed, but never forgotten. We wait for the Blessed Hope to see her in the resurrection.

Keston Ernest Barker

The Communication department of the Caribbean Union would like to express sincere sympathy to the family of Brother Barker on his innumerable yet unrecorded contribution to the spiritual and material well-being of our churches and the church in general. We are sorry for the discontinuity of the text which had to be cut out of the portion of the eulogy which was left out.

In 1967 Keston married Andrica Gellineau-Roach and included another daughter to his family.

Alana Roach. Keston and Andrica met in Cleveland Temple SDA Church where they worked together in the church treasury.

They shared a life that was bounded in their belief in Jesus Christ and a love that helped them face life’s challenges. Keston leaves behind to mourn his passing his loving wife of 23 years, Andrica, brother and sister, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. We take hope in the Bible promise found in 1 Thess. 4:14, “For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.” Amen.

2011 Calendar of Special Days and Events (1st & 2nd Quarters)

January
1 Social Mission Commitment
2 Pentecost and More – Prayer and Fasting
8 Tell the World, Spiritual Growth
10 Holy Spirit Emphasis
12 Health Ministries Day
22 Religious Liberty Day
February
5 Tell the World: Church Planting Sabbath (at least one new church planted in each conference)
21-22 Christmas Home and Marriage
10 Youth Temperance Emphasis Day
19 Health and Temperance magazine
March
3* Women’s Day of Prayer
5* Adventist World Radio
12-13 Youth and Children’s Day of Prayer
13* Tell the World: Missions Outreach
19 Pentecost and More
19 Launch of Evangelizing Small Group Program
25 Sabbath School Community Relations Day
26 13th Sabbath Offering (South Asia Division)
April
2-3** Education Evangelism
10 Missions Magazine
20 Adventist Mission Emphasis (Offering)
20* Youth Spiritual Commitment Celebration
16 Literature Evangelism Rally
23 Christian Education Day
May
1-31 World Missions Emphasis
10 Bible Correspondence School Emphasis
17 World Youth Day
20 Community Services Emphasis
24 Disaster and Flood Relief Emphasis
27* Tell the World: Big Cities
June
4 Bible Correspondence School Emphasis
10 Emphasis on the Family
11 Baptisms in all Conferences
18* Adventist Desks
25* 13th Sabbath Offering (Euro-Asia Division)
Greetings parents and grandparents! We welcome your feedback on the “PARENT POINT”. You may contact us at candrews@vipowernet.net or comment on our blog at http://caribbeanparenting-joya.blogspot.com with your questions, comments or recommendations.

In this issue, our conversation focuses on the child between eighteen months and three years. Of course this encompasses the famous “terrible twos”. Pardon me, but I prefer the label “terrific twos” for it is during this stage that the child is developing a sense of autonomy/independence. The famous phrase ‘can do it myself’ is heard often, even if they are struggling to get ‘it’ done. According to Eric Erikson’s psychosocial theory of development, at this stage your child is learning personal control over his physical abilities, He is learning to walk, talk, and use the toilet. You would notice that she is a constant imitator of what is happening in her world. Successful mastery of this stage of development results in a secure, confident toddler.

Please take advantage of this growth stage by teaching your toddler the important virtue of self-control. “...the first lesson to be taught them is self-control; for no undisciplined, headstrong person can hope for success in this world or reward in the next.” Child Guidance p. 91 Further information on the critical importance of your diligent training at this stage can be found in chapter thirteen of the book Child Guidance by Ellen G. White. It certainly is a joyous privilege to impact your toddler not only for time but for eternity.

Happy Parenting!

Parent Point!

Christmas songs were being played by the radio and television stations. The homes in the neighborhood and stores in the town were brightly decorated with bows and streamers and bells. Maliah was eager to go to the school party for there every one would receive a gift. She was up and ready for school before mother could call her. Oh what a special day this was, she had a gift for Lee Anne the girl in her class whose name she had chosen. She had a special gift for her teacher. And because she had told everyone that she really wanted a big stuffed teddy bear, Maliah expected who ever choose her name to give her the stuffed animal.

Well, as soon as the school bus stopped in the school yard Maliah was the first one down the school bus steps. She ran as fast as she could to her classroom. She placed her gifts under the Christmas tree in the corner of the classroom. Then she strained her eyes to see which gift had her name on it. But teacher asked her to go to her seat. “I think that large box is my gift,” Maliah thought.

After classroom worship, the school’s cook brought in the treats to the room for the party. Teacher had the children sing Christmas songs and say why they liked Christmas, and then the big moment came. Teacher began to call the names of the children for their gifts. Joel got the puzzle he wanted. Jerrilyn got her Pixar game. Maria got her Barbie doll. Maliah’s heart was really racing fast. Would she get the stuffed animal? After what seemed like a long, long time, teacher called her name. Maliah went to the front, but the gift was in a small gift bag. When she opened the bag, she found a bedtime story book. Maliah was very disappointed. She was sad.

Mother came to pick her up from school. Maliah burst into tears as soon as the car door was shut. “I wanted a large teddy bear so badly and look what I got!” she complained to Mother. Mother looked at the book and said, “Malah, I am sorry you did not get what you wanted.”

Later that evening when it was story time for Maliah, mother quietly got the gift bedtime story book and read Maliah, not one, but two stories. Maliah liked the stories. The next evening she begged mother to read her the same two stories again. Mother showed her the book she read from. Maliah was surprised, “Mother,” she said “I am glad for my gift”. “I knew you would like it” mother said. “I knew you would.”