Notice is hereby give that the 5th Quadrennial Session of the Suriname Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held from April 11-14, 2012 at the Centrum S.D.A. Church, Eduard Brumastraat 112, Suriname.
I recall when I first entered Caribbean Union College the big thing for students desirous of pursuing Theology was their calling and how they ascertained that they were actually called. Many of us, already intimidated by the reality of being away from home and in a strange place (somehow Trinidad in the eighties seemed a very distant place from home), dreaded that interview with the head of the Theology Department, where we would be drilled on our calling, in order to make a final decision as to whether we would stay in the program or not. At least that was the picture painted by the seniors who were ahead of us. Out of these interviews many students were re-baptized with names and humorous quotes which have remained with them to this day.

Somehow in that particular year, 1981, it was done differently. It was to be held at a meeting for all Theology students at the then chapel (the building now used as the reference library). However, the anticipation was more traumatic than the reality. Dr. English took us through the paces of ministry, and while there were a few public testimonies of how students received their calls to ministry, the meeting came and went and I breathed a sigh of relief.

The Bible speaks of Abraham’s call out of Haran, Moses’ assignment to lead God’s children out of Egypt, and Gideon called the mighty man of valor, although at the time he was a farmer trying to protect his crops from raiding Philistines. Jesus called twelve and commissioned them to be fishers of men. Paul, in the words of the Lord “a chosen instrument of mine” Acts 9:15. Does God still call today? And if so, how does he do it? Are officers selected to serve at different levels of church work, called? Can an individual appointed to function on a church board, a school board, or a conference or union committee describe this assignment as a calling? Does it hold the same weight or consequence as that of a pastor or a field president? Is a teacher called? Is the president of a university called?

God calls persons to political office? Esther came to the “kingdom for such a time as this” and was used to prevent the genocide of her people. Daniel played an integral role in the Kingdom of Babylon under three successive kings. Joseph was used to preserve a place for God’s people in Egypt. Do persons called to public office need the infilling and enabling of the Spirit as, say, the President of the General Conference?

God calls, whether to serve in or out of the church. He places persons in positions so that they could be instruments in His hand to further His Kingdom. He calls the preacher, the deacon, the statesman, the teacher, the president, the mother, and the scientist. He calls every individual saved by grace to be a vessel for the kingdom. The responsibilities may be different, but we are all accountable. The pen of prophecy states:

> When men of business, farmers, mechanics, merchants, lawyers, etc., become members of the church, they become servants of Christ; and although their talents may be entirely different, their responsibility to advance the cause of God by personal effort, and with their means, is no less than that which rests upon the minister. The woe which will fall upon the minister if he preach not the gospel, will just as surely fall upon the businessman, if he, with his different talents, will not be a co-worker with Christ in accomplishing the same results. 4T, p. 469

As we close what has been an eventful year and look with anticipation to 2012, this is an opportune time to examine how the Lord has brought us to where we are now. It is a good time to determine that by His Grace, whatever our station in life, we will be His vessels to further His Kingdom. I wish all of you beloved children of God an exciting year of successful exploits as you discover and fulfill God’s call in your life. Abundant Blessings.

Theodore Jaria, 
Editor
President’s Corner

GOD’S CALL!

YOUR GIFTEDNESS OR HIS GRACE?

Does God call a person to be a part of His Ministry of Reconciliation because of his/her giftedness or His grace? This is a relevant question to be asked especially as so many persons are benefiting from the explosion in educational opportunities and academic mobility.

The apostle Paul, in writing to his understudy Timothy, provides a profound analysis of this important situation. He says, “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry. Although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man: but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen” (1 Timothy 1:12-17).

Godhead, he humbled himself and was never the same. He accepted the said Christ as his personal Savior and was ready to dare or die for him. He was prepared to be crucified with Him and to die daily. Paul’s giftedness was not his major claim to effectiveness in his ministry, but God’s mercy in not destroying him, and His grace in using him despite his inglorious past.

This is an important summary of the relationship between the giftedness of the chosen and the grace of the chooser. Paul was one of the most gifted religionists of his day and found himself trying to help God sought out some of the problems that had been facing His Hebrew posterity.

When Paul recognized that he was indeed fighting against the Lord Jesus Christ, a vital person in the

So how do you rate your giftedness in relation to God’s grace ...

So how do you rate your giftedness in relation to God’s grace as it pertains to your being chosen to be a part of God’s leadership team? If your giftedness is deemed as more important, there is the likelihood that pride and arrogance could characterize your attitude.

However, if God’s grace is the main reason for your being chosen to be a part of His leadership team, you are more likely to have an attitude of gratitude that will be reflected in humility, honesty, and honor.

Do not ignore your giftedness; however, adore God’s grace!
The Central SDA Church celebrated its 40th Anniversary September 17-25, in a spirit-filled, spectacular, and memorable way. The theme chosen was: “Celebrating 40 years with the Family of Families: Home Coming – Physically, Homeward Bound – Spiritually.” All of the services and activities lived up to the chosen theme as hundreds joined in the nostalgic event, looking back at God’s leading in the past, enjoying His presence now and looking forward in anticipation to His soon coming.

The opening ceremony began with an impressive processional after a trumpet call, followed by the National Anthem, the Virgin Island March, and posting of flags. At this point, Pastor Silton Browne, President of the North Caribbean Conference of SDA, gave congratulatory remarks and declared the celebration week open. An illustrious group of men and women led the praise and worship with some of the old hymns of the faith—hymns that brought back memories of the inception of the new congregation that grew into the Central SDA Church. Already, the atmosphere was charged for a Spirit-filled worship.

Pastor Wilmoth James joyfully welcomed the audience back home. Members from the various churches were recognized; those who came from different congregations that have formed other churches, also those who came from overseas for the occasion. He gave them the opportunity to meet and greet one another as we sang “What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.”

Pastor Claudette J. Andrews, Children’s Ministries Director of the Caribbean Union, was present and did the children’s story. Pastor Andrews was one of the original members that founded the church.

It was now time for the Divine Service and many of the elders of the church (past and present) participated in the worship service that led to the introduction of the speaker of the hour, Pastor S. Reginald Michael. In his remarks, Pastor Wilmoth James told the congregation that “Pastor Michael served as the first pastor of the Central Church and in fact, was a part of the team that worked along with Evangelist Pastor K.S. Wiggns in a crusade that raised up the Central Church.”

In a pictorial manner, Pastor Michael shared a message “Telling the Story” of the church from its inception to what it is today. Some members reminisced as they recognized the role they played in the establishment of the church forty years ago. He shared slides of those who dug the foundation, tied the steel, built the walls, and secured the roof. His main focus was that “We should never forget where we came from to where we are today.” The day ended with the Hymn #430, “O there’ll be joy when the work is done” and the benediction by Elder Charles Roper.

Some highlights of activities for the rest of the week were as follows: Walkathon, Historical Highlights & Mini Concert, Looking Forward, a time of Prayer, Praise & Testimonies, Sundown Sabbath Worship,
Special Anniversary Service, Cultural Day, and an Awards Ceremony. All these activities brought “The Family of Families” together and gave many individuals the opportunity to use their God-given talents.

The “Anniversary Service” on Sabbath, September 24, will long be remembered by all who were a part of the experience. During the Sabbath School, directed by Sis. Linda Sweeny and other former superintendents, the old story of how things were done in those early days of the life of the church was presented. Sabbath School Lesson Study was done on a whole by Pastor Doval Kent and after special music, Bro. Sweeny made remarks and promoted the way forward for the church.

As the Divine Service got underway, the Praise & Worship Team led with songs like “We are nearing Home”, “Hold the Fort for I am Coming, Jesus Signal Still, Wave the answer back to heaven, by thy grace we will.” These were moments of rejoicing; and they were heavenly. Bro. Greenaway, the builder of the church, was present and shared some of the challenges encountered during construction, especially when putting on the roof. God intervened and made the completion of the building possible.

Recognition was given to Sis. Annette Michael and Sis. Kathleen Williams, wives of the two pastors who played major roles in the life of the church. There was a brief introduction of Pastor Lynford Williams—speaker for the Divine Hour, after which the Central Mass Choir sang. Then all eyes were focused on Pastor Williams for the message.

In his presentation based on Hebrews 10:35-39, the admonition was “Cast not away your confidence.” From scripture, the Spirit of Prophecy, and personal experience, Pastor Williams demonstrated how the devil is attacking God’s Church, but that His people should remain firm and committed to its fundamental beliefs. With a mixture of humour and stories, he was able to hold the interest of his audience for more than an hour. The service ended with a call of commitment from those who had left the faith. Hours of fellowship followed as members of the church brought food to share with one another until it was time for music by a group called “Sometimes Five” and a vesper thought. At the end of the cultural display and awards ceremony on Sunday, the 40th Anniversary celebration came to an end with a renewed spirit to stay the course until Jesus comes.

Pastor Earl Daniel,
Communication Director, NCC

MINISTERIAL WORKERS’ MEETINGS
14 & 15 Dec, 2011

The North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Workers Meeting, held December 14 & 15, 2011 at the Sunny Acres SDA (Spanish) Church in St. Croix was inspirational and informative. Pastor Howard Simon and his team prepared the workers for the devotional with songs and prayer; and Pastor Silton Browne, President of the North Caribbean Conference of SDA, introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Roy Adams.

Guided by the theme: “Revive Us for Relevant and Excellent Ministry,” Dr. Adams, in the first devotional period, captured the attention of the workers and retirees with thoughts from his presentation, “Snippets from the Old Testament Sanctuary.” His main text was Hebrews 8:1-2: “Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the majesty in the heavens; A minister of the Sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.”
Dr. Adams focussed on the high priest in the true Sanctuary with the question: **How should we picture the heavenly Sanctuary?** and **What is the meaning of pattern and shadow?** The term conceptual gap was used to explain the meaning of the pattern and shadow of the Heavenly Sanctuary. Three additional major points were made about the Sanctuary: **Atonement, Intercession and Judgement, but it is all about Jesus.** Other presentations made by Dr. Adams were, “It’s about Jesus”, “The Heavenly Sanctuary: Speaking to our Times”, “Help from the Sanctuary” and “The Quest for Perfection in the Adventist Church”. We were enlightened by all of these presentations.

A session by Dr. Lee Whitaker on “The Antidote for Ministerial Burnout” provoked several questions as there were some concerns about a buddy system in ministry with whom one would share challenges in ministry. Pastor Silton Browne also shared a presentation on “Office of Leadership and Development” from Dr. Eugene Daniel who was unavoidably absent.

Pastor Silton Browne conducted the business of the meeting and gave the workers a picture of the state of affairs and the way forward. It was reported that the North Caribbean Conference has added some 669 souls during the year 2011. *To God be the glory!* We give thanks to all the workers for their hard work and commitment in ministry.

One of the areas emphasized by the president was **Strategic Thinking** which involves more than a plan, but the thought processes that must sustain the strategic plan.

Time was allotted for departmental directors to give reflections of the year and projections for 2012. This presented the opportunity for questions and discussion on some of the issues raised. In addition, a period was given for ministerial issues and feedback.

At the end of the final day, some **house keeping** business was done by the administration, which included expressions of gratitude to Bible Worker, Sis. Valentine George, on her retirement from a job she performed admirably.

We give thanks to God for all our retirees, Evangelist Roosevelt Daniels and Pastor Claudette Andrews from the Caribbean Union who stayed the course with us; and especially the spiritual insight shared by Dr. Roy Adams. The prayer of gratitude to God was given by Pastor Maurice Andrews. *May the North Caribbean Conference continue to prosper.*

*Pastor Earl Daniel, Communication Director, NCC*

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**The New Life Crusade**

The New Life Crusade on the island of Tortola which featured Evangelist Pastor Sylvester Williams, August 8th through September 3rd, created a positive impact in the lives of members of the Church and the community. Under the leadership of Pastor Winfield Ambrose of district #2, the members rallied and pitched the big yellow and white tent at ‘The Festival Grounds.’ As the community passed up and down along the busy highway, a message was communicated: “something good is about to happen.”
Shortly after, handbills saturated the island, advertising a series of meetings, featuring nightly spectacular singing, family enrichment, free medical advice including health screening, Bible study and answers to your questions.

From the opening night large crowds enjoyed the warmth, friendship and love that the meetings offered. In addition, they discovered the Truth from God’s Word, and found power and strength to live from day to day through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. All this was made possible through the effective work of the crusade team, two Bible workers who were invited from the island of Antigua, and members of the Road Town Seventh-day Adventist Church that gave strong support. But the bold, authoritative delivery of the Word of God nightly, under the powerful influence of the Holy Spirit, made the critical difference in the meetings.

Evangelist Sylvester Williams, a young intern, was on his first assignment in real combat on the battlefield with the enemy of souls. Covered with the “whole armour of God,” he waged war on the Devil, beating down the enemy’s stronghold, snatching victims of many social issues, and delivered them through the power of the Holy Ghost. He preached the Word with clarity. Text after text his audience heard the refrain “are we together?” while cementing the truth in their minds. At the end of his message, the appeal was intensive and direct.

Pastor Silton Browne, President of the North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, was there the final Saturday night of the meetings to greet the large crowd in attendance and to see the young evangelist in action. From all indications, he was quite impressed.

After five weeks of intensive proclamation of the gospel, 37 souls discovered the Truth, and are now rejoicing in their new experience with the Lord.
A Miraculous Fulfillment of God’s Grace

The best person to recruit a prospective Literature Evangelist is still a successful literature evangelist. Mr. Julian Thomas was recruited by Mrs. Hilen Alexander over 22 years ago when she served as Assistant Publishing Ministries Director of the South Caribbean Conference.

At the commencement of his journey, Julian faced many challenges and repeatedly agonized with God for a sign to confirm his call to the Publishing Ministry. Just as the angels of the Lord led the shepherds to where they would find Jesus, he believed the Lord could show him by a sign whether or not He wanted him in the Publishing Ministry. God did just that when he prayed for a specific sign. He prayed that someone would come to his home to purchase a book. Then one day he saw a woman, Ms Thomas, now deceased, walking from house to house along his street. She approached his house and asked, “Is this the house of the man who sells books?” She then purchased a copy of The Great Controversy. That was the defining moment—God had definitely affirmed him through this sign, showing him in a tangible manner that He was calling him to be a part of the Publishing Ministry.

Over the years his work has focused on the East Indian community, and through his efforts several evangelistic campaigns were conducted. Mr. Thomas enjoys working with this community, and he is delighted by the numerous blessings and health reforms that have been experienced by those who have purchased our volumes. He is successfully using the Step Fast Lifestyle series to promote our health message. This series has opened many opportunities for displays at health centres, banks, and government offices. As a result, he has received many invitations to conduct Health and Family Life lectures.

This ‘Sales Champion’ has been honoured by both the Caribbean Union Conference and the South Caribbean Conference. In recognition of his sterling service, he was given the opportunity to represent his field at the Inter-American Division’s Waldensian Tour to Italy in 2006, the Inter-American Division’s Missionary Congress in Cuba in 2009, and again, in 2010, he championed his way to the General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia. His expenses for these trips were covered by both the Caribbean Union Conference and the South Caribbean Conference. This is a champion – par excellence!

Mr. Julian Thomas is not only a ‘Sales Champion,’ but he has a burden for, and seeks to be a light bearer to people living in darkness. His congenial personality makes it easy for him to make friends and through his passion for his ministry, many of his customers have become members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

He acknowledges that God has tremendously blessed his career as a literature evangelist, and has also helped him to develop some of the strategies that he attributes to his success over the years. These strategies are as follows:

(a) Each morning, he prays for God’s guidance, protection, and favour with his customers.

(b) He ensures that he reads and understands his books before canvassing.

(c) He sets yearly goals, which he divides into quarters, months, weeks, days and hours.

(d) He works hard, he perseveres, he persists, and he does not leave the field until he accomplishes his goal.

(e) Finally, he always gives a religious book as a gift to his customers, when a purchase is made.

Currently he is zealously engaged in the training of his three recruits whom he admonishes to canvass into every street and lane with the intent of bringing hope into every home.
This dedicated and systematic man of God is exceptionally kind. He often overextends himself at the expense of his financial gain in an effort to build the faith, courage, and pockets of those who are struggling in the field or who are new in the ministry. This self-sacrificing attitude is definitely the reason for the outpouring of the financial and spiritual blessings which he abundantly receives.

During summer vacations, Mr. Thomas diligently devotes his time in assisting many students from the University of the Southern Caribbean to obtain their tuition scholarships. He also assists the full-time and part-time literature evangelists to achieve their licensed and credentialed status.

Mr. Thomas, the longest serving Career Literature Evangelist at the South Caribbean Conference, enjoys a very rewarding and satisfying career. He is the loving, supportive, compassionate, and dedicated husband and father to his wife and three lovely children. They are really blessed as a family since they spend quality time worshipping and praising God. He loves singing and can really lead a praise team! They also work together in their vegetable garden where the blessings are also evident in their harvest that they generously share with neighbours and friends.

We trust that this ‘champion’ will continue to be faithful to the Lord and that his blessings will keep flowing until he is championed into the Kingdom. Then he will hear from the Champion of Champions, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful in many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” Then hope will truly be home – in our heavenly home!

I want to put an end to all notions
That church youths have no problems
For some of you it’s hard to see
That veil has been permanently removed from me

I have been battered and abused
Mis-treated and mis-used
Satan had me all entangled…
Thought I was in control
And that I made ALL the rules

See I grew up in the Adventist faith
And for all my young life I felt it a mistake
That I needed to conform to a decree
Christianity just didn’t suit me

As the age to vote approached
I clipped my wings and climbed high on the ladder that led away from anything religious
TRUST!!!
Trust me when I say there is a reason why I’m here today
Bashing Christians and all it stood for
Unknowingly justifying me walking out the door
Walking out on life, foolishly thinking I found life
But only needing to seek for more life
What is life????? Without Christ???

Exchanged Camp….for Carnival
And ended up wining…myself into a deep pool of guilt

Exchanged good natural beauty for eye-shadow
and molded gold attachments that hung from my earlobes…
with every stroke coloring myself with hypocrisy
thrusting myself into fabricated me.

Exchanged unrevealing clothing….to leaving
Out the element of wonder…no wonder my esteem soared and regulated me into thinking
church held me back

Compiled by Mrs. Judith Smith,
Publishing Director,
Caribbean Union Conference
Sophisticated non sense
High class incompetence
I evolved into a being
Gaining to much experience

God took me to the pig-pen so I could have time to think
Engulfed in my thoughts I began to sink deeper....deeper into desperation
Just hoping that the forgotten father heard my petition
In this chaotic situation

Now I’m down on knees that collapsed from the obesity of sin
As a youth looking up because I tumbled and fell flat on my back
Looking up cause life without Christ goes down
Looking up because I looked around...me and just simply wanted to be what I use to be

I wanted the security
I wanted the comfort
I wanted that constant scrutiny
I wanted Christianity

By: Starlene Peters, God’s Missionary!
Written Oct 6th 2011
© Oct 6th 2011

I heard Starlene present this piece at a worship service in Maraval and thought I would share it with our union family.
(Editor)

Pastor Clyde Thomas, first president of the Tobago Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, retired on July 2011, after serving as president for seven years. Pastor Thomas served with distinction.

The Tobago Mission takes the opportunity to thank Pastor Clyde Thomas, his dear wife Sis. Carmen Thomas, and their family for their service of love and wish them God’s blessings in their future endeavours.

Dear Editor,

I was rather impressed by your forthrightness in the last editorial (3rd Quarter 2011). It is evident that we have strayed and have developed our own subversive strategies to achieve our selfish goals. The politicking among us cannot be differentiated from that of “the world,” and many have been so hurt that they get bitter.

The guidance of God is requested, however, there is no reliance on Him because the political machinery is substituted. There needs to be an a revamping of the self-centered election process (starting at Inter American Division) with the replacement of a Christ-centered one.

I trust that the Lord will help you to continue to be vigilant and forthright in your reporting.

Maisie L. Willie

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Maisie L. Willie
May 21, 2011 saw the dedication of the Mesopotamia Seventh-day Adventist Church in St. Vincent and the Grenadines after 53 years of existence.

The church started in 1958 when a crusade conducted by the late Pastors Aaron Hitlal and Fitzgerald Harris yielded 37 precious souls to the Lord. The first Seventh-day Adventist from the community of Glenside, where the church is located, is Bro. Alfred Jackson who served as first elder for a number of years. In August 1962, land was purchased on which a building 14 x 24 feet, was constructed. This church became too small as a result of the steady increase in membership, and so in 1974 a new building was started under Pastor Clarence Kirk. The cornerstone was laid by Pastor Roy Hoyte on June 6, 1976.

Pastor Dermoth Baptiste, who served the church on two occasions as pastor, provided much inspiration and motivation to the brethren. His infamous statement that “the church was creating history for the wrong reasons, by being the church under construction longer than any other in the Caribbean Union and not dedicated”, catapulted the brethren into making the giant leap to have it completed with fine finishing, and ready for dedication.

The dedication sermon and laying of the commemorative stone were done by Dr. Eugene F. Daniel, past president, Caribbean Union Conference, while the Act of dedication and dedicatory prayer were done by Pastor Dermoth Baptiste, Coordinator of the SVG Region.

Also at Buckingham Palace to receive his award was Pastor Dermoth Baptiste. On June 22nd this year, Pastor Dermoth accompanied by family members, attended Buckingham Palace where he was invested with the title of Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his service to Christian fellowship and community work.

Whilst in the UK Pastor Dermoth and his wife visited the High Commission for St. Vincent and the Grenadines. He was received by H.E. Cenio Lewis and Mrs. Doris Charles. Other members of staff also greeted and extend congratulations to Pastor Baptiste on the occasion of his investiture.
Called to Higher Service

An Interview with Janelle Scantlebury
Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Intro:
Young Janelle Scantlebury is the most recent addition to the Inter-American Division staff from the Caribbean Union. I took the opportunity to chit chat with her about her call to higher service.

I recall when I first met you, what impressed me was your genuine warmness and your willingness to help as I tried to get my son registered.

Let me thank you for consenting to do this interview.

1. Who is Janelle Scantlebury?
I would describe myself as God-fearing, people caring/loving, sacrificing for the good of others, self-determined, trustworthy, progressive and ambitious.

2. How long did you work at U.S.C?
I worked at U.S.C for almost five years and during that time period served in several different capacities, the last being Assistant Director of Recruitment and Enrolment Management (for three months before receiving the call to work at the Division). Before that, I also served as Assistant Director for International Student Services and Development Officer.

3. What generated your interest in languages?
At Secondary School, (Bishop Anstey High School) I excelled in languages and it is there that I realized my love for languages. It is this love for languages that made me ‘consume’ every possible bit of foreign language material available to me: Spanish and French cassettes, magazines, el pais newspapers, Synonyms/Antonyms books, dictionaries. I studied languages at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, and further immersed into Spanish by doing my Masters degree at the University of Barcelona in Spain where I specialized in International Organizations and International Cooperation for Development. As a young girl, I was also fascinated by the interpreters at Miss Universe Pageants and I would say to myself that one day I would be just like them.

4. Did you ever envisage that one day you would be serving the Church at the level of the Division?
Yes, certainly, I did. In fact, I always regarded working for the Division as my ideal place of work since it would allow me to serve a larger number of persons; and since the Division has 21 Unions composed of English, Spanish and French-speaking territories, for me, this was the ultimate experience.

5. How has it been since you assumed office?
It has been great. It is hectic but I know that God has already placed in me the strength, and the physical and mental capacity to execute my tasks to the honour and glory of His name. And this is the attitude with which I approach everything, even though some things are seemingly insurmountable.

6. What has been your responsibilities thus far?
Since my official appointment on October 1, 2011, I assisted in the preparation of the agenda document for the Division’s year-end meeting, held in Bahamas, October 30 -November 1, 2011. I attended these year-end meetings where I further had the opportunity to observe the programme’s execution. I sat in on Administrative Council meetings, interpreted for Division Committee Meetings and for the Steering Committee at the IAD’s year-end meetings. I translated documents from French to Spanish and English, etc, and assisted in the preparation of documents for the Division’s Meeting for Union Secretaries. Additionally, I was a special invitee at the Caribbean Union’s Year-end Committee where
I interpreted for the devotional presentations of the IAD Treasurer, Pastor Filiberto Verduzco. As well, I was a special invitee at the Tobago Mission’s Third Quadrennial Business Session; here I interpreted for one of the Division’s Vice Presidents, Pastor Abner de Los Santos: his greetings, devotional presentation, officers’ dedication message, and special presentation to the Large and Nominating Committee. At this meeting, I also provided an official response to the Mission Secretary’s report.

7. Wow you have been busy. What is the way forward for Janelle?
With God’s help I intend to serve all 21 Unions of the Inter-American Division and be the bridge between them and the Inter-American Division. I allow myself to be used wherever I am so called. In the immediate future I am due to attend leadership orientation for newly-elected field and union administrators. The coming months will be hectic as I will be responsible for planning the mid-year meeting to be held next May in Miami, as well as the year-end meeting to be held later in October in Honduras. I am also in discussions with various entities for their commitment on development of a charity-based project, which I hope would allow others to have some of the same opportunities that I have been given. These initiatives will be revealed at a later date.

8. How do you respond to critics who may say; why Janelle Scantlebury, a relatively unknown entity? How did she end up at the Division?
Like Queen Esther, I have been called to the Inter-American Division for such a time as this and I am willing to serve and be used as God’s instrument, wherever He leads. I have pretty large dreams and ambitions and this has been a fulfillment of one of my professional dreams.

9. What do you perceive to be God’s will for you at the Division?
I believe that God wants me to be used as a bridge connecting all 21 Unions of the Division and with my language skills I believe I am poised to accomplish such. I also believe that God has put me in this position to assist in the development of ideas and policies that will assist in increasing the visibility of the gospel. Being one of the youngest persons in such a position, I believe that I can infuse new and fresh perspectives in assisting the Division to achieve its objectives and mandate. Additionally, I can reach out to so many persons, especially since there is no language barrier between them and me. Finally, I see myself also being able to initiate projects that would aid in the furtherance of the gospel within the IAD with some emphasis on the Caribbean Union (this being my home and for which I have a special love) which my being at the Division would afford me.

10. What advice would you give to a young person who may have similar aspirations as you?
I would say give them to God and once within His will, all your aspirations can be realized. Additionally, set goals and position yourself to achieve them. Make friends with persons who can aid in your professional and spiritual development. Be willing to make sacrifices and commit yourself to the goals that you have set for yourself. Remember that Failure is the Sweat of Success, and that sometimes you will fail; but you must get back up and go again. The friends you keep around you are also critical to your aspirations; keep the good ones and distance yourself from those who are intent on going down a path of destruction. And in closing, anything is possible with God.

Well Janelle I must thank you again for consenting to this interview. Thank you so much.

And thank you very much Pastor Jarta. It was a pleasure being here at the Union office today and I wish you all the best as you continue in the leadership of the Communication Department, ADRA, and every other responsibility that is added to you as you continue working here at the Union. May God bless you.
Jesus is coming again! We have enjoyed ourselves today. We’ve experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in these meetings. And we are confident that the Holy Spirit was present in the selection of the persons nominated to serve for the next quadrennium. I would like to invite you to look with me at Acts 22.

Acts 22 shows us the experience of the apostle Paul; he speaks of his conversion experience, he spoke about how he was on his way to destroying those Christians in Damascus. But while on the way to Damascus he had quite an extraordinary experience—yes, an experience where a light from above came and blinded him. Saul fell to the ground; it was only when he was on the ground that he could truly respond as a disciple. For a disciple to be born he has to be broken. When a person falls at Jesus’ feet, then an apostle arises. A disciple always asks; “Lord, what do you want me to do?” And Jesus appeared to Saul asking, “Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me?” It is only at that point that Saul realized that he was persecuting Christ. And Jesus revealed Himself to him. When Saul recognized Jesus, he listened to His instruction to go to Damascus; to the house of a man called Judas. Jesus then spoke to Ananias and told him to go and visit Saul because He had chosen Saul as His own disciple.

It doesn’t matter what our history might have been; Christ calls us to be His disciples. He has chosen us to serve Him, and in Acts 22 verses 14, 15 we find the greeting given to Paul by Ananias. “The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.” The God of our fathers has chosen us; God is the One who chooses. The greeting that Ananias gave to Saul is very significant; in this greeting Ananias is saying to Saul that the God of Abraham and Jacob has chosen him.

The Jews felt very proud of their history; they felt very proud speaking about their ancestors, and this is why Ananias said, “the God of our fathers; it is He that has chosen you.” You are not here by chance, you are here for a purpose; when God chooses you He has a purpose for you. I want to use Ananias’ greeting that he gave to Paul. I want to tell each one of you tonight that God has chosen you. And those of you who have been chosen to carry forward the work in this quadrennium have been chosen by God. The God of our fathers has chosen you; and He has a purpose. “Pastor Mapp it’s important that you take time to find out the will of the God for this church here in Tobago. Together with the Executive Committee and your departmental directors, you have to discover His will.

God has chosen you not only to find out His will, but He has also chosen you so that you know His will and do His will. Who is just? Christ is just; so if we want to be saved we need to see Christ. To be just means we must accept Christ as our personal Savior. “Is Christ your personal Savior?” “Is Christ your personal Savior?” Don’t be confused by my question. I’m not asking how much time you’ve been in the church. I’m not asking you if you are a pastor. I’m not asking what post you have or what position you’ve been nominated to serve in; the question is: “Is Christ your Savior?” If Christ is not our personal Savior, we are lost. Because we can only be saved in Jesus Christ; God has chosen you, so that you can know His will and be just; and also that you can hear His voice.

We need to hear the voice of God. What does listening to God’s voice imply? Pastor Mapp, are you hearing what I’m saying? Are you listening? Are you really listening? Then if you are really listening then stand up and come here with us. Is Pastor Mapp listening? How do you know? Because he responded.

Hearing the voice of God means to obey; God has chosen you so that you know His will, God has chosen you so that you can see Christ; God has chosen you so that you can hear his voice, because the world needs a witness. A witness is someone who knows that God is real. Christ has chosen you as His witness, but he has also chosen the secretary and treasurer of the Mission. I would also like to invite you to join your president.
God has chosen the departmental directors this afternoon and I would like you to join the other members of the team; God has chosen you so that you can know His will, so that you can see Christ and so that you can listen to His voice. God has chosen the Executive Committee, and I would like to invite the Executive Committee to join this group. Will you be so kind as to come up and join us?

The God of our fathers has chosen you! You are not here by chance; God has a purpose for you. You came to this session as a delegate, not by chance, but because God has a purpose for your life. God has a purpose for His people through you. And as part of the church in this Mission God also calls you, and I would like you to join this group here as we pray. Can you all stand?

I feel very happy to know that God has chosen us; He has chosen us in mercy, He has chosen us because of His love; He has also chosen us because He loves the world. Like Christ we should love the world as Christ gave His only Son so that all who believe in Him would not perish but will have everlasting life. God wants both you and me to be saved but He also wants us to be instruments so that others can be saved. Christ is coming soon! The Tobago Mission needs to announce that Christ is coming soon.

The Executive Committee of this Mission must announce that Christ is coming soon. Pastor Tobias, Christ has chosen you as president of the Caribbean Union; Christ has chosen you to be a blessing to this committee; to be a blessing to this church; It doesn’t matter the history each one of us has, God has chosen us; remember that. God has chosen you so that you can know His will; God has chosen you so that you can see Christ. God has chosen you so that you can hear His voice, so you can be His witnesses of what you have experienced in Jesus Christ.

This afternoon, let us consecrate ourselves to God and I would like to call on Pastor Tobias to intercede on behalf of the Executive Committee and the Administration of the Tobago Mission.

HARMON ENJOYS CSEC GLORY

Harmon School of Seventh-day Adventists celebrated another academic achievement when two of its students were listed on the Caribbean Secondary Examination Council 2011 Merit List. Sherrane Cunningham (R) ranked 10th in the region in the area of Information Technology; while Jolyne Richard (L) ranked 11th in the region in the area of Agricultural Science.

The achievement of the students placed them 4th and 3rd respectively nationally. They are the top students in Tobago in these two categories. Harmon has been ranked third among the eight Secondary Schools in Tobago with CSEC results.

Both students have since enrolled at the University of the Southern Caribbean, Trinidad.

MT. GRACE CHURCH IS DEDICATED

On Sunday, 18th December, 2011, the Tobago Mission joined with the brethren of the Mt. Grace Seventh-day Adventist Church in the dedication of their church building to the honour and glory of God. The building is valued at TT $1.5 million.

Mt. Grace holds great significance in the history of the Adventist Church in Tobago; for it was there that the first Adventist property was purchased in 1908 and the first church was erected.

Bringing greetings were Mr. Ashworth Jack, the Area Representative of the Tobago House of Assembly and the Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly. Both men encouraged the brethren and the Adventist Community to continue the mission of the Church.

The Tobago House of Assembly contributed one hundred and fifty thousand (TT $150,000.00) dollars towards the construction of the roof.
Pastor Toney Mapp, President of the Tobago Mission, challenged the brethren to be happy when they come into the House of the Lord. He said that the very thought of God should make people happy. Church must make a difference in the way people think, and that they should be intentional in bringing people to church.

Finally, he charged them to take care of God’s House and God’s people.

MISSION PRESIDENT HOSTS ADVENTIST BUSINESSMEN

Newly-elected president of the Tobago Mission, Pastor Toney Mapp hosted a breakfast meeting with several Seventh-day Adventist businessmen on Sunday, 23rd October, 2011 at the Works Lecture Room, Scarborough, Tobago.

The atmosphere was a very pleasant one. Some of the objectives of the meeting were:
- To create a stronger relationship between the church leadership and the entrepreneurs.
- To provide information on how to improve their operations and maximize their potential.
- To express interest in the welfare of the businessmen and their enterprise.
- To let them know that they are not alone with their challenges and that the leadership is with them.

The president assured the gathering that if they became more viable and successful, they would be in a better position to employ members; and that in itself would be to the benefit of the whole church in the provision of goods and services.

Other presenters at the function were Mr. Wayne Richardson and Mrs. Desiree Murray. Mr. Richardson dealt with issues relating to importation, taxes, staffing and pricing. He shared experiences of the evidence of God in his business enterprise and encouraged participants to hold to the conviction that they can still be ethical, principled, and Christian in the midst of unscrupulous business practices.

Mrs. Murray shared information on some investment opportunities that were available. She also dealt with the advantages of investing and the disadvantages of not investing. In her discourse she also highlighted some principles which should be followed when entering any investment programme.

The businessmen were very pleased with the initiative. They were happy to know that the leadership was interested in their prosperity just as much as their spirituality.

JOHN ROBERTS OPENED ITS MUSIC ROOM

The John Roberts Memorial School of Seventh-day Adventists officially opened the Dalton Andrews Music and Conference Room on November 13, 2011. The facility was named in honour of Br. Dalton Andrews who celebrated his ninety-ninth birthday on November 13. He was one of the first students of the school which started in January 1916.

Br. Andrews and his family have been extremely supportive of the school. Several of his children including Br. Diamond and Acton Andrews were present at the function. Mr. Steve Jack, Area Representative for the Tobago House of Assembly brought greetings.

In his response to the honor, Br. Andrews, whose mind is quite alert, gave some insights into his childhood experience at the school. His parting words were “Stay with God”. You can’t lose when you link with God. He donated five thousand dollars ($5,000.00) to the school, while the family donated a keyboard and a guitar, and promised to fully furnish the music room in 2012.

School Principal, Mr. Edd Osborne and Chairman of the School Board, Pastor Ein Kirk, expressed their appreciation.
Tobago Mission held its Third Quadrennial Session, November 23-26, 2011, at the Scarborough Seventh-day Adventist Church under the theme, “Filled, Transformed, Ignited by His Spirit Until He Comes”.

Several officials from the North American Division, Inter-American Division, the Caribbean Union Conference, the Tobago House of Assembly, sister missions and conferences were in attendance:

- North American Division - Dr. Abraham Jules
- Inter-American Division - Ps Abner De Los Santos
- Caribbean Union Conference - Dr. Kern Tobias
- - Mr. Bertie Henry
- - Ps Dermoth Baptiste
- Tobago House of Assembly - Honourable Hilton Sandy

Pastor Toney Mapp, President of the Tobago Mission, welcomed all and introduced the representatives from the Inter-American Division, the Caribbean Union and other field representatives along with the Deputy Chief Secretary.

In his opening address, Honourable Hilton Sandy paid glowing tribute to the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tobago. He also brought greetings and best wishes from the Chief Secretary, Honourable Orville London.

Some highlights of his address included the following:

(a) The work of the Church in his constituencies, Louis D’or and Roxborough
(b) The Assembly views the Adventist Church as an important partner
(c) Our emphasis on education and training; the discipline at Harmon is a strong force to be reckoned with in education

(d) The development of youth with emphasis on girls
(e) Community work and health
(f) Agriculture
(g) Family Life: The Church is striving to keep the family together
(h) Spiritual values: Most important are moral and spiritual values which make the Church a beacon of hope

The first devotional presenter was Pastor Abner De Los Santos. His topic was “Why know Jesus and how to know Him”. He expanded on four reasons to know Jesus:

1. Jesus is the Eternal God, our Creator
2. Jesus is Eternal Life
3. We are to unite in Jesus
4. Happiness is in Jesus

Throughout the rest of the session we were blessed by Spirit-filled messages from Dr. Abraham Jules.

Departmental Directors Elected at the Session

- Women’s & Children’s Ministries - Sis. Cindy Lorde
- Communication - Br. Wilfred Desvignes
- Family Life - Ps Toney Mapp
- Health Ministries - Ps Ein Kirk
- Ministerial Secretary - Ps Irwin Scott
- Community Services/ Personal Ministries
  & Sabbath School - Ps Martin Cunningham
- Religious Liberty - Br. Wilfred Desvignes
- Stewardship/Trust Services - Ps Earl Edwards
- Youth - Ps Lowell Ottley

The Session ended with a grand island-wide convention at the Cyd Gray Stadium, Roxborough. Dr. Abraham Jules was the speaker.

On November 28, 2011 the following offices were filled by the Mission Executive Committee:

- Auditor - Sis. Natasha Lewis
- Education - Br. Wilfred Desvignes
- Publishing - Sis. Cynthia Osmond
- ADRA/OSHA - Pastor Ein Kirk
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JANUARY
7 Soul-Winning Commitment
7 Vision One Million - Prayer & Fasting
14 Tell the World: Spiritual Growth
21 Health Ministries Day
28 Religious Liberty Day

FEBRUARY
3-4# That the World May Know: Vision One Million Launch
4 Tell the World: Church Planting Sabbath
5-11* At least one new church planted in each conference
18 Christian Home and Marriage
11-18 Evangelism Impact
25 Health and Temperance Emphasis Day

MARCH
3* Women’s Day of Prayer
3+ Adventist World Radio
7 Day of Prayer (Educational Institutions)
10* Tell the World: Personal Outreach
17-24 Youth Week of Prayer
24 Sabbath School Community Relations Day
31# Vision One Million Celebration
31 13th Sabbath Offering (Northern Asia-Pacific Division)

* Program provided by the General Conference or by the Inter-American Division
+ Worldwide Offering - Special offerings are included in the systematic plan of the Division
# Organized Baptisms are conducted and recognition of those baptized during the quarter
Well parents, we are one year nearer to the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We wish you wisdom, courage, and strength as you parent during the closing days of earth’s history. David Kinnaman of the Barna Group provides some interesting insights on the transmittal of our faith to our children. He says, “Cultivating intergenerational relationships is one of the most important ways in which effective faith communities are developing flourishing faith in both young and old.” We are concerned with the prevalence of rifts between children and parents in our congregations. Where this is evident, many faith challenges are created. In this issue we urge all parents to daily conscientiously seek Holy Spirit guidance in creating redemptive relationships with all their children.

Following is inspired assistance that is readily available for your parenting responsibilities:

Psalm 103:17,18; Psalm 112:1,2; Psalm 127:3;Isaiah 43:6; Isaiah 44:3 Isaiah 49:25; Isaiah 54:13. Prayerfully read and claim the sure word of God on behalf of your children.

Remember, “Christ has made every provision that every parent who will be controlled by the Holy Spirit will be given strength and grace to be a teacher in the home. This education and discipline will have a molding and fashioning influence.” Adventist Home p.206

Pastor John preached at the district convention on Sabbath. He kept telling the congregation that for the New Year each church member needed to “walk with Jesus”. He ended his sermon by saying, “In your going out, walk with Jesus. In your coming in, walk with Jesus. When you are at home, walk with Jesus. When you are at school or work, walk with Jesus”. The people in the congregation were saying, “Amen, Amen” But Simone was confused.

How could she or anyone else walk with Jesus as Pastor John had said? She remembered that her Bible lesson had said Jesus is in heaven. Just this morning her Sabbath School teacher said He was in heaven preparing lovely mansions for all those who love Him to come and live with Him. While the closing hymn was being sung Simone tried to ask Mother what the Pastor really meant. Mother replied, “I will tell you while we are driving home.”

After greeting her friends in the church foyer, Mother and Simone went to the car. Just as Mother finished praying for protection on the busy road and was about to turn on the car’s ignition, Simone said, “Mother, how can we walk with Jesus when He is in heaven?” “That’s a very good question Simone.” Mother replied, “I see that you were listening to the sermon. Look for the Gospel of John in your Bible, chapter 14. While I drive you read verses 16 to 18.” Simone found the chapter and began to read.

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

Mother continued by saying “Simone, before Jesus went back to heaven, He promised His followers that He would send, Someone just like Himself to be with them. That’s what you just read from the Gospel of John. “I know who He is,” said Simone, “It’s the Holy Spirit!” “You are correct!” said Mother.

“Now to walk with Jesus, is to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in everything we think, say or do.” “But how can I do that?” Simone asked. “Well,” said Mother, “every day we need to pray to God for the Holy Spirit, who is Jesus’ representative on earth, to take control of our lives. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to teach us what to say and how to say it. We need to cooperate with the Holy Spirit so that He will show us how to treat others the way Jesus treated them when He was on earth. Walking with Jesus means living the way Jesus lived. It means loving and serving God; it means being kind and helpful to others. Simone dear, only the Holy Spirit can teach us how to walk with Jesus. If we ask Him to, He will help us.” “That’s so cool” Simone said. “I am happy Jesus has left the Holy Spirit to be our Helper.”