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The 40ft x 20ft studio of the Northern Caribbean University (NCU) media group has been the buzz of activities, as the much anticipated recording of programs in the Project Hope Series got underway in February.

"I am very pleased with the level of preparation and production so far, and the general competence of those who are in charge of the production", said Pastor Leon Wellington, vice president and communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Inter-America. "The programs that have been produced so far have addressed the issues that are very current and relevant to young people. We look forward to subsequent productions on other themes that are presently under contemplation," he continued.

The project, which involves the recording of approximately 120 programs covers eight series in health, music, family life, gender issues, children, youth, the church in the community and preaching.

"The church in this region of the West Indies is very pleased to partner with Hope Channel in spreading the everlasting gospel worldwide," said Pastor Everett Brown, president of the church in Jamaica. "It offers an opportunity for us in the West Indies not only to promulgate the gospel to the entire world, but it will also be an avenue for the members to showcase the gifts and talents that God has bestowed upon his Church."

All the episodes will be recorded in Jamaica with individuals from the conferences and mission in Jamaica and the Atlantic Caribbean region-which covers The Bahamas, Cayman Islands, and Turks and Caicos. The recordings culminate months of meetings and consultations, and also involved training with Hope Channel staff last year.

The project is now moving into its sixth series - health - having completed the series of gender issues, youth, children, family life and music; and according to project manager Ken Nelson, "things are getting better as they go along." "We had some technical challenges in the early parts of recording and after some delays for the necessary adjustments, we are now well on the way to a successful completion of the project."

"It has long been a dream of mine to showcase the talents of our people in sharing the good news of Jesus in a way that appeals and captures the attention of today's minds," said Pastor Johnson, president of the church in Atlantic Caribbean region. "Now with Project Hope, that dream takes on greater fulfillment as our people from throughout both regions, will be seen and heard throughout the world uplifting Jesus in songs, drama, discussions and the like via television. Indeed we need to cease the moment"

The recordings are a collaborated effort between Hope Channel, the Inter-American Division, the Jamaica Union Conference, and the Atlantic Caribbean Union Mission (ACUM). On completion, these programs will be broadcast on the Adventist Church-owned Hope Channel.

Project Hope is an intensive, creative, cost-effective production done on short-term basis, using many talents from all the conference and the ACUM.
In Ivory Coast, Division officers

Some 40 family members of church officers at the Seventh-day Adventist Church's West-Central Africa Division, based in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, were temporarily relocated to the neighboring country of Ghana this month, a precautionary move during political unrest, church officials said.

Several cities in Ivory Coast are experiencing unrest following a contested election. Incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo has not relinquished power four months after losing to Alassane Ouattara. The United Nations has since recognized Ouattara's presidency.

Adventist Church leaders said some church members have relocated away from the Abobo neighborhood, a suburb of Abidjan and one of the areas of heaviest fighting.

About 470 people have died in the post-election violence in Ivory Coast and up to 1 million people have fled Abidjan, The Associated Press reported.

Church division officers and leaders are now in the United States for the denomination's Spring Meeting of the world church Executive Committee and departmental advisories.

Church officers' family members were moved over the past two weeks to a women's center at church-owned Valley View University in Accra. Fighting has again flared in recent weeks, which prompted the move, said division President Gilbert Wari.

"While we were away we did not want to leave our families at risk," Wari said.

Wari said he believes the situation will be resolved soon, citing the Wednesday resignation of the officer of Gbagbo's army. Forces backing Ouattara are moving toward Abidjan after having taken the political capital Yamoussoukro, about 140 miles away, AP reported.

"Hopefully in a few days this will be sorted out," Wari said. "We are praying for God to intervene."

Church officers have monitored the tense situation since November's national election. Two missionary families and several local families at the division were relocated for 17 days in January. Wari said division officers met on March 8 to discuss future operations, deciding against temporarily relocating the headquarters.

"The French high school and [U.S.] Embassy have reopened -- those are indicators that the situation is not terribly out of control," Wari said.

Banks have temporarily closed and the division has cut expenses to a minimum, Wari said. About 10 employees remain at the division headquarters, which is located about 330 yards from the presidential palace, he said.

There are nearly 12,000 Adventists in Ivory Coast.