Jamaica: Pastors meet for spiritual refreshment

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May 5, 2011 - Mandeville, Jamaica...Nigel Coke/IAD

Pastors in the Central, East and North East Conferences of the Jamaica Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists joined thousands of their colleagues across the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (IAD) for spiritual revival and reformation through the special initiative of "Constant in Prayer."

The meetings were held on Apr. 30, at the Central Jamaica Headquarters in St. Catherine, Golden Acres in St. Andrew, and Camp Don in St. Mary.

At the Golden Acres gathering, President of the Adventist Church in Eastern Jamaica charged each pastor to be "merciless in dealing with his own sins."

"In this hour of revival and reformation, we pray and fast in vain if we are not willing to repent and confess our sins and break away from cherished idols," said Pastor Cotterell. "Sin is an awful obstacle, and one of the most dreadful things about it is the way it hinders prayer and severs the connection between us and the source of all grace, power and blessing. Anyone who would have power in prayer must be merciless in dealing with his own sins."

Sin he added, "hinders prayer, holds back revival, holds up reformation, hampers the power of the Holy Spirit and traffic jam evangelism. Hatred, envy, jealousy bad mind, bitterness, and lies cannot dwell in our hearts while we are pleading for revival and reformation. If there is anything that is constantly coming up in your moments of close communion with God, that is the thing that hinders prayer; put it away."

Under the theme "Blessed in Order to Bless," the programs were centered around praise, testimonies, reflection, intercession and commitment, and included prayer concerts, the reading of selected Scripture passages, group discussions, readings from various Spiritual books and materials, and a communion service.

"Our aim was to create a deeper awareness of the importance of a spiritual revival and real reformation in the ministry of each pastor," said Pastor Glen Samuels, ministerial secretary for the church in Jamaica. "We believe that a pastor who has been blessed by the presence and leadership of the Holy Spirit in his life, will pour out fruits of blessings in his home, church and the community."

During the meetings in the Central and East Conferences, Pastor Jaime Castejon, president of the Inter-American Theological Seminary (IATS) admonished the pastors to be faithful to their calling, with the conviction that "God is the One who called you."

Pastor Everett Brown, president of the church in Jamaica in commending the pastors, said the 'Constant in Prayer' initiative "must not be an event, but something to embrace in our everyday lives."

"It was life-changing experience for the pastors in North East Jamaica," said Pastor Arlington Woodburn, president of the church in North East Jamaica. "There were periods of confession, forgiveness and restitution among the clergy, which are necessary imperatives to true revival and reformation. We ended the day with a spirit-filled communion service and the pastors left with a sense of joy and a feeling of renewal with a deeper commitment to service."