Inter-America: ASi Convention climaxed with charge to be Messengers of Hope

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August 24, 2011 - Ocho Rios, St. Ann, Jamaica...Nigel Coke/Libna Stevens/IAD

Inter-America's Adventist -layman's Services and Industries (ASI) Convention concluded its 9th annual conference on Aug. 23, 2011, with a praise reunion concert and a charge at the Sunset Jamaica Grande Hotel in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Hundreds of Seventh-Adventist professionals and church members attended the final day's celebration after four days of seminars, exhibitions, musical performances and ministries presentations.

"I charge you to be a powerful instrument of witness advancing the gospel in the great tradition of the godly businessmen of the ages," said Pastor Carlyle Bayne, retired personal ministries and Sabbath school director for the church in Inter-America as he delivered the final charge of the convention. Bayne challenged the ASI members to be good stewards of what they have received over the past four days.

"In all of your activities, let your business place and your life's priorities be a constant witnesses for the truth," he said. "Respond to the spiritual messages you have received in this developing crescendo of spiritual messages. Function in such a way that when the supreme manager of the universe puts in his appearance you will be among those who will hear the words addressed to you, 'Well done thou good and faith full servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord.'"

ASI members and the congregation at large were summoned by Sabbath morning guest speaker Pastor Abraham Jules of Trinidad and Tobago to be "Messengers of Hope" by embracing the outcast and disenfranchised in society, including former church members.

More than 40 exhibition booths, motivational presentations, empowerment seminars, election of officers, and networking were featured at the convention, which was held for the second time in Jamaica. The first ASi convention held in Jamaica took place in 1999.

The opening ceremony and segments of the convention were streamed live via the internet, with special aspects of the program broadcast live on NCU Radio and NCU TV.

"It was one of the best in the Caribbean that I have attended," said Hazel Watkis-Wisdom from St, Ann, Jamaica. "I enjoyed the opening night. I was satisfied spiritually, emotionally and socially. The interaction among the nations was very good and the praise reunion was heavenly."

A special offering appeal was made to go towards three projects in Jamaica: the Good Samaritan Inn in Kingston; the Educational Foundation for Children Care in Four Paths, Clarendon; and the West Jamaica Feeding Program in Montego Bay, St James. A total of US$23,000.00 in cash and pledges was received during the convention.

The convention was an opportunity to boost interest for ASi in Jamaica, said Pastor Leon B. Wellington, vice president for the church in Inter-America and secretary of ASi-Inter-America.

"This was a perfect opportunity to help the local ASi organization boost more interest in the
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Eight series covering the areas of gender issues, family life, youth, children, music, preaching, health and the church in the community, which were produced and recorded in Jamaica, were presented to Hope Channel.

The presentation took place on Aug. 20, 2011, during the 11th staging of the Inter-American Division’s Adventist Lay-persons Services and Industries (ASI-IAD) International Convention at the Sunset Jamaica Grande Hotel in Ocho Rios, St. Ann, Jamaica.

Pastor Derris Krause, development director at Hope Channel was delighted to receive the set of 118 programs that involved individuals and scenes from across the islands of Jamaica, the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands.

"What the Northern Caribbean University media team has done is amazing," said Krause. "The entire Hope Channel team looks forward to integrating these new programs which you have created into Hope Channel's broadcast lineup as quickly as possible. Hope Channel is honored to be your partner in ministry to advance the kingdom of God."

Pastor Leon Wellington, vice president and communication director of IAD presented the series to Krause and thanked the various teams for making the completion of the project possible.

"I am very delighted to see the completion of this historic project," said Pastor Wellington. "My hope is that the various messages encoded in each presentation will inspire the viewers, and lead to a greater commitment to Christ."

The project which cost approximately US$163,000 was a joint effort of Hope Channel; the Inter-American Division (IAD); the Jamaica Union and the Atlantic Caribbean Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists which represents Adventists in the Islands of the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos and Cayman.

"It was our pleasure to be involved in this international project," said Everett Wiles, acting managing director of NCU Media Group. "In spite of the challenges that we faced technically, it was a great learning experience for the team many of whom are students majoring in communication studies. We look forward to more projects of this nature and we look forward to the broadcast of these series."

Project Hope is a creative, cost-effective production done on a short-term basis, using many volunteers to assist in the production of more than 100 television programs in less than one month. So far more than 2,000 programs have been produced in places such as Africa, Australia, India, the Philippines, Europe, North America and the Caribbean.