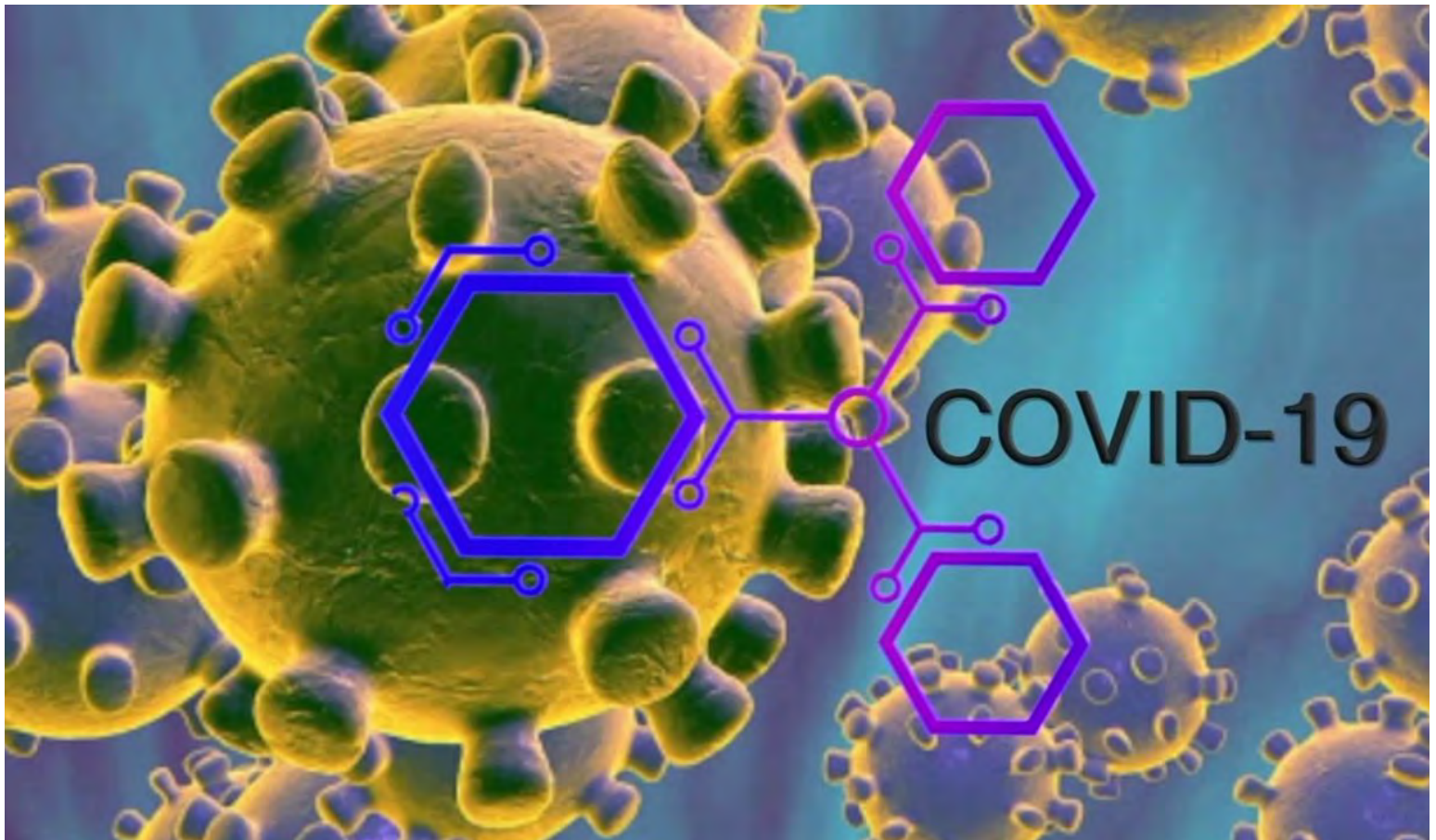


Streams of Light

Official Newsletter of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

September 2020



From the President ... January 1, 2020 to June 28, 2020

The Year End Celebration Service

The New Years' Eve annual celebration service was electrifying and ushered us into a new and untried year; a year we will never forget. Thanks to the Hamilton Church, their technical team, their Gourmet committee, and one of their praise teams led by Michael Spencer, the conference constituents were blessed with a night of Spirit-filled worship, fellowship, and food. This year, our guest preacher was none other than Evangelist Dr. Alanzo Smith who delivered a soul-stirring message entitled the 'Prophet and the Prostitute'. His message challenged us to commit ourselves to the work of evangelism in preparation for the Island-wide Family Enrichment Series, scheduled for March 7, 2020. His message inspired us to be involved in the great work of winning souls for the Christ.

CELEBRATION OF HYMNS, OFFICERS TRAINING, AND WORKERS MEETING

On the weekend of January 24, 25 and 26, we held our first Celebration of Hymns, our Annual Officers' Training Weekend and our Annual Workers' Meeting all in one, with an emphasis on making disciples. This weekend was special and historic. At the invitation of the Office of Regional Conference Ministries (O.R.C.M.), which comprises the nine (9) Black Regional Conferences of the North American Division and its two West Coast affiliated ministries; the Bermuda Conference was asked to be the host conference for their annual spring meetings. We gladly acquiesced and maximized the use of the pool of leadership talent to facilitate our Church Officers' Training weekend, and our annual Workers' Meeting.



Photo: Ricardo Clarke

With close to eighty (80) overseas conference workers, leaders, administrators and educators visiting the Island we were not only afforded the privilege of filling our church pulpits the Sabbath of January 25th with Regional conference presidents and NAD staff, but we were able to have a very successful workers' meeting for Bermuda Institute staff

and our pastors. We were also able to hold an informative and inspirational Officers' Training weekend for church officers in our local churches.

It should be noted, that while the Bermuda Conference is not a Regional or Black Conference, we do have a rich affiliation, history and connection with the work and auxiliaries of the Regional conference ministries which has existed for decades. Our common struggles, interest and alignment with the work of Regional conferences entities has not only helped us to build the work of God in Bermuda, but our close ties have helped many Bermudians to become equipped and trained for their personal and professional development in becoming successful and productive citizens in this life and successful employees of God's work.

The ORCM have been gracious to the Bermuda Conference and have invited us to their administrative table and together we have worked to collaborate, share ideas, challenges, and partnerships to advance the work of the gospel, and the proclamation of the three angels' message to our people here in Bermuda. Some of the ministries that have bond us together

include the following: Pine Forge Academy; where people like Warren Williams, Raymond Simons and others have attended; Oakwood University, where many of us are alumnus, and where Bermudians have not only attended, but have actually served as staff. People like Paula Wilson, Edrene Malcolm, Alma Foggo York, Raymond Simons, Stephen Man-

ders and others have given valuable service and made valuable contribution to the Academy, the College, and now the University.

Many Bermudians have played an intricate role in the spiritual life of the campus by using their musical gifts and talents by singing with the world-class choir, Oakwood Aeolians, and by giving birth to the Dynamic Praise choir. Other ministries that we have supported and benefited from include Breath of Life; Message Magazine; and B.A.Y.D.A. (Black Adventist Youth Directors Association) where our youth have traveled and participated over the years in their Youth Congress events. Another benefit of our affiliation with the ministries of Regional conference ministries is that of our participation through the years with what was known as Evangelism Council, now called P.E.L.C. (Pastoral Evangelism Leadership Council). This annual ministers' conference has for decades

went into action. Dr. Wilson told me that he would like to bring Bermuda's own Stephen Manders to Bermuda, and asked if Bermuda Conference would partner together to have a Celebration of Hymns on the Friday night and a Festival of Praise Concert on Sabbath afternoon.



On the Sunday morning the officers' training would be blessed to have Stephen and his group, Decree, for worship, followed by a sermon by Dr. Ivan Williams, the ministerial director of the NAD, and a plenary session led by Pastor Calvin Preston, vice president for the South Atlantic Conference.

PASTORAL EVANGELISM & LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2019

E40

EVANGELISM REMEMBERED, REIMAGINED, REIGNITED

DR. EMIL PEELER - CARLIS HILL CHURCH, WASHINGTON, DC
T. ROW WEEGER - BETON CHURCH, BETON, MISSISSIPPI
DR. CARLTON P. STYED - DR. ANDERSON, BREATH OF LIFE
CLIFFORD JONES - LANE WILSON, PRESIDENT
DANIEL MONROE - BONTREATION, PRESIDENT
DR. JESSE WILSON JR. - P.E.L.C. DIRECTOR
SANDRA ROBERTS - CO-CHAIRMAN OF CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT
REV MAURICE WATSON - IN MEMPHIS, BAPTIST, BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
MICHELLE MILL - PEARSON CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM
DANIEL KELLY - BAPTIST CHURCH, CHARLOTTE, NC

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF EVANGELISM
DECEMBER 8-11, 2019
 REGISTER TODAY! PELCPower.com OR AdventSource.org

been a place where our pastors, Bible instructors, church members and elders have become equipped, empowered, and encouraged for gospel service.

Because the O.R.C.M. do not work in a vacuum, other ministries that work with them would also be on Island and present during our annual officers meeting. Therefore, when the P.E.L.C. director, Dr. Jesse Wilson, told me that he and his team would also be present, our planning



Photos: Ricardo Clarke



Photos: Ricardo Clarke

MEDICAL & LIFESTYLE CLINIC

On March 1, we held our second Medical & Lifestyle Clinic at the Hamilton Youth Center. Thanks to Dr. Leonard Gibbons, this event was another huge success. Over 200 Bermudians took advantage of the free health services provided by the medical professionals, Bermuda Hospital, and health professionals from across the Island.

CONFERENCE-WIDE EVANGELISM 2020 ABORTED

On March 7, the Family Enrichment Series began, but due to the news of the coronavirus pandemic we were advised that large gatherings were not advised and so we closed the meetings down before the first Sabbath celebration.



Photo: Ricardo Clarke

MINISTRY DURING COVID-19 AND SHELTER IN PLACE

On March 14, with the closure of our churches, we began the recording of Sabbath sermons to minister to our Island that would be shut down and sheltered-in-place in order to stop the spread of Covid-19. These Sabbath

sermons, and other messages prepared by our pastors, kept the proclamation of the gospel aired for our ATV audience each Sabbath, and then pastors mobilized the Zoom technology to keep the churches connected. The Zoom technology quickly became a way to hold all meetings with our parent organizations and with our local field. This tool gave birth to online platforms becoming a way for people to connect across the world and benefit from the pool of talent at the push of a button. Conversations for These Times; Pray for NYC; Healing Hope with Dr. Dwight Nelson; The Quarantine Revival; The Quarantine Revival Prophecy Edition II; and the Regional Conference Convocation.



A TIME TO PRAY

During this time, and before the close of another school year, I asked Pastor Michelle Hill, our Conference Prayer Coordinator, to join me as School Board Chairman, to personally call, thank and have prayer with each and every one of our 30 teachers and principal at the Bermuda Institute.

We spent time with our teachers to personally thank them for what they bring to BI. We also thanked them for their expertise and sacrifices they make each year in committing themselves to encouraging our students to develop a personal relationship with God, challenging them to academic, physical and social excellence, thus equipping them for heaven, service to God and their fellowmen.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

At our last executive committee we voted a document that describes the work of the pastor in the Bermuda Conference. This document outlines the work of the Pastor in the Bermuda Conference as our frontline workers.

We also highlighted the work of the pastor in each of our churches and their special efforts in reclamation of our members.

The Work of the Pastor in The Bermuda Conference

- Prepare sermons, the worship experience, and prayer meetings to encourage the spiritual growth of our members. Minimum of 30 Sabbath sermons.
- Teach a Pastor's Bible Class for new and potential members to encourage Sabbath school attendance.
- Encourage stewardship in tithe/offerings, the use of talents, temple, treasure, and time.
- Conduct evangelism annually and Bible studies (2 weekly) to reach baptismal goals.
- Support and promote Christian Education. The pastor has a class at Bermuda Institute.
- Support Conference initiatives and events— Lifestyle clinic, Camp meeting, Year-End, etc.
- Give leadership to Conference departmental work.
- Give Pastoral visitation in the home, hospital, prison, etc. (5 minimum weekly).
- Retention and Reclamation efforts (Submit weekly attendance record).
- Equip members for witnessing, service, and Bible study.
- Develop a church community initiative (Sung Kwon model is an option).
- Give Pastoral presence to local church departmental programs, social, etc.
- Conduct pre-marital counseling, marriage counseling, weddings, funerals, house dedications, baby dedications, anointing services, and prayer for people.
- Support Conference Personal Ministries: Message magazine, Ingathering, etc.
- Promote involvement of the mission of the church.
- Submit monthly worker's report.
- Conduct regular board meetings and business meetings.
- See that church properties are managed in good order.



From the Executive Secretary . . .

We praise God for all that He has done for us thus far, especially during COVID-19.

It was a pleasure as Executive Secretary to provide assistance with the Bermuda Government in the drafting of Phases 3 and 4 for the re-opening of the churches in Bermuda.

HR Matters and policy counsel provided throughout the last eight months has kept Bermuda Conference properly navigating through the pandemic challenges.

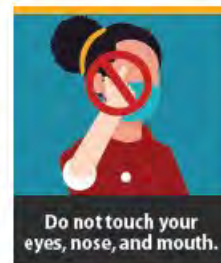
2020 Statistical Report .. To end of 2nd Qtr

	Total Start	Baptisms	Rec.	P.O.F.	Trans In	Adj	Trans Out	Death	Drop	Missing	Adj	Total End
DEVONSHIRE	456						2	9			1	444
HAMILTON	905	7				3	1	3				911
MID. HEIGHTS	367	2						2			12	355
PEMBROKE	261							3			1	257
REST. MIN.	214					15						229
ROCKAWAY	101							1			8	92
SOMERSET	386	1			2		2	3			8	376
SOUTHAMPTON	578	2			3	16		4				595
ST. DAVID	96										4	92
ST. GEORGE	305							3			3	299
WARWICK	273			1	1	34	3		10			296
CMH	40										2	38
TOTALS	3982	12		1	6	68	8	28	10		39	3984

VOTED ITEMS BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
NEW HIRES	NEW APPOINTMENTS	RETIREES
Mr. Ken Johnson - Math Mr. Dawn Kirk - Grade 6	Mr. Michael Simmons EXCOM Representative (Somerset) Mr. Owen Simons Constitution & Bylaws (Bermuda Institute) Ms. Eileen Rodriguez Pathfinder Area Coordinator	Mr. Eardley Richardson Chaplain Kevin Santucci

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



All local COVID-19 updates can be found at: www.gov.bm/coronavirus.

GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Health

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own ~ Matt 6:33-34, NIV.



From the Treasurer . . .

Treasurer's Update

Bermuda Conference continues to be very blessed even with challenges of the pandemic. Our tithe is below the previous year and the number of baptisms is below previous years also.

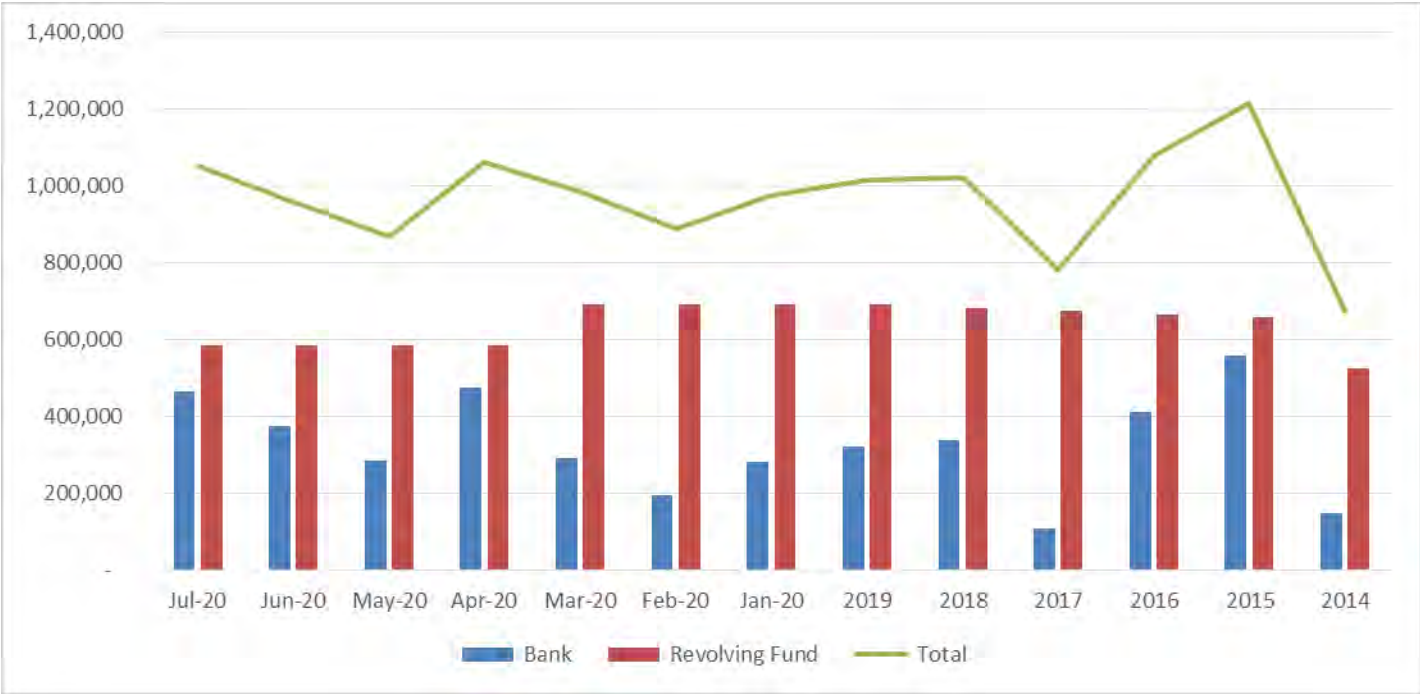
Dashboard (key figures)

	++++Draft++++								*****Audited*****				
	Jul-20	Jun-20	May-20	Apr-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Jan-20	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Cash on Hand	465,568	374,906	284,095	\$ 475,285	\$ 292,689	\$ 196,750	\$ 282,693	\$ 323,540	\$ 338,149	\$ 107,305	\$ 412,460	\$ 558,244	\$ 148,739
Accounts receivable	1,630,117	1,451,251	1,614,872	1,451,289	1,558,946	1,658,137	1,551,805	1,585,550	1,254,474	1,855,797	1,718,057	1,479,848	1,474,279
AU Revolving Fd Investment	586,054	586,054	586,054	586,054	693,834	691,684	691,684	691,684	683,105	674,633	666,265	657,979	526,027
Current Assets	2,707,346	2,437,817	2,521,106	2,547,871	2,945,883	2,568,799	2,976,567	2,623,000	2,880,497	2,880,497	1,963,102	2,130,517	2,038,092
Current Liabilities	302,178	260,436	277,419	324,636	333,700	307,063	310,794	219,775	535,295	345,500	360,269	414,024	650,013
Actual Working Capital (simple calc.)	2,405,168	2,177,381	2,243,687	2,223,235	2,612,183	2,261,736	2,665,773	2,403,225	2,345,202	2,534,997	1,602,833	1,716,493	1,388,079
Recommended Working Capital	2,366,248	2,366,248	2,366,248	2,366,248	2,366,248	2,366,248	2,366,248	2,366,248	2,366,248	2,685,647	2,643,479	2,705,084	2,662,477
Current ratio	9:1	9.4:1	9.1:1	7.8:1	8.8:1	8.4:1	9.6:1	11.9:1	5.4:1	8.3:1	5.4:1	5.1:1	3.1:1
Percentage of required working Capital	101.64%	92.02%	94.82%	93.96%	110.39%	95.58%	112.66%	101.56%	99.11%	94.39%	60.63%	63.45%	52.13%
Liquidity ratio (Cash only)	1.5:1	1.4:1	1:1	1.5:1	0.9:1	0.6:1	0.9:1	1.5:1	0.6:1	0.3:1	1.1:1	1.3:1	0.2:1
Increase (decrease) from operations	12,873	(34,626)	(150,671)	(77,617)	(89,624)	6,074	(51,096)	29,285	90,823	(205,824)	172,731	577,570	(235,515)
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets	(46,730)	(229,029)	(138,234)	(134,198)	(61,720)	(11,753)	(11,376)	(4,928)	122,254	(380,377)	(48,048)	494,014	(317,870)
Tithe	2,643,903	2,120,028	1,810,124	1,466,743	1,164,784	836,962	371,346	5,042,242	5,215,235	5,039,449	5,232,897	5,632,958	5,340,990
Plant (Fixed) Assets (net)	11,337,767	11,362,256	11,386,744	11,411,233	11,484,180	11,484,180	11,484,180	11,508,678	11,656,937	11,767,224	11,998,584	12,155,349	12,387,360
Total Assets	14,243,888	14,019,848	14,127,625	14,178,879	14,249,423	13,965,690	14,252,364	14,351,453	13,531,932	13,741,652	14,131,376	14,154,021	13,921,234
BI Subsidy - Tithe	350,000	300,000	250,000	200,000	150,000	100,000	50,000	600,000	600,000	650,000	650,000	600,000	600,000
BI Subsidy - Non-tithe+\$100k approp.	142,350	136,300	30,250	24,200	18,150	12,100	6,050	72,600	72,600	72,600	72,600	72,600	72,600
Tithe Subsidy % of Tithe	13.24%	14.15%	13.81%	13.64%	12.88%	11.95%	13.46%	11.90%	11.50%	12.90%	12.42%	10.65%	11.23%

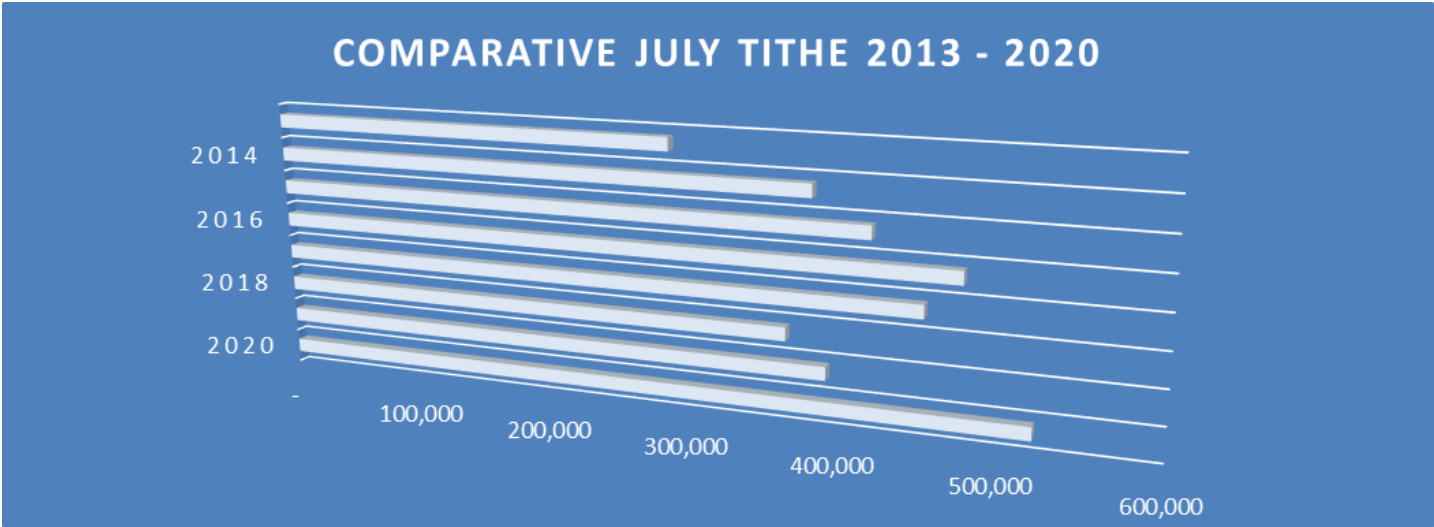
Objectives of the Treasury

- ◆ Open, clear and timely communication to stakeholders (local committees, members, and Union);
- ◆ Ensure that the assets of the Conference are effectively managed and identify opportunities to be more efficient ensuring value for dollars spent;
- ◆ Identify risk and implement mitigating strategies to reduce/manage risk;
- ◆ Provide timely and accurate financial reporting to key stakeholders;
- ◆ Work with the stewardship directors to improve faithfulness.

The chart below shows the movement in the Conference cash position. The actions taken by the Executive Committee in May 2020 and the inflow of funds from the NAD and the Division are discussed in this report.



Tithe for July 2020 was the highest month for the year and the highest July in the last eight years. Praise the Lord! July was a big catch up month. Tithe for the month was \$524k vs \$395k in 2019, a positive variance of \$129k or 32.8%. YTD tithe is \$2,644k vs \$2,972k in 2019 or -\$328k or -11% variance.

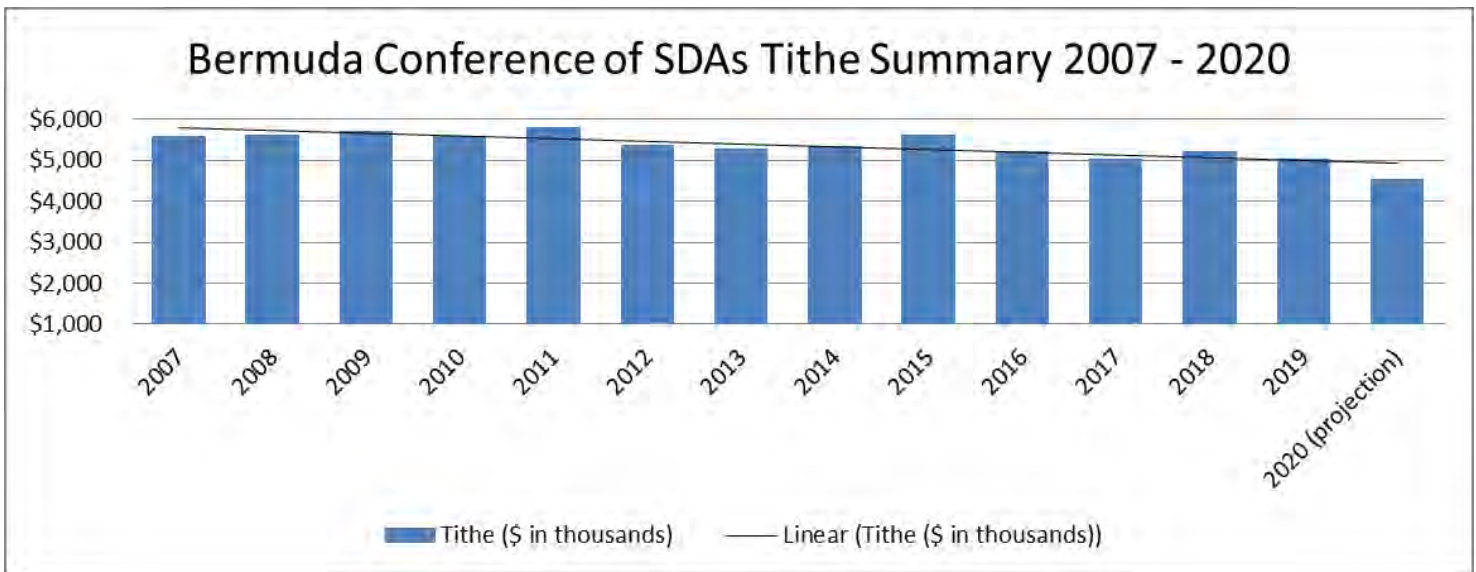


July 2020 (YTD) in Comparison Previous Years

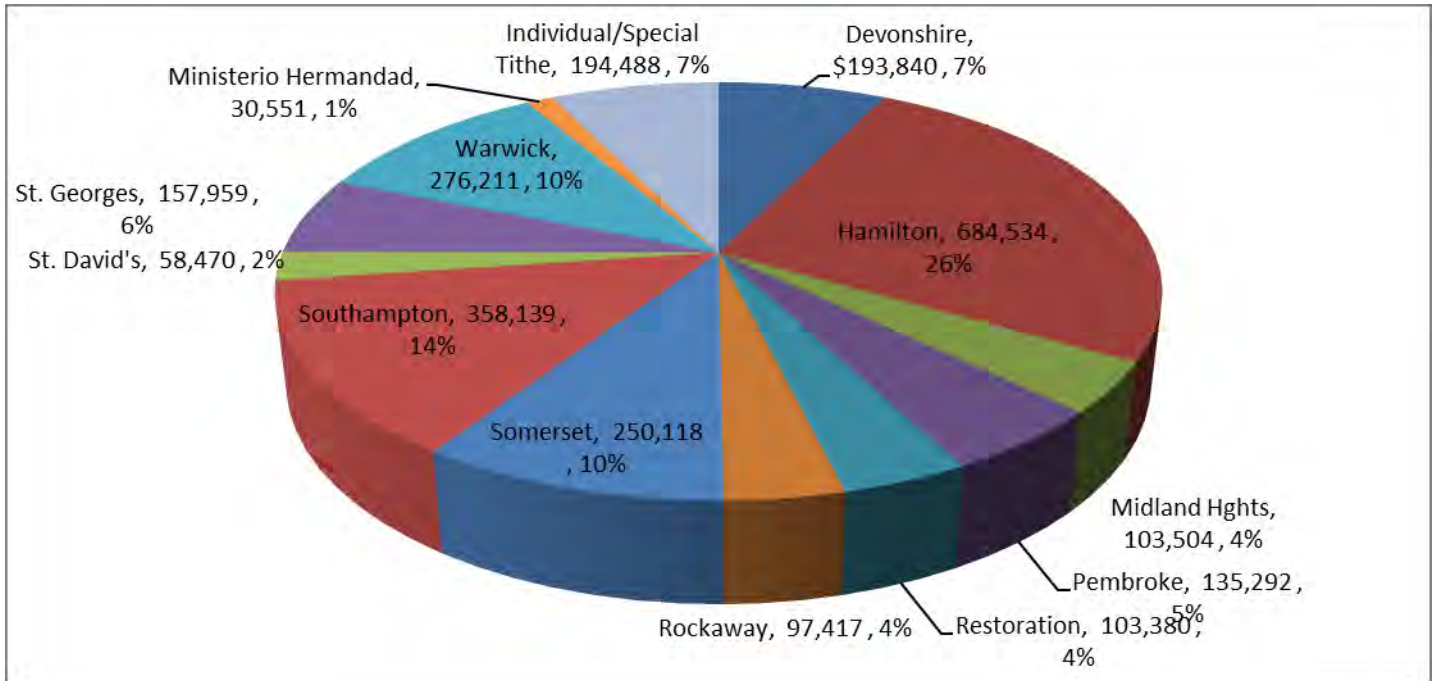


	Tithe 2020	Tithe 2019	Tithe 2018	Tithe 2017	Tithe 2016	Tithe 2015	Tithe 2014
Series1	\$2,643,903	\$2,971,568	\$2,980,149	\$2,947,747	\$2,989,942	\$3,346,590	\$3,044,432

This chart shows the trend of returning tithe over several years:





This chart shows the contribution by church to July 2020:




In May 2020, the Executive Committee took the following action to mitigate the impact of the pandemic financially:


**Executive Committee
Approved Initial Steps to
Control Expenses**

 Eliminate Special Travel

 Reduce or eliminate discretionary spending and all expenses to be approved by Treasurers

 Eliminate any hiring

 Eliminate Camp Meeting

 No Capital expenditures (exception completion in progress work at Edina)

Our Community Services director and the team (which includes CS directors from each church) have been actively assisting our community who are in need. We appreciate the contributions from the NAD and Atlantic Union Community Services departments of \$25,000 and \$10,000 respectively. Also, the Community Services Director has received over \$102k from a local foundation to the end of July 2020 and received over \$120k in vouchers for the feeding programs across our churches from a private donor.

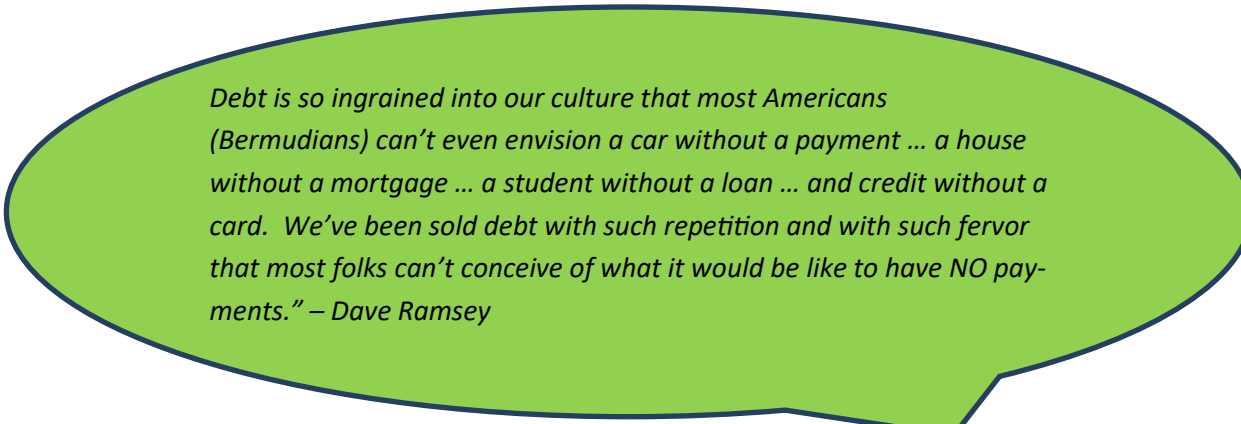
These contributions have helped ACS significantly to meet the needs of our community - reduce suffering.

We also thank the North American Division and Atlantic Union for a further contribution of \$41,091 from each organization to assist with the operations of the Conference resulting from the decrease in revenue from the pandemic. The Executive Committee voted in a recent meeting to distribute \$50,000 to our churches to assist with defraying COVID-related expenses and meet the needs of their community.

Efforts have been made to understand the needs of the local churches by meeting with the treasurers and we continue to encourage pastors and treasurers to keep the Conference Administration aware of any special needs that may exist at their churches resulting from the pandemic or other operational issues.

In June 2020, the Executive Committee voted to appropriate \$100k to Bermuda Institute and those funds were distributed to assist with operational liabilities.

Worldwide, the pandemic is not over, but we must thank our heavenly Father for the awesome blessings that have been bestowed on the Conference and the protection and leadership He has provided!



Debt is so ingrained into our culture that most Americans (Bermudians) can't even envision a car without a payment ... a house without a mortgage ... a student without a loan ... and credit without a card. We've been sold debt with such repetition and with such fervor that most folks can't conceive of what it would be like to have NO payments." – Dave Ramsey

God Responds to COVID-19

Whether it is providing clothing through its recycling centre, education through the General Education Diploma (GED) program, financial literacy through free family finance and budgeting seminars, wellness and wholeness services through the Complete Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and Diabetes Undone (DU) seminars, free monthly health lectures by Bermudian health practitioners and other health system stakeholders, free weekly and monthly exercise classes and walking groups or providing grocery vouchers and free weekly meals to the elderly, children and other vulnerable segments of the community, the St. David's Seventh-day Adventist Church has ministered to, and met, felt needs in the St. David's community and beyond on a continuous basis for over 20 years.

Mrs. Dora Baker, coordinator of Adventist Community Services for the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Community Services Director for the St. David's Seventh-day Adventist Church, recognized that as Christians we believe it is our responsibility to follow in the footsteps of our Saviour Jesus Christ in meeting the needs of the vulnerable in our community and that by doing so we are able to share the love of God for mankind in a very tangible way.

When the COVID-19 pandemic placed the already vulnerable at greater risk, the demand

for the Church Community Supper Ministry held on Wednesday evenings increased and the need for expanding the ministry to other times was clearly evident. Sister Baker recalls, *“As the pandemic increased in Bermuda, I began receiving more and more calls for assistance. The needs were far more than we could meet as we are a very small congregation with mostly senior members who are on fixed income.”*



At the same time, an escalating demand for food, whether cooked or for groceries, throughout the Island, became an impetus for Adventist Community Services, Bermuda to do something. Sister Baker asked her Community Services team, the elders and other members of the church to join her in seeking God's help through prayer. She then reached out to a variety of church and charitable agencies for assistance as the team prepared to meet the increasing demands.

As the Bermuda Government prepared to implement shelter-in-place regulations to mitigate the spread of the pandemic within the Island, God answered the prayers of his people. Several organizations responded. Following the prompting of Pastor Cyril Millett, senior pastor of the St. George's Seventh-day Adventist Church, Sister Baker applied for a grant with the Bermuda Community Foundation. Further applications for grants were made to the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, and the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. All applications were successful and the feeding ministries through

Adventist Community Services Bermuda could go on during the shelter-in-place.

Furthermore, Dr. Kenneth Manders, president of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, encouraged Sister Baker to attend a meeting with a philanthropist who was willing to sponsor distribution of food vouchers to the needy in our community. As a result, all the community services leaders within our Conference are engaged in responding to the various requests for food from vulnerable members of the community.

We will not neglect to mention that several members of the Church, and the community at large, have been very generous, providing much needed donations of food and finances toward the feeding ministry of ACS Bermuda.

All these grants and donations enabled our churches to meet the ever-increasing demands.

In addition to serving a meal on Wednesdays, our Hamilton Church Community Services team under the leadership of Sister Marva Trott expanded their feeding ministry to Sundays on a take-out basis. The Community Services team at the Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church prepares all the food to be packaged and dis-

tributed from their Centre. They serve an average of 400 meals a week, which numbers soared to approximately 500 meals per week during the heart of the shelter-in-place. On a weekly basis, the team has also distributed food hampers and food vouchers on demand.

At St. David's Church, considering the cooking team was significantly reduced, the Bermuda Community Foundation agreed to sponsor cooked meals via a few restaurants who prepared the food and delivered to the Church for distribution to those in need every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Over



1,600 meals were distributed during the first 3 weeks of sheltering-in-place. The numbers rapidly increased as weeks went by. It is worth mentioning that this ministry was extended to members of the St. George's community, and church members from St. George's and St. David's church have joined forces in the feeding ministry during the pandemic.



Whilst distributing the cooked meals, it was brought to the team's attention that a few people had not eaten between the Wednesday and Monday that supper was served. We decided to provide limited food items to carry them during this period. Once again, God stepped in and this time moved on the hearts of the management of Bermuda wholesale importer and distributor, Butterfield and Vallis, to provide dry, canned and refrigerated goods so that those in need were able to have enough to feed their families over the weekend.



Donations from Butterfield and Vallis expanded the church food inventory and allowed 67 families to obtain free groceries at a free community 'shopping' event held in the fellowship hall of the church. This ministry has grown to provide food hampers to nearly 100 families each week.



In connection with this ministry, we would like to express our gratitude to Brother Gerald Burgess and Brother Derrick Ming of Hamilton Church, who have faithfully assisted with receiving and transporting food items every week from The MarketPlace in Hamilton to St. David's Church on Southside.

With the combined sponsorship of the philanthropist, ACS NAD, ACS Atlantic Union, ACS Bermuda, Bermuda Community Foundation and individual donations all of our Community Services Leaders are engaged in meeting the needs for food in the community.

More recently, our Warwick Church Community Services Leader, Sister Carolina Carter, and her team undertook to distribute food hampers to selected members of the community who became in need. This ministry has seen an increase in demand

and, with God's blessings, they are meeting the needs of all those who ask.



What we have greatly appreciated during the

pandemic is the healthy collaboration among all ACS Bermuda local church leaders, who are all engaged in meeting the needs of the people in the community in the form of cooked meals, distribution of food vouchers and food hampers. Other non-food-related needs have presented themselves which they have met with grace and love, and those ministered to were genuinely thankful. In addition to the ACS Bermuda leaders mentioned above, our gratitude goes to Brother Joseph Young of Somerset Church, Sister Terrylynn Gibbons of Rockaway Church, Sister Dianne Furbert of Southampton Church, Sister Carolin Scott of Pembroke Church, Sister Muriel Roach of Devonshire Church, Sister Tammy Robinson of Midland Heights Church, Pastor Damon Hendrickson of Restoration Ministries.

We have also appreciated the services of our non-church-member volunteers. One evening at St. David's Church, after a distribution of food hampers, a member of the community who was returning from walking his dog stopped by the Church and enquired about the food ministry and its sponsorship. Elder Calvin White, who was at the door, proceeded to answer all his questions. As a result of those conversations, the visitor in question offered to join us in service. He also invited his friends from the neighborhood who have now become faithful volunteers of St. David's church community services team.



ACS Bermuda is also very thankful for the support we receive from our Conference Administrative team, namely our Conference President, Pastor Dr. Kenneth Manders; our Conference Treasurer Elder Aaron Spencer; our Conference Secretary, Pastor DeJaun Tull, as well as all the staff at the Bermuda Conference.

Please pray that God will continue to provide the resources to allow this ministry to meet the needs in our communities, and to strengthen all Community Services Teams as they serve the people in Bermuda on behalf of the Master Servant, Jesus Christ.

Should you wish to partner with the church in this ministry or have constructive ideas which can be implemented within the community services ministry, please contact Sister Dora Baker at:

communityservicesfederationbda@gmail.com



*Report submitted by
Calvin White and Dora Baker*



From the Principal



Getting started for the 2020-21 school year has been a challenge. The coronavirus pandemic has caused schools everywhere to rethink the delivery of education. The trepidation and anticipation from parents and teachers of whether in-person school is possible was something we had to consider. A number of parents had decided beforehand that they will not be taking the chance of sending their precious ones to an environment where bringing the virus home was possible. However, after reviewing our protocols on our newly redesigned website, bermudainstitute.bm, most have decided to send their children back.

As a school family, we armed ourselves with the promises of God, knowing that He promised to protect and see us through. Subsequently, we chose Exodus 15: 26 (NLT) as our anchor and theme text for this year. "He said, 'If you will listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his sight, obeying his commands and keeping all his decrees, then I will not make you suffer any of the diseases I sent on the Egyptians; for I am the LORD who heals you.'"

Additionally, we dare not venture into the start of a new school year without consecrating and rededicating ourselves to the Lord. So on Sabbath, August 22, 2020, we had a virtual Consecration Service starting with a pre-recorded concert followed by Dr. Dedrick Blue of the North Bronx SDA Church, who gave us a challenge that resonated with all who were online. Dr. Blue used 2 Kings 13:21 to bring out a few pertinent points. He reminded us that Bermuda Institute must not carry around a dead faith and he also stressed the need for stu-

dents not to lie in someone else's grave – grave that was not meant for them, graves of prisons, drugs, gangs, etc.

On Monday, August 24, there was excitement in the air. Students, parents, teachers, and relatives came to school to see what the first day would be like. The Home & School Association had a welcome party in the Southampton church's parking lot where students were given cookies, had their pictures taken, and were greeted by the Bermuda Conference President and Pastors, Member of Parliament and Alumnus Dennis Lister, Jr., and Speaker of the House of Assembly, Hon. Dennis Lister, Sr. among many other dignitaries. The fire department was there to sound off the siren and encourage us back to school since we were the first in the country to do so.

Parents were very cooperative as they followed the guidelines that were set forth regarding venturing on campus. They waved to their children as they watched them descend the steps, sanitize their hands, got their temperature checked, and head to their classes.

Students were met with a new environment and new changes. All students had to wear their masks; however, students from Pre-K to Grade 5 are allowed to remove them once they enter their classrooms. Students operated in their bubble and remained in their classrooms while the teachers move from class to class. Another change they encountered was that the auditorium and library had

to be converted into classrooms. The auditorium now housed the two Grade 6 classes and the library the Grade 12 classroom. The number of students in both Grades 3 and 5 were above the limit for having everyone in one classroom with appropriate physical distancing, so we had to be creative and split the class using technology to facilitate the teaching. We anticipated a decline in enrollment as a result of parents losing their jobs due to the pandemic, but praise God our enrollment of 265 is just a little less than what we ended with last year.

Joining us this year are Ms. Dawn Kirk, Grade 6 teacher; Mr. Ken Johnson, High School Math teacher, and Mrs. June Huggins, Pre-K teacher. We welcome them and hope they will have a successful year.

Bermuda Institute was featured in the *Royal Gazette* as the first school on the island to reopen. Although we still have technology needs we are committed to ensure our students get the best education possible and at the same time develop a personal relationship with Christ. We solicit your prayers and your continued financial support. May God continue to bless you, our Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventist constituency.



Hand sanitizer dispenser at entrance of one of the buildings



New sink installed to facilitate frequent handwashing



Grade 6 classes situated in the auditorium



Social distance marking outside the building

Pathfinder and Adventurer Induction Ceremony

Amid the Covid-19 Pandemic, the St. George Seventh-day Adventist Church Cahow Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs remained engaged and committed to their goals. Under the leadership of Directors Mrs. Marie Binns (Pathfinder Leader) and Dr. Kianna Simmons-DeGraff (Adventurer Leader), these two clubs lived out their mission of meeting the mental, physical, social and spiritual needs of their young people.

Though under lockdown, it did not take these creative leaders long to find their niche on Zoom. The Pathfinder year was scheduled to end in June, but they did not stop. They continued to work with their eager troupes throughout the summer to learn about Jesus and earn their badges.

They had some exciting and interesting activities. But one of their favorite was the virtual camp. Some of them set up tents in their living room and others in their backyard. Needless to say, it was a wonderful and popular event full of fun activities. At the end of the camp, everyone built their own virtual campfire, family and friends were invited to join and share their weekend experience with each other remotely, as they ate their s'mores. When asked which activity they enjoyed the most, the answers varied. Some enjoyed the arts and crafts, others the drills, virtual camp, building with Legos, the songs, the obstacle course and much more. One thing is for sure, they all had a wonderful time and a great learning experience. It was an adventure indeed and it continues.

Due to the required protocols for social distancing and limited numbers in gathering, they did not have their scheduled induction ceremony in June, instead it was held on Friday, September 4, on the church lawn. Family and friends braved the summer heat and came out to support them. We had four Adventurer and two Pathfinder inductees. They all looked very smart in their uniforms and excited to receive the badges that they had worked so hard for throughout the year. The parents were invited to tie their children's scarves. We had one inductee who joined us from overseas by Zoom, and her grandmother came to accept her scarf and badges on her behalf. The service ended with a variety of healthy goodies donated by our church family.

We thank our Pastor, Cyril Millett, Pastor Dwayne Caines, the Youth Leader of the Bermuda Conference, Director Dwayne Hill, the Bermuda Conference Pathfinder Leader and Ms. Joanna Bean, our Area Coordinator, for participating in the ceremony and supporting our young people. Though small in numbers, these pathfinders and adventurers are on fire for Jesus. May God bless them as they learn more about Jesus, as well as their leaders and families, as they continue to lead, guide and support them in their relationship with Jesus. To God be the glory!

