

Streams of Light

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BERMUDA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



December, 2024



Season's Greetings



joy
grace
hope-love
faith-peace
honor-purity
justice-charity
courage-loyalty
goodness-prudence
sympathy-humility
fortitude-temperance
brotherhood-
cooperation
and
God
is
Love

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: 2024 WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

For unto us, a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders, and he shall be called wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting father, and the prince of peace. Isaiah 9:6

Each year we rehearse the familiar stories of the birth of Christ because we know how His story ends. See when life has so many unanswered questions, with so many unknown outcomes and so many unexpected twists and turns it's good to come back to the familiar because there's comfort in being reminded that some things don't change. The story of the advent is so critical for us as believers because when you come to the end of a year that has left you numb and you have been on a roller coaster ride of emotions from January till today, and you are looking out into a new year filled with unknown possibilities and worst case scenarios, it is important at this moment to be reminded of the foundations upon which our faith has been built.

We tell the story of the birth of Jesus over and over again because it is the greatest story ever told, about the greatest birth ever witnessed, of the greatest person ever born, of the greatest gift ever given. The Bible calls Him wonderful and in our contemporary English understanding wonderful means something marvelous. Jesus fits the description of marvelous. Just ask the multitudes that were there when He opened the mouth of a muted man and cast out demons. The Bible says they marveled because they had never seen someone do that before. Just ask the Pharisees when they heard Jesus standing in the temple at 12 years old teaching the word of God. They marveled because they had never seen a man teach like that before. Just ask the disciples, when they woke Jesus up in that boat in the storm and He spoke to the winds and the waves. The Bible said they marveled because they had never heard anybody talk to winds and waves before. Just ask that Roman centurion when Jesus died on the cross, he looked up and said He must be the Son of God because he had never seen anybody suffer and die like that before. Surely Jesus is wonderful, but the Old Testament use of that word does not simply mean marvelous. Wonderful as Isaiah used it goes beyond understanding. Wonderful means incomprehensible; indescribable; and inexplicable, and for Jesus to be a wonderful counselor Isaiah is trying to clue you into something that you've already experienced. When Jesus is in your life, He provides the avenue for God to bless you in ways that you cannot understand.

God can move in ways that leave you scratching your head trying to figure out how God did what God did and when God did it and turned it around in your favor. See we serve a God who can bless us in ways that we can't figure out, but all of us know, that God made a way somehow.

He has opened doors that you didn't even know were there and answered prayers when you didn't even know what to ask God for because He's a wonderful counselor. God has blessed you with things you did not deserve because He's a wonderful counselor.

When the doctor couldn't find what they thought they found, it's because He's a wonderful counselor. When God held you together when you thought you would lose your mind, it's because He's a wonderful counselor. If God ever blessed you and don't even know how to explain it but you can't deny it, just enjoy it.

I heard of a story of a man who loved a desert that he ordered so much that he asked the chef to tell him how to make it. The chef asked the man did you enjoy it, to which the man said yes. The chef told the man then just enjoy it.

At the end of this year, I want to ask you a question. Did you enjoy what God did for you this year? Have you been blessed by what the Lord put on your table? Has God given you something you never thought you would ever have?

Stop worrying about how God did it and just walk in the goodness of the Lord; enjoy the favor of God and thank God for what God has blessed you with because He's a Wonderful Counselor.

From the President's Desk: Have yourself a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



President's Report — September-December, 2024

HOME COMING INITIATIVE

From July through September our churches were engaged in the continuation of initiatives outlined by Pastor Hernandez in preparation for the We Have Hope Series in October. Each church was encouraged to initiate a Homecoming service for missing members inviting them back to the fold. I invited many that I baptized to attend the Homecoming services of the Hamilton or Somerset churches because I baptized over 500 members in my ministry, not including rebaptisms. What a joy to see former members return to church for worship and stay for the fellowship during Sabbath lunch. Pastors were encouraged to preach messages rooted in Luke 15; a chapter that I call the lost and found chapter of the Bible.

WE HAVE HOPE SERIES

The season of service, the homecoming initiative, and the prayer for our city initiative culminated with the opening night of the October Island-wide series; a series of renewal and revival that will not soon be forgotten. The Island-wide HOPE Series, led by Evangelist Roger Hernandez from the Southern Union Conference, brought a fresh wave of inspiration and transformation in the lives of all in attendance. Pastor Hernandez, renowned for his engaging storytelling, humor, and relatable messages, turned the theme We All Have Problems; into We All Have HOPE. It was a life-changing experience for hundreds across the island who attended, and for thousands more who watched the series virtually.

The eight-night series, which ran from October 12 to October 19, 2024, left an indelible mark on the attendees. With ten powerful messages, Pastor Hernandez captivated his audience, blending biblical truths with everyday experiences that spoke to the heart. From the first night, it was clear that this wasn't your typical evangelistic meeting—it was a movement of hope.

The HOPE Series was holistic and sought to reach Bermuda at the point of their needs. Pastor Hernandez and the planning committee not only

thought of the spiritual needs of the people, but also sought to address and care for every aspect of their lives. In compassion for the community, we gave grocery vouchers, BELCO bill vouchers, cellphone top-ups, baby supplies, and even footwear, which was distributed to those in need, offering them tangible reminders of God's love.

Each evening began with a warm meal, ensuring that no one had to listen to the messages on an empty stomach. Practical health and wellness tips were shared, by Dr. Leonard Gibbons who emphasized the importance of physical well-being and spiritual growth. This thoughtful combination of care gave the attendees a sense of feeling seen, valued, and supported. The preparation for this series was as intentional as the event itself. Months before Pastor Hernandez set foot on the island, the Bermuda Conference pastoral staff, Bible workers, both local and foreign, along with personal ministry leaders from select churches helped to plan, execute, and engage in effective planning to reach the community. Their diligent work paid off, as hearts were ready to receive the message of hope. On behalf of the conference administration, I wish to thank every one of our churches who became team members in making the meetings a huge success.

From the very first baptism on Tuesday, October 15, the Holy Spirit moved powerfully. Night after night, lives were changed, and by the series' end, 21 individuals made their public commitment to follow Christ through baptism.

The numbers alone tell a story of impact. Over the eight nights, 449 visitors attended the series, averaging 75 guests per night. The messages, coupled with vibrant music and interactive online participation, created an environment that was both uplifting and unifying. Attendees left inspired, their faith strengthened, and their hearts filled with the promise of hope.



As Pastor Hernandez reminded everyone, “Hope is not just a feeling; it is a promise from God.” His visit to Bermuda has planted seeds of faith that will continue to bear fruit for years to come. For the hundreds who participated, the HOPE Series

wasn't just an event—it was the beginning of a new chapter, one filled with promise, purpose, and the certainty that the hope that God gives is alive and thriving in the Bermuda Conference membership.



OAKWOOD BOARD MEETING / TEACHER AND PASTOR SEARCH

As a Board Member of Oakwood University, I attended the Board meeting and learned of the success stories and challenges facing Oakwood, and all our educational institutions of higher education, in the NAD. We also learned that the president of Oakwood University, Dr. Leslie Pollard has accepted a call to serve at the North American Division. Dr. Pollard, a graduate of Oakwood, and a former Pastor of the Oakwood University church has served Oakwood as President for almost 15 years. The institution has faced many challenges under his leadership, and has also been blessed by many initiatives birthed, during his presidency. We wish Dr. Pollard great success as he goes to the NAD to serve as the Director for Pastoral Continued Education and Learning.

INTERVIEW OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

Beyond my attendance at the Board meetings my time at Oakwood in October was occupied with an initiative called Oakwood Connect. This initiative connects conferences with theology majors, education majors, and students of finance, to encourage them and to interview them for possible employment in one of our schools and conferences. Each year I participate in this initiative as we continue in the search for potential teachers for Bermuda Institute, and pastoral staff for the Bermuda Conference. It is no secret that across the NAD there is a shortage of educators and pastors and for those who are willing to work for the church as conference treasurers.

Our youth today are not sensing the call to work for the church and this problem has caused great concern for our leaders of the North American Division. For the past two years of my attendance at the NAD Year-End meetings, we have discussed meaningful ways to understand and tackle this challenge.

CONFERENCE VISION FOR HEALTH EVANGELISM AND THE ABC

As a conference president, I have envisioned a broader platform for doing more ministry for our community. In collaboration with Dr. Leonard Gibbons, we have dreamed of using space in the conference office that would serve as a center of

influence in Hamilton, for health and wellness. Concurrently, Carolyn James our ABC manager, and I have had similar talks of expanding the ABC and its Café to give our community more healthy lunch options. The conference administration has most recently invited an architect to assist us in studying the use of the space we have to accomplish our mission of reaching Bermuda with the gospel of health and wholeness, the right arm of the gospel.

PENTECOST 2025 INITIATIVE

Since Camp Meeting 2024, we have been introduced to the North American Division Initiative called Pentecost 2025. This initiative has encouraged over 5,000 churches in the NAD territory to sign up for evangelism: the lifeblood of the church. So far 6 of our 11 church boards in Bermuda Conference have signed up to participate in this initiative, which is partially sponsored by the NAD and the Atlantic Union. In harmony with the NAD initiative with an emphasis on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, and soul-winning, I have dubbed our conference theme for the new year, Alive in 2025. The emphasis focuses on our need for the Holy Spirit as exemplified in the Acts 2 model of the early church. Let us talk about, pray for, and seek the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our churches, and in our personal lives, so that the church may come alive in 2025; on fire for Christ, that we might be His witnesses and win more souls in Bermuda for the Kingdom of God..

P.E.L.C. 2024

The annual ministers PELC conference at Oakwood University has been in existence for 45 years and is still the largest gathering for the equipping of Seventh-day Adventist ministers in the Adventist church. This brainchild of Evangelist E. E. Cleveland was first dubbed Evangelism Council in 1979. Its clear objective was to inspire ministers to return to their respective territories to engage in evangelism. P.E.L.C. as it is now called is the acronym for Pastoral Evangelism Leadership Council which is designed to equip men and women, elders, and Bible Instructors for contemporary ministry in these postmodern times. Many Bermudians have traveled and have participated in these meetings including Chaplain Kevin Santucci, who became an official chorister before they began us-

ing Praise Teams for song service. Our own Dr. Samuel Bulgin, Dr. Carlyle Simmons, Pastor Michelle Hill, and yours truly, Dr. Kenneth Manders, have had the privilege to serve as speakers for this preacher's conference.

DR. CARLYLE SIMMONS HONORED AT P.E.L.C. 2024

Each year the PELC committee honors someone who has given over 30 years of service in the Lord's work. A few years ago, I submitted the name of Pastor Eugene Virgil to receive this ministry award. This year, I felt it only fitting, to submit the name of our very own Dr. Carlyle C. Sim-



mons as someone worthy of the same honor. On Sunday, December 8, Dr. Carlyle and Marilyn Simmons braced the stage to receive this prestigious award for 50 years of Pastoral leadership and administrative service. We are certainly proud of Dr. Simmons who has given invaluable service to the Bermuda Conference, and the Atlantic Union Conference family. Thank you Dr. Simmons, for you have done us in the Bermuda Conference proud; and most of all, you have given God the glory through your many years of faithful service.



A HISTORIC MOMENT AT PELC 2024

While preparing to attend the PELC experience it dawned on me that all 5 persons to serve as presidents for the Bermuda conference are still living; from the very first president, Dr. Edward Richardson, in 1986; Dr. Carlyle Simmons in 1991; Dr. Samuel Bulgin in 2000; Dr. Jeffrey Brown in 2004; and yours truly, Dr. Kenneth Manders in 2014.

After calling all previous Bermuda Conference presidents I was so pleased that each of them was able to attend PELC 2024 and to make it possible for all of us to be together, in one place, at one time, on one accord, making this a wonderful and historic moment. On Sunday, December 8, 2024, Dr. Carlyle Simmons was honored with an award for his 50 years of service. His family members surprised him and were present to celebrate with him on this memorable occasion.

On Monday, December 9, 2024, all 5 Bermuda Conference presidents met at the Office of Regional Conference Ministries building on the Oakwood campus for a picture and an interview. What a fellowship it was for each of us and our families to join together at this historic moment. This occasion will be written up for posterity in the Regional Voice Magazine.



DR. TY-RON DOUGLAS'S ORDINATION AT PELC 2024

The Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has voted to ordain Bermuda's Dr. Ty-Ron Douglas as an Adventist chaplain. The ordination service took place at 4 pm on December 7, 2024, at the Oakwood University Community Center during the Pastoral Evangelism Leadership Council (PELC).



Born and raised in Bermuda, Dr. Douglas' local ministry journey has included service as a teacher at Bermuda Institute, founding and leading the Midland Heights Church GED program, and music ministry in various contexts.

After moving to the U.S. to earn a PhD, Dr. Douglas' calling to pastoral ministry became more pronounced. From North Carolina to Missouri and now California, he has served the church and community using gifts that were nurtured in Bermuda and harnessed as a student at Oakwood University.

While working as a tenured associate professor of Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis at the University of Missouri, being ordained as an elder at Columbia SDA Church, and planting Salt City Church where he served as lead pastor, Dr. Douglas earned a second master's degree in pastoral ministry from Andrews University Theological Seminary in 2020. From 2014-2019, he led the annual Back to School Explosion at an inner city basketball court in Columbia which resulted in over 65 baptisms and the opening of the Salt City Center.

Dr. Ty has preached or presented in the United States, Canada, Africa, and the Caribbean, with an emphasis on youth, young adults, men, and family life ministry. As the executive director/speaker for So Amazing Life Ministries, he has mentored several pastors, chaplains, and young adult professionals on their ministry and higher education journeys, including Bermuda Institute alums Dejon Masters and Paul DeShield who serve on the Salt pastoral staff.



The author and editor of five books and over forty journal articles or book chapters, he currently works as the inaugural Associate Athletic Director for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, & Justice at the University of California, Berkeley (Cal Athletics)—the first Adventist to hold such a role in Division 1 Power 4 Athletics. His leadership and ministry in higher education and collegiate/



professional athletics are opening new vistas of consideration for bivocational ministry and Adventist in sport. His trailblazing presence as an Adventist chaplain in sport has been described as having the potential to impact the field much like Dr. Barry Black's pioneering efforts in military chaplaincy.

Dr. Douglas remains committed to and joyful in partnership with his wife Bobbie, their sons Jalen and Essien, and his calling to maximum kingdom impact in the world and in communities where he has roots. Bermuda is certainly one of those places and we are pleased to celebrate the ordination of a son of the soil. God has been faithful. God be praised!



— 2025 —

YEAR END SERVICE DECEMBER 31, 2024

As 2024 ends we invite everyone to close the year in celebration and worship at the Hamilton SDA Church at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31. We are inviting all who have been baptized during 2024 to join us so that we can recognize and embrace our new brothers and sisters of the Seventh-day Adventist church family, and fellowship together with them. Pastor Lambert Hamilton of the NEC will be our special guest speaker, and he will be joined by psalmist and songwriter Gale Jones Murphy who will be in concert to close out the year and to help us usher in 2025.

**Bermuda Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists**

Happy New Year

**WELCOME 2025 IN
CHURCH ON
DECEMBER 31**

**Hamilton SDA Church
43 King Street, Hamilton
5:00 p.m.**

Light refreshments will be served following the service



From the Executive Secretary . . .

2024 Statistical Report...To end of 3rd Qtr.

	Total Start	Baptisms	P.O.F.	Trans In	Adjust	Trans Out	Death	Drop	Missing	Adjust	Total End
DEVONSHIRE	433	1		3		3	4				430
HAMILTON	889	8		23		1	12	3		2	902
MID. HEIGHTS	343	4				2	4				341
PEMBROKE	255			1		3	1				252
REST. MIN.	242	6		3				2			249
ROCKAWAY	87	1				2	4				82
SOMERSET	365	3	1	1			5			1	364
SOUTHAMPTON	576	5		1		13	5				564
ST. DAVID'S	91	2					2				91
ST. GEORGE'S	274			3	2	2	2				275
WARWICK	282		1			1	2				280
CMH	35										35
TOTALS	3872	30	2	35	2	27	41	5		3	3865



APPOINTMENTS VOTED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/SCHOOL BOARD

NAME	NEW APPOINTMENTS
Finance Committee for BI and Conference	Robert Patterson, Jr, (chairperson), LaMel Burch, Newbold Smith, Sr., Valincia Swann-Vallis, Deborah Lowe, Sheena Smith, Damon Hendrickson (Kenneth Manders and DeJaun Tull—ex-officio)
A. Dwayne Burgess	EXCOM and School Board Member
Dwayne S. Caines, Mazina Nisbett, Michelle Hill	School Board members
Deborah Thomas-Gilkes	General Conference representative
Damon Hendrickson	Interim Pastor, Southampton

Local Church Clerk Training

On May 26, 2024, Pastor W. DeJaun Tull had the privilege of inviting Elder Ted Huskins (Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary) to assist in conducting a Local Church Clerk’s Training seminar. This was the second training for the clerks this year. The valuable insights and expertise greatly benefited our dedicated church clerks.

The clerks were captivated by the discussion on the important role they play in supporting pastors, faithfully recording minutes and voted actions, and the future significance of their role in the church.



SECRETARIAT

Seventh-day Adventist Church

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Guidelines for Expanding the Role of the Local Church Clerk in Nurture and Retention

Phase 1 Pilot Program
January 2024

"Much of the efficient functioning of the church depends on the work of the clerk," (Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, 20th Edition, 87).

Our church clerks play a vital role in the efficient functioning of our churches. During this recent meeting at the Grotto Bay resort in St. George’s, Elder Huskins delivered an inspiring seminar

on leadership development, and Pastor Tull gave highlights focusing on the expanding role of the church clerk. The emphasis on maintaining accurate membership information, monitoring attendance of new believers, and utilizing the Member Tracking System on eAdventist was highlighted.

Resources were given by Mrs. Roslyn Amory to aid the clerks in their responsibilities.

On behalf of the Bermuda Conference, I want to thank Elder Huskins for his dedication. The expertise and passion for nurturing our local church clerks is truly commendable, and we are grateful for the time and effort he invested in the training seminar. I look forward to future collaborations and continued growth and development at our annual January Officers Training and I thank the clerks for being an essential part of our journey towards building a stronger and more connected church community.

Calendar of Events

January 4	BI Anniversary
January 7	BI Reopens
January 8-18	10 Days of Prayer
January 11-12	Officers Training
January 18-19	Youth Training Weekend
January 25-26	Family Life Training Weekend
January 27	EXCOM Meeting
January 27-31	BI Spirit Week
February 1	Town Hall Meeting—Hamilton
February 2	Workers Meeting
February 6, 13, 20, 27	Social Justice on ATV
February 14-16	ACS Training
February 20	BI Senior Presentation
February 23	Personal Ministries Training
February 24	EXCOM Meeting
February 24-25	BI Sports Days
March 1-2	Women's Ministry Weekend
March 8-29	Hamilton Evangelistic Series
March 17-21	BI Spring Week of Prayer
March 22	BI Day—Warwick
March 23	BI Home School Assn. Intercultural Festival
March 28-30	Adventist Family Life Marriage Enrichment Weekend

Calendar of Events

March 28-April 12	St. David's Evangelistic Series
April 5-6	Treasury/Stewardship Emphasis Weekend
April 11-12	Young Adult Weekend at BI
April 12-19	DCL Pentecost 2025 Series
April 15	C&BLS Committee Meeting
April 18	GOOD FRIDAY
April 24	BI Spring Concert
April 28	EXCOM Meeting
May 2-3	Youth Weekend at BI
May 17	World Adventurer Day at Pembroke
May 18	BI Home and School Assn. Spring Exhibition
May 19	Trustee Committee Meeting
May 23	BERMUDA DAY
May 26	EXCOM Meeting
May 30-June 1	Island-wide Human Relations Weekend
June 1	Adventurer Fun Day - Top Field
June 5-8	BI Graduation Services
June 16	NATIONAL HEROES DAY
June 25-28; 29	Annual Camp Meeting and Conference Picnic
July 20	Adventist Cup Match
July 31	EMANCIPATION DAY
August 1	MARY PRINCE DAY

From the Treasurer . . .



“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” – Winston Churchill

“Giving is more than a responsibility – it is a privilege; more than an act of obedience – it is evidence of our faith.” – William Arthur Ward

“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” 1 Corinthians 4:2

Treasurer’s Update

God continues to bless the Bermuda Conference in the area of finances.

We can report to you that we have finally purchased the van for the ABC!!! Again, we thank you for your donations to this project and we pray God’s blessing on the van as it moves around the island representing the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

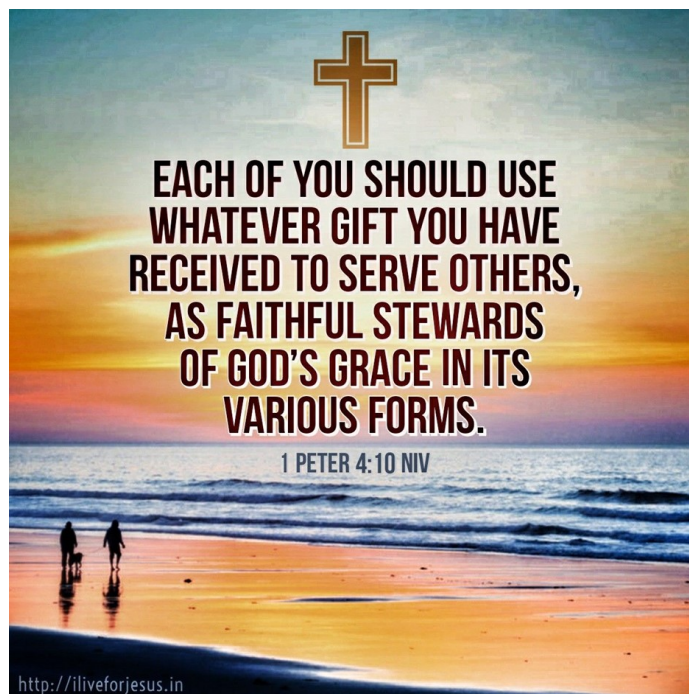


On December 28, 2024 we are asking you to bring a special offering to assist with the rebuilding of the Union Islands that was destroyed by Hurricane Beryl in July of this year. Our ABC Manager, Mrs. Carolyn James is from the Union Islands and has family who are there trying to rebuild their homes and communities. Your generous gifts will help our brothers and sisters!!



The following chart reflects the Tithe received from our churches through the month of November 2024. God has shown us favor with a increase in Tithe of 1.42% over last year. We praise God for His blessings and for your faithfulness!!

Church Tithe November	Tithe 2024	Tithe 2023	\$ Gain/Loss	% Gain/Loss
Conference Church	136,488.75	127,354.07	9,134.68	7.17
Devonshire	353,443.97	359,158.03	(5,714.06)	(1.59)
Hamilton	1,133,767.40	1,112,085.42	21,681.98	1.94
Midland Heights	275,269.20	223,408.25	51,860.95	23.21
Somerset	427,362.44	397,494.53	29,867.91	7.51
Southampton	738,798.87	704,974.94	33,814.93	4.79
St. George's	267,650.32	277,243.12	(9,592.80)	(3.46)
Warwick	444,136.84	462,978.10	(18,841.26)	(4.06)
Hermandad Comp.	58,477.39	43,575.65	14,901.74	34.19
Pembroke	210,448.43	224,946.57	(14,498.14)	(6.44)
Restoration*	273,765.20	306,376.73	(32,611.53)	(10.64)
Rockaway	192,462.39	200,246.69	(7,784.30)	(3.88)
St. David's	133,178.82	140,443.68	(7,264.86)	(5.17)
Total	4,645,241.02	4,580,285.78	64,955.24	1.42



Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



Our office will be closed from
Monday, December 23, 2024
and reopen on
Monday, January 6, 2025



Warm wishes for a wonderful holiday season
and a
Happy New Year!



ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE
PRESENTS

PENTECOST **2025**

**SATELLITE WINTER/SPRING
EVANGELISTIC SERIES**
FOR ALL LANGUAGE GROUPS

MARCH 1 - 22

- SAVE THE DATE -



DYNAMIC EVANGELIST
DR. ABRAHAM JULES
PRESIDENT, ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE



May the Lord grant
you and all your
loved ones peace,
joy, and goodwill!

FROM ALL OF US AT
BERMUDA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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Executive Secretary - W. DeJaun Tull
Treasurer/CFO - Robert Patterson, Jr.
Communication Director - Carmen Patterson

