

# A STONE OF HELP

Presidential reports of the Guyana Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists  
January 1976 through May 2011

With an introduction by  
Lael O. Caesar

Featuring reports by

**Elders:**

Gershom G. Byass  
Roy Israel McGarrell  
Gordon O. Martinborough  
Hilton Garnett  
Lindon Gudge  
Philip Bowman

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# ABOUT A STONE OF HELP

The idea for this book project came directly out of quiet thought and contemplation of the subject, 'Engaging and involving the Diaspora in new and meaningful ways.' Since 1883, the Seventh-day Adventist teachings reached Georgetown, Guyana, then British Guiana, via a bundle of printed material delivered by a ship captain. This early historical account of our conference is fairly well documented in a number of sources. But, as far as I can determine, there is no publication explaining and highlighting contributions made in more recent developments of Adventism, especially during the past four decades. Further, there is very little literature available today concerning the experiences and conversations of importance pertaining to the lives of some of the most distinguished and accomplished Adventist pastors of Guyanese heritage.

The book that you hold in your hand today is a significant account of the sacred history of the Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for the period January 1972 to December 2010. It consists of an inspiring introductory chapter prepared by Dr. Lael Caesar, a native of Guyana, who currently serves the World Church as associate editor of the Adventist Review and Adventist World magazines. Its core content comprises six short biographical sketches of former presidents and the eleven reports that were prepared and presented by them to the delegates who attended the conference sessions held between 1976 and 2011. These reports are more narrative summary reviews than exact replicas. They have been retyped and edited to improve accuracy and clarity and explain the experiences and significant events and accomplishments of the period. The reports include first-hand accounts of key moments in our conference's history and emphasize the way God has used every period to advance His mission which is the primary business of the church.

Additionally, there is an epilogue by Pastor Margaret Ramsarran who has served this conference as treasurer or financial leader for the past nineteen years. Significant to her service is the distinct honour she had of serving

with three of the featured presidents - Lindon Gudge, Philip Bowman and Hilton Garnett. A highlight of landmark events from 1883 to 2010 is also included with the complements of Pastor Exton Clarke, executive secretary of Guyana conference.

A **STONE OF HELP** has been prepared to honour and celebrate the contributions of six former presidents who helped to shape the development of the Adventist church in Guyana. Notwithstanding that the book chronicles the memorable and extraordinary stories of only a very few God fearing men who had the privilege of serving the Adventist Church in Guyana as conference presidents, it is essential reading material for persons coming into church leadership in this early part of the twenty-first century. The information herein will prove to be very helpful reading to every member, and more so to our young leaders who desire to understand pertinent issues and make informed decisions based on the rich heritage we now celebrate.

**Richard Avert James**

President, Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
2011-2014

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Lindon Gudge and Philip Bowman  
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Notable Dates: Exton Clarke

# Introducing Our History

The collection of documents that comprise this book have until this moment been mostly the property of history and memory. Thousands of good Adventists have known of them and shared that historic moment of their original presentation. Thousands of you have exulted together at their riveting expositions on what God has wrought among His Guyanese people. So many of us have cherished, through the years since we first hear them, our own detailed recall of some datum or event they describe: we were a part of that event; we are the facts of that data. But lodgment in the corners of our memory was never enough for these essays.

## **Why Now?**

You hold them in your hand today because they deserve more than archival status. They constitute, at the first level, the united effort of six God fearing men who through the years and decades have led the organized work of God in the Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for the past four decades. They are the summaries and reports of extraordinary deeds of valour wrought through all those years by humble daughters and sons of the God whose power and inspiration has made their deeds worthy. And for that reason they are, at another level, the property of those sons and daughters whose deeds they recount, yours and mine.

The deeds they document are an honour to every child, youth, or adult who has contributed to their realization. And they honour the godly leaders we followed as together we performed those works of God to which these pages now testify.

They also contemplate an educational intent, a purpose of holy instruction. For their perusal permits us that inspiring review of our own sacred history, that reminder of the tears we have shed and the sweat we have poured and Christ's love constrained us to give our all for Him and our neighbours. It is a retracing of the steps we have taken and the road we have trod that compels from lips and hearts new cries of "Glory to God! Praise His holy



Name!” For reading and remembering is knowing, to the very core of our being, that now “We have nothing to fear for the future.” Because of the stories engraved in our minds and confirmed by these pages we can never “forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history” (see Ellen G. White, *Counsels for the Church*, p. 359).

The book of Judges speaks of times when there was no king in Israel, when everyone did what was right in their own eyes (Judges 17:6; 21:25). The un-careful reader of these words runs the risk of misunderstanding them to mean that royalty is naturally consistent with both order and divine approval. It would be as if God here implies a need for His people to be ruled by kings so they might cease to be unruly. But God is not dependent on royal families to lead His people. He is our king (1 Sam. 8:7; Isa. 33:22). And He has shown this through the years of the history of the Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. This book of exploits is our Book of Judges, testament to the leadership God has raised up in our midst in the green land of Guyana to take His work forward by leaps and bounds, or by slow, steady faithfulness, to where we are today, and beyond this, to His kingdom of glory.

### **Common Themes**

Our Book of Judges consists of independent chapters that are held together by common themes, elements that are necessary features of each period’s report because they are indispensable elements of successful missionary work for God. Evangelism must surely be identified as one of the most prominent of those themes. It may be pastoral evangelism, notably, the continued investment of their time, energy and personal dedication that conference administrators make in leading by example. Or it may be guest evangelism, as the gifted resources of a Crowder or Daniels, a Morgan or a returning Martinborough enrich the field and augment the numbers. Or, and in particular, it may be lay evangelism—whether in tents or in home cells, whether by men or by women, whether by youth and children or by senior citizens.

There is even a bitter-sweet, reluctant pride in the reiterated notes of

leadership loss when Guyana's agents of quality service are taken from our shores and local ranks simply because they are coveted by the higher organizations. Such the case with Elder W. W. Weithers, who left us to lead the Caribbean Union, brings other names to mind, including Charles Williams, John Simmons, G. O. Martinborough, and Maxwell Blakeney. Then there is financial faithfulness, whether by local or by committed expatriate Guyanese, through personal contributions by many whose names are cited in these reports and, whether or not, engraved in heaven's books of good deeds; besides which there is the systematic and indefatigable organizing effort on behalf of his land and people in which Alan Johnson stands out. In context of this faithful giving I make bold to quote a remarkable paragraph, inclusive of names, though listing them may be awkward because it is far from exhaustive. Nevertheless I list them as they appear if only to illustrate the faithfulness of expatriate Guyanese to the cause of God and His remnant church back home. So, From just one report of just one of our presidents, Elder Martinborough, here goes: "Dr. Kennard Stoll who made it possible for us to acquire three cars, Dr. Lloyd Pratt who contributed a Land Cruiser for the Rupununi, Dr. C. H. Dybdahl who has sponsored two Indian Chapels and brother Daniel Maddon who has presented a thousand of Bibles."

As Paul, at the city of Miletus, once reminded a group of Ephesian elders of the words of Jesus Himself, "It is more blessed to give . . ." (Acts 20:35). Giving is better. The list just reviewed is typical of the many who for God and Guyana, do the better thing.

One more common theme, and one that must be mentioned, is the passion for the anointing of the Holy Spirit without whose cleansing, purging, ennobling and empowering presence we are nothing more than Guyanese moutars!

### **Unique Features**

These recurring themes illustrate how the reports stand together as one united whole and speak together as a single inspiring message. This hardly signifies that our several administrators and varied leadership teams are anything like clones of each other. Rather, there is much here to help us appreciate their unique features, beginning at the beginning:

**January 13-17, 1976**, 13<sup>th</sup> session of the organized Adventist work in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana held historic significance. Acting president, Elder Gershom G. Byass, thanked Elder W. W. Weithers for his leadership during the triennium, graciously indicating that it is the venerable Elder Weithers who would have been presenting the presidential report had he not been called to lead the Caribbean Union. And he welcomed assembled delegates to transaction of the business of a newly constituted Adventist organization in our country. Anyone then present and reading this now can attest with me to the excitement that pulsed through our veins during those days, and swelled in our souls as we gathered together for what was no more a Mission gathering, but would now be proudly known as Guyana **Conference** session. The theme that brought us together was “Reflecting His Image” (In Times Like These). Those were dramatic times whose most dramatic change seems to have been from an untenable position [referred to as “desperate”] to conference financial stability.

Key features of this report include growth both in membership—4137 souls, and in new groups and companies—16. The triennium ended with a total membership of 11,525. One lamented weakness, often heard through the years and at too consistently present at too many levels of church business—under-reporting. Our humility, perhaps, may be getting in the way of our accountability. Which is not as the Lord would have it. For it is required in stewards that an accountant be found reliable (see 1 Cor. 4:2).

**January 16-19, 1980** brought delegates together focused “Toward A Sure And Certain Hope.” President Roy I. McGarrell spoke momentously: “You [the delegates] have come and for us and for God’s programme through His Remnant people around the world, the time has come.” Time for spiritual triumph; time for achieving our greatest exploits for God; time for confidence of victory regardless of the nature of challenge, confidence born of anchorage within the veil (see Heb. 6:19).

The challenges were varied and significant: the loss of Elders Arthur Henry Hunter and Josiah Braithwaite—“with their swords in hand,” and “with their boots on”; revered literature evangelists, David Dazell and Eugene De

Mendonca. Beyond their sad goodbyes the report also preciously recognized retired soldiers who served the work in Guyana in a variety of blessing capacities. And in the field of education Elder McGarrell asked permission to quote from his departmental report of the previous quadrennium on what he could already perceive on the country's educational horizon: "Radical, dramatic, and sweeping changes are taking place in Guyana in the field of education. The government of this country has been restructuring the educational programme. . . Truly the hour is late: the sun of time has almost orbited its course; some of our most glorious opportunities have slipped by."

He then proceeded to state: "It happened. September 13, 1976, was the day. All schools were taken over by the government."

Along with these challenges there was the global energy crisis.

But there were also celebrations: the big tent, a gift from IAD, first enthusiastically acknowledged in Elder Byass' report on the previous triennium. Its gains and uses constitute one of three major points of gratitude. The other two being the admirable service of conference personnel of field and office, and the mighty potential of the laity. Sixteen real estate purchases—land and buildings—enhanced the Church's visibility around the country. And the Incorporation Act of March, 1976, replaced the power of attorney once exercised by the General Conference, allowing for "no less than three and no more than five trustees of the Incorporated Trustees of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Guyana." Adventism in Guyana had taken yet another major step forward in its coming of age.

**March 23–26, 1983**, Elder Gordon O. Martinborough welcomed God's people under the visionary theme of "A Finished Work in All Guyana" (Harvest-time! It's Harvest-Time!). Delegates had come, he said, for 3 reasons—evaluation, adoration and projection. During the triennium Administration and Departmental staff grew from 5 to 9. Guyanese pastors managed the largest per capita districts in the Caribbean Union, a fact I suspect would be no different if the measurement were geographic. And yet only 4 of 14 pastors owned cars. Thank God for the loyalty that kept them serving then, and still keeps them serving now.

Mentioned exploits of the time included 12 new congregations, Don Crowder's 586 baptisms, and the new Lodge church, renamed "Olivet," that was born of that effort. Also, reaching the \$1 million mark in tithe in 1982; establishment of a Community oriented Nutrition Education Programme connected with Seventh-day Adventist World Services [SAWS] now ADRA, Winston J. B. Ennis director, Dr. Ranju Prakasam, Part-time Project Director; Health Education team of Malcolm Cort, Colin Parkinson, and Janice Emmanuel; Phoebe George as director; and setting a mobile Health unit in operation.

Tragedy reared its ugly head when on June 20, 1982, we lost Pioneer Special Evangelist Philip Joseph in a vehicular accident. Through the joys and the sorrows God never left His people, and the climax of report voiced both doxology for what He had done, and challenge on what yet remained to be done.

**September 2 – 6, 1986** carried as its session theme "Now Is The Harvest Hour For Pentecostal Power" (Send Rain, O Lord Send Rain). Once again it was the task and privilege of Elder Gordon O. Martinborough to welcome the delegates who represented the conference membership, including 4769 new souls. He spoke of a 27% growth in work force, from 44-56, and added one more reason for coming to the three he had given at the previous session: intercession would now accompany evaluation, adoration, and projection.

High notes of the score included the astonishing incidence of Guyanese students at Caribbean Union College—30% of the school's enrollment; the handing out of CUC's one-year Bible Instructor's Certificate on August 10, 1986 to the first class of eleven students, studying in Guyana; the setting aside of \$52,000.00 for a Senior Citizens Home; the installation of a printing facility—US \$80,000 in cost, besides the Guyana \$150,000 housing unit—all accomplished with help from the General Conference and all other levels of the Church's organization, as well as New York based Guyanese-American Missionary Endeavour [GAME].

Of the sweetest of these high notes there was East Indian evangelism, specifically Elder Justin Sher Singh of India who raised up new churches at LBI, East Coast Demerara, and Belvedere on the Corentyne; and Amerindian outreach in the form of two new companies in the South Savannah of the Rupununi.

**January 17 – 20, 1990** was the date of our next triennial session, as delegates and President Gershom G. Byass dedicated themselves to move “Forward with Christ to Victory.” Ingathering accomplishments were conspicuous among the causes of conference rejoicing as the yield for 1989, the last year of work, soared to \$687, 000, representing an increase of 249% over just three years before (1986). Home Cell lay evangelism was also highlighted, as well as the arrival of Sister Margaret Ramsaran, who joined the Conference staff at midterm. That, we may note, was a quarter of a century ago; she would later move into her administrative element as the field’s chief financial officer, where she is still winning our affections and stabilizing our operations with her unflappable serenity, singular integrity, and uncommon wisdom and discretion.

This fifth triennium saw major refurbishing and refurnishing of the Conference office which was not alone in its physical renewal. Similar development activities blessed the Conference from Leguan in the Essequibo River to Yahuka on the Demerara, from Soesdyke on the East Bank to Betervawagting on the East Coast Demerara, from Springlands on the Corentyne to Kaikan on the Cuyuni-Mazaruni. Everywhere seems to have benefitted from administration’s emphasis on balanced Conference development.

And while this all transpired in the material realm our pastors continued to zealously invest for God in the work of soul winning with 15 becoming centurions at least once during the period , and some as many as thrice.

**April 13 – 17, 1993** was the celebration date for triennium number six of the eleven periods here reported. President Hilton Garnett brought his workforce together under an agricultural metaphor with the theme of “The Harvest and the End: Let’s Tell it Again.” Multiple aggressive initiatives were

reported on the evangelistic front: the report praises our laity as having “an evangelistic focus that is second to none in the Caribbean Union.” It names Pastors Drakes & Chichester, who at first pitching of a tent each won over 100 for the Lord. And it advises of the start of the broadcast Breath Of Life [BOL] with Elder C. D. Brooks, over Guyanese airwaves.

Whereas the previous triennium gave much attention to the physical needs of the fields and Conference office, this report would mention an exceptional step of faith in the same direction with the start of work on new office complex estimated to cost \$20 million. The report also shows that our pastors were not forgotten. There was a 480% increase in salaries, and also 33 vehicles purchased, from bikes to cars to motorcycles to outboard motors for necessary enhancement of pastoral mobility. A land dispute in Leguan that had challenged the conference for more than 20 years was settled during this period, and 7 strategic projections included a senior citizens’ home and the prospect of bringing in vegetarian foods from a food factory in Trinidad.

There were notes of gratitude, *inter alia*, for Pastor Alan Johnson’s formation of Guymetro, an organization that has greatly benefitted our Conference, that is still going strong after 25 years, and that has asked me to stand as their representative at this session.

**July 16 – 19, 1996**, Hilton Garnett again stood to report to assembled delegates. His theme and theirs, “Pentecostal Power for this Final Hour.” Through the triennium, Administration had moved to facilitate the effective channeling of that power by implementing 3 recommendations from the previous triennium: (a) setting up a program for East Indian Evangelism; (b) having a music ministry in the Youth department; (c) appointing an Associate Youth Director because of work load.

The outworking of the Spirit’s anointing showed itself in a major way through the proclamation of the word: there was prison evangelism; and there were sponsored public campaigns funded by Drs. Orville Scott and Daniel Gibran, my soulmate from Hague backdam with whom I shared

primary school days at Blankenburg Congregational, and Caribbean Union College. His sponsorship, focused on East Indian evangelism, yielded 100 souls in Georgetown, and a new company of 27 at Cane Grove.

And the anointing that came to bring salvation also came as theological enlightenment through the wisdom and fellowship of a number of visiting brethren and scholars including Drs. Eugene Daniel and Walter Douglas, Harold Lee, Errol Liverpool, Roy Israel McGarrell, Norman Miles, Leslie Pollard, and Leon Wilson. These presenters spoke, more often than not, at yearend training sessions for pastors and elders, a practice that Conference Administration established as a regular feature of its annual schedule. And this emphasis on training also blessed the Conference's educational programmes—with instructional sessions being run for Adventist teachers from the entire Upper Mazaruni district. The sessions featured lectures by respected educators Elder K. Eugene Forde, and Drs. Vernon Andrews and Wilston Anderson.

Regular tithe and offerings from overseas Guyanese and friends accounted for 40% of the Conference budget, and made possible a 50% salary increase to address inflationary pressures.

Celebrations of the period included a century of Adventism at Bootooba, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Golden Grove Adventist church.

Before concluding his report President Garnett expressed his own earnestly held conviction that the time had come to draw on the abilities of consecrated and willing laity to strengthen the ranks of Guyana's pastoral ministry.

**March 31 – April 3, 1999**, with Lindon Gudge as president, the delegates turned their eyes, hearts and pleas to God and called on Him: "Glorify Thy Name" was their desire. They needed more of the special blessings He had been pouring out that had allowed them to advance during the last three years, that had enabled contractors Eustace Saul and Grafton Layne to carry forward the construction of the conference office building that was



now nearing completion. They needed His consolation to strengthen them to bear the loss of Sis Maureen Dryden, a committee member, while in active service. They needed His stimulus to deliver them from the counter-productive habit of failure to report their good deeds, of reports late and at times not at all!

Family Life, under director Ivor Keizer, came into its own during the triennium. Also, annual pastoral evaluation began in 1996, with a scope of 7 areas of evaluation, viz.,

- (1) Evangelism – Church Growth
- (2) Pastoral Care and Nurture
- (3) Preaching and Worship
- (4) Church Management
- (5) Personal Growth
- (6) Personal Relationships
- (7) Professional Development

The Conference leadership is to be commended for this step. Though evaluation hardly ever inspires spontaneous enthusiasm among those to be evaluated, it is difficult to espouse progress while eschewing the analysis that evaluation requires and produces. “Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith,” Paul urged the Corinthians; “examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you — unless indeed you fail the test” (2 Cor. 13:5)? God grant that we all permit His probing Word and Spirit free access to the thoughts and intents of our hearts (Heb. 4:12), and that our cooperation with the recommendations of His evaluations may allow Him to grow us up to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:13).

**April 16 - 19, 2003** President Philip Bowman and the saints exulted together in Jesus’ own glorious promise of return as captured in the words of their theme, “Redemption Draweth Nigh.” This would be the first time delegates convened under the new schedule of quadrennial rather than triennial sessions.

The unprecedented success of Elder Roosevelt Daniels' Maranatha Crusade with its yield of 1,120 souls would no doubt have been a major source of inspiration for all who were present to receive that report. In context of it, thought of all that God would yet do for them made redemption feel even more imminent.

God had indeed done great things for His people in Guyana during the previous quadrennium. The laity had displayed their commitment, "second to none in the Caribbean Union," declared their president. And the Conference had dedicated its new office building debt free! Administration could also announce a 71% increase in salary over the preceding period; provision of 41 loans from a revolving fund started with G. \$1M during Elder Hilton Garnett's presidency, and known as the "Fridge and Stove Fund"—no doubt because other more elegant names ["Appliances," or "Home Appliances," or perhaps "Utilities" Fund] were found to be less useful; and the fact that of the 19 pastoral districts, 15 had homes for pastors.

Other historic moments of the quadrennium included the day when presidents of the Guyana Conference, Caribbean Union, Interamerican Division, and General Conference all stood together for a memorable photograph in 2001 when El Jan Paulsen paid the first ever visit by a General Conference president to the green land of Guyana.

**May 16 – 19, 2007**, Philip Bowman entitled his report: "Demonstrating Resilience in Critical Times," with a session theme, "Motivated by HOPE." Hope maketh not ashamed, Paul has advised (Rom. 5:5). And there was no cause for shame in the astonishing announcement that the membership of the Conference now stood at more than 50 thousand. Compare that, if you will, with a figure of 7,388 at the start of the first of these reports. Over the period of reporting contemplated in this volume, Guyana Conference membership had approximated a seven fold increase. Again we cry "Glory to God! Great things He still does!"

The quadrennium had seen a harvest of 7,798. For those who recall with gratitude the contributions of visiting evangelists Eugene Benjamin (385),

Gordon Martinborough (325), Claudius Morgan (1066), and Fazaduddin Hosein (125), we may note that their 1881 souls [c. 24%] still acknowledges almost 6 thousand more [5917 = c. 76%] as locally won. Admirable to remember, Dr. Hosein's programme was a full fledged field school involving theology seniors from USC, that resulted in an unprecedented triumph for the gospel among our East Indian brothers, over 90% of those baptized being East Indian.

As often before, Conference administrators were an active part of the evangelistic force, toiling alongside the pastors in the field who themselves were manning districts of 11, 13, and even 16 churches.

In context of those critical times when drug running and variations on murder so filled the news, the report likens the people of God in Guyana to the men of Issachar in David's coronation entourage, people who understood the times and knew what Israel ought to do.

Consistent with the motivation of hope that was the theme of this 2007 session, our presidential report concludes with cadences borrowed from the great Martin Luther King, Jr. , and immortalized in four simple words, "I have a dream." I note here only a few of the elements of that dream for end of next quadrennium, so we might the better appreciate the unity that characterizes the work of so many different teams through the decades covered in this book of reports. This report dreams of a completed senior citizens' home, and the next, under a different administration, will give praise to God for the commissioning of the 14-bed ground floor of the southern wing of that home; this president dreams of reconfigured, more manageable districts, and the next will attest that all but one of the large districts have been divided; and like many before him, the author of this report dreams of hundreds of East Indians and Amerindians embracing the Advent message. And the final longing expressed in this report is one with which all our administrators, all our pastors, and all our laity fervently resonate: "that the courageous, committed, consecrated, army of youths in the Guyana Conference will experience a revival of primitive godliness and will go forward with Latter Rain Power and liberate thousands from the bondage of sin."

**May 25-28, 2011, Hilton Garnett** delivered his farewell to arms, in a report that represented not only the climax of another quadrennium, but the climax and conclusion of his ministerial and administrative service to his beloved home field.

Beyond its validity as theme of the session, “Transformed by His Grace” spoke of the personal miracle of a youth who through the kindness of a faithful literature evangelist named Clarice Daniels found God; who, through the encouragement of another woman of God, Winifred Hinds-Giles, found holy ambition, and who was now about to conclude 43 years of unbroken ministry in three different conferences, including three terms as president of the Guyana Conference.

At the start of the quadrennium, he stated, Administration had instituted a new ministry philosophy, viz., Christ’s 5-point programme as laid out in Ellen G. White’s book, *Ministry of Healing*, p. 143. It was a ministry of caring mingling, showing sympathy, attending to needs, winning confidence, and then inviting to discipleship. Some elements of this new ministry philosophy included purchase of a Mobile Health Unit, feeding the indigent, and opening a shelter for battered women. Multimillion dollar contributions by Brother Ebenezer Gibbons and the late Elder Randolph Thompson supported that ministry and made possible the coming into being of the senior citizens’ home.

In evangelism, Pastor Preston Patterson became the first local pastor/evangelist to baptize over 300 persons in one campaign. And Bro. Naresh Lionel became coordinator of a GC-funded \$45M program addressing the salvation of the largest segment of our Guyanese population, East Indian communities.

Administrative actions included midterm sessions in all 3 counties of the nation. And in keeping with the vision of the immediately preceding administration all large districts were divided except the Upper Mazaruni district.

A persistent need of the field, echoing the words of the Lord of the harvest

2000 years before, was the need for laborers in the harvest (Matt. 9:37; Luke 10:2). Trained pastors continued to be in short supply. Moreover, the constant migration of Guyanese talent in this area manifested itself in having 8 districts manned by lay pastors. The tragic loss of Pastor Ashton Alleyne was only an aggravation of this great need. Also lost to us during this period was Dr. Timothy Greaves, who with his wife had been a source of consistent financial support for many a year.

### **In Conclusion**

Reading the first of these reports as given by Elder Gershom Byass, we remember that the periods there reviewed, 1972-'75, began with a clarion call to Revival & Reformation. At its close Elder Byass could confidently assert that it had been a season of Revival, Reformation and Regeneration. That was over 40 years ago.

The passion for Revival and Reformation did not wane, Elder Roy McGarrell reminds us early in his report on the succeeding period. It should have been a triennium, he notes, but it turned into a quadrennium of compelling memories of the grandest variety, "copious blessings and chastening blisters; brimful elation and painful extractions; lunging leaps . . . [and] pedestrian paces." As he testifies, those were days when the Conference drew strength from whole nights of prayer and heaven's unrestrained response to our appeals for the Holy Spirit's outpouring.

A later president, Elder Gordon Martinborough, admits that at times our God in mercy has granted us drops of the blessings with which He longs to shower us. We cannot be content with drops. Elder Martinborough expresses his "burden"—his longing: it is that "as leaders of this church" [the ones who come together to transact the work of the Conference] we will spend hours on our knees . . . praying for Pentecost." And then he asks, "What do you think would happen when the church's leaders—ministerial and lay leaders—agonize for hours with the Lord?"

This quinquennium the Ministerial Association of the General Conference has given the gospel trumpet a certain sound and that sound has been

Revival and Reformation. After our four-decade journey since Elder Byass' report we are as close as we have ever found ourselves to the borders of the promised land. We have experienced enough of "nearing home;" we know it is time to follow Joshua into the land. He who guarantees us eternal rest deserves a respite too. He who deserves everything good will experience that rest when we turn northward from the mountains of distraction, hesitation and vacillation we have circled for so long, and surge onward, upward, forward to the land that is fairer than our brightest fantasies, the land of the pure and the holy, the home of the happy, the kingdom of love. Will you go? Will you go? Will you go? Will you go? Yes Lord, in Your strength, here we come; yes sister, yes brother, not by might nor by power, but by His Spirit, here we go to the Eden above.

I share, in conclusion, with minimal modification, the cry that concludes the fourth of these presidential reports:

Send rain upon each life, O God, and purge us all of sin;  
Send rain into our homes, O Spirit, ever live within;  
Send rain upon our church to reach each race, each class, each soul;  
Send rain upon our country—leaders, people, make them whole.  
Lord, send this ripening Latter Rain. Now is the Harvest Hour!  
Come, Holy Spirit, come, we pray; Bring Pentecostal Power!

And joined to that plea I pray, O God, that the remembrances of these reports, the breadth and detail of their administrative vision, the irresistible compulsion of their evangelistic zeal, the unmodified craving of their hunger for God, holiness, and Holy Spirit anointing, the will they express to finish God's work—may it all overwhelm us with the consciousness of what You have always expected of us, and what You are ready right now, today to do for us, the men and women, youth and children of Guyana's last generation. We mean to honor the spiritual force of these six godly men poured out in these pages, and that same spirit that has moved in a seventh, their successor to bring this history to our eyes and this energy to our being. For their work has neither been the product of chance nor the mere unleashing of human genius. It is the climax of those unmentioned sequences of long,

solemn hours when they have pored over God's Word to find the message that Heaven knows earth's people need, the sacred days they have spent in hiding with God alone, the consecrated seasons they have passed in hunger, prostration, and exhaustion in their own private wilderness, led up of the Spirit like to Son of God, to be weak with self-denial and afterward be strengthened and fed by angels.

It is because of them, Your servants, that we now hold this volume. You have given them, and they have given it to us to inspire, infect, and intoxicate every one of us who touches this book with Pentecostal new wine. You, through them, have recounted for us these deeds so that every eye that peruses these pages, every woman and man and child, every youth and every adult who by accident or by design should encounter this material will burn with Pentecostal new fire. Bring it down upon our heads O God, and kindle it within our breast, O Lord, and take us to the next Guyanese Jerusalem, and Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of our country and your earth with the saving message of the Cross. And may we keep the faith as we share it too. And may Jesus come the sooner: Come, Lord Jesus.

## Brief Biography of Lael Caesar

**Lael Caesar** began his ministry three years before the first of this book's presidential reports and, as their pastor, he led his Corentyne delegation to that historic 1976 session where our organized work in Guyana achieved Conference status. The son of Elder R. S. J. Caesar who in his time was known as the dean of Guyanese pastors, Lael has pastored in Guyana and the East Caribbean Conference, and directed Youth, Health, Stewardship, and Development programs of the Church in the latter Conference. He also taught for twenty years at Montemorelos University in Mexico, and Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan. He holds MA degrees in Religion (Andrews University) and Hebrew (University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI) as well as a Ph.D. in Hebrew & Semitic Studies from UW, Madison.

He is a member of the General Conference's Biblical Research Institute Advisory Committee, and Faith and Science Council. He lives on permanent honeymoon with his wonderful wife, Lena, in Laurel, Maryland, and at present bears the portfolios of associate editor of *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* magazines in Silver Spring, Maryland, and Research Professor of Hebrew Bible at Andrews University. Their children, Lloyd and La Vonne, are both graduates of Andrews University; and Lena is an associate professor and coordinator of the undergraduate program of Speech Language Pathology at Loyola University, Baltimore, Maryland.



# Brief Biography of Pastor Gershom G. Byass, Ph.D

The tropical sun had crossed its zenith and was progressing inexorably toward its exit on the western horizon. As the mid-afternoon solar rays of Thursday, July 4, 1929 bathed the rustic landscape of Expectation aka Village # 9, West Coast Berbice, British Guiana, young Cousin David (who later became the father of Pastor Ashton Alleyne), was sent to summon the village midwife. Geraldine Giddings, was in labor and thus she gave birth to Gershom G. Byass, who, unknown to her, was destined by Jehovah for a life of service in His Remnant Church.

As the child grew up in the aforementioned village, he obtained his primary education at three schools, the chief being No. 8 Village Congregational. However, his elementary education ended prematurely. In his early teens, he relocated to Vryhead Village, West Canje Berbice to live with his father and to attend high school. That never happened; instead he learned carpentry and joinery from which he earned his livelihood.

But God, who always watched over him, had better things and higher goals for him. His Spirit led him to become a literature evangelist, which began his "service" with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. For a few years, he maintained the status of credential colporteur until he became ill, and discontinued. But his insatiable thirst for knowledge was unrelenting, so he acquired his high school education through correspondence courses from Rapid Results College, and Wolsey Hall, London, England. He took the University of London General Certificate of Education "O Level" exam, and with Jehovah's help, obtained his G.C.E. certificate. He was successful also at the A-Level exam.

For a short time he taught at Eaton High School, then with Victoria High School, both in New Amsterdam, Berbice. From there, the Guiana Mission called him to teach in Bara Cara, Canje River. While there, they sent him on bursary to Caribbean Union College in Trinidad.

On Wednesday September 1, 1954 he tied the nuptial knot with Maude A. Trellis, a true-born New Amsterdam lady. Heaven blessed them with four children: Dwight, Gershom, Marilyn, and Godfrey. All are married, and have given them eight grandchildren.

Elder Byass received his tertiary education at Caribbean Union College (now the University of the Southern Caribbean) where he read for associate degrees in Business and Religion. Later he acquired a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Atlantic Union College with minors in Religion, Business, and Economics. His post graduate degrees were obtained from the Newburg Theological Seminary where he did master's and doctoral studies in Christian Counseling.

Gershom G. Byass' ministry in the Guyana Conference has been dynamic and prolific. As a literature evangelist, he was the first to work in the Mahaicony Creek; and through his efforts, dozens were enrolled in Voice of Prophecy courses. He also served the conference as pastor, secretary/treasurer, auditor and president. In his pastoral ministry, Paruima, Linden and Carmel Church hold a special place in his heart; and as president, he introduced Home Cell evangelism, which, by God's help, resulted in the baptisms of more than 2,000 souls in 1989. During his presidential tenure, the conference was also blessed with several manses.

Pastor Byass' ministry extended beyond the shores of Guyana. He served the North Caribbean Conference in Montserrat where he played a pivotal role building Bethel Church in Plymouth. He also worked in the South Caribbean conference as pastor, auditor, and conference treasurer; and at the division level as area auditor with the Inter-American Division. In his post-retirement years he served in the New Jersey Conference as pastor.

He is also the author of a number of publications: Marvelous Trees; Kaieteur and Poems of Nature, Love & Life, and Home Cell Evangelism.

***God is good! God is great! Bless His holy name!***

# Brief Auto-Biography of Dr. Roy Israel McGarrell

Roy Israel McGarrell, was born on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1933, in the village of Friendship, the sister village of Buxton, on the East Coast of Demerara, in the then British Guiana, South America. His father was Oscar McGarrell (an Anglican) and his mother, Irene McGarrell nee Gill (a Methodist). Both now deceased, accepted the Advent Message at an evangelistic “effort” held in their village in 1928. He had three (3) siblings: his eldest sister, Emily McGarrell-Simon, his second sister, Edna McGarrell-Henry (now deceased), and his only brother, Reuben Crossley McGarrell (now deceased). For his primary education, he attended the Friendship Methodist School, and the Georgetown Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) School for the upper grades. For his secondary education, he first attended the SDA Secondary School, and then Wray High School, both in the city of Georgetown.

After completing his secondary education with success at the GCE (London) in 1952, he worked as a dredge office clerk in the Potaro region in Guyana for one year, after which he taught at the Enmore Government Primary School for five (5) years. Heeding a call to prepare for the Gospel Ministry, he entered Caribbean Union College (CUC) in September, 1959, and after graduation in 1961, he served for one year conjointly as headmaster and teacher of the SDA Elementary School, and Principal and teacher of the SDA Secondary School, both in the city of Georgetown. Regular ministerial internship followed in the Georgetown District under the mentorship of Pastor O. Edward Gordon. This was a rich period of field training.

Wedding bells rang out in June 1962 when he and Shirley Ann Martinborough exchanged vows of matrimony. At the first Camp Meeting of the Guyana Mission of SDA, held at Thomas Lands, Georgetown, in August 1965, he was ordained to the Gospel Ministry. After several years of service, he was awarded a bursary by the Guyana Mission when the curriculum was upgraded at CUC. Therefore, in 1970, he returned to the college to add the

two additional years of work required in order to acquire the B.Th. Degree. He graduated from this programme in 1972. As it was in 1961, he was elected president of my graduating class.

In the field in Guyana, he served as a District Pastor in the Upper Demerara River District (1963-1965); the New Amsterdam and Corentyne, with stints in the Canje Creek and Berbice River Districts (1966-1969); and the Georgetown #1 District (1969-1970 and 1972). At the Mission Session of August 1972, he was elected director for the Stewardship and Education Departments (1972-1976); and in January 1976, he was elected president (1976-1980) for the newly reconstituted Guyana Conference. He did not seek re-election at the 1980 Session because of a long-standing dream to study at Andrews University.

Therefore, he left Guyana with his family following his presidency, for Andrews University in September 1980. He thanks God for enabling him to achieve the successful completion of his university studies in earning an M. A. Degree in Systematic Theology and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree (a Ph.D.) in interdisciplinary studies (Theology, Eschatology, and Education). He will ever be grateful to the Guyana Conference for the educational grant he received during studies for the M.A. Degree, and to the Caribbean Union Conference for the College Staff Bursary he was granted to complete his doctoral studies.

With respect to college friends, He and Pastor Gordon Martinborough were boyhood friends at the Buxton SDA Church, and fellow teachers at the Enmore Government School before they went to CUC, where their friendship continued. Other friends whom he met in college were Drs. Leon Wilson, Lael Caesar, Antonius Brandon, Peter Prime, Clarence Pamphile, Edwin Dossett, and Pastors Oriel Fleming and Guy Valleray. Some friends at university were Drs. Hilton Garnett, Leslie Pollard, Fitzroy Maitland, Bertram Melbourne, Joel Musvosvi, Alonzo Smith, Jon Paulien, and Pastors Lester Parkinson and Randy Skeete, and Mr. Isaac Mohammed. (Of course, he and Dr. Garnett were pastoral colleagues in Guyana before they studied at Andrews University.)

Immediately after university studies, he joined the Theology and Religion Faculty of Caribbean Union College, now the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC), in 1989, as Chairman (later Dean), and Professor in the same Faculty for nine (9) consecutive years, and a further twelve (12) years as Professor only, giving a total of twenty-one (21) years of service to the institution. Adding his Guyana and bursary years, this makes a total of 43 years of service to the SDA organization. As a professor emeritus (i.e. retired), he still lectures on a contract basis whenever the university needs his service.

During his tenure at USC, he had the opportunity to present several lectures and hold workshops and seminars in the areas of homiletics, apocalyptic, and systematic theology in several places in the Caribbean including Antigua, Grenada, Guyana, Martinique, St. Croix, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, and Trinidad & Tobago. Additionally, he has preached in Barbados, Jamaica, England, and the United States of America.

Far beyond material gain, service affords incalculable joy. he fondly remember three (3) things: (1) While President, he was also Pastor of the East La Penitence Church, an assignment that provided him with immense satisfaction. He wrote and directed the production of a play which was a significant part of a concert they put on. Another remembrance: The Pathfinder Director had asked the Church Board for permission to take the club on a Saturday night hike to Parika, about 21 miles from Georgetown. The Board turned down the request twice, for obvious reasons. Pastor McGarrell was in agreement with the Board. The leader was upset and begged him to take the request back to the Board for a third time. He took the request back and told the Board that he would accompany the young people, along with some elders and deacons as chaperons. The Board granted the request on account of his intervention and promise, even though he knew they couldn't make the trip. So, on that memorable night, they set out. After about three miles, the pathfinders began to cry out, and Shirley, his wife, who was in the Land Rover which accompanied us, appealed to him twice to turn back. He did not agree readily, but said, "We are going to Parika!" He said so 'maliciously' since he was waiting for

the Pathfinder Leader to go to him himself with the suggestion that they should turn back, just to teach him a lesson. Finally, he did, and then, many of the weary younger ones scurried into the Land Rover. The driver, Bruce Permaul, dropped them off near to their homes, and then he took Pastor McGarrell to his home to get his car, and he and the pastor made trips gathering up the weary children and young people, and letting them off near to their homes. They got the point of the Church Board the hard way, since the Board had known they couldn't walk that distance. God does that to us sometimes, when we constantly ask of Him things that are not good for us.

(2) The annual District Conventions were special for him. They were times of refreshing and fellowship, and it was the expectation of the saints that the President would be the preacher for the "high day" in Israel—the Sabbath worship. Those conventions always gave the President the opportunity to visit many parts of the field, and to mingle with the church members.

(3) Because of the perpetual financial stringency that a Conference experiences, some sacrifices bring joy. He remember two such situations: "(i) We purchased a house for the pastor on the Essequibo Coast; and (ii), the administration took the office staff and their families, also, the members of the Conference Executive Committee and their families to the Pegasus Hotel for an evening of social togetherness and fun. The ambience was novel for many, and the delectable cuisine tickled our salivating palates. With our own music and lively banter, we all enjoyed ourselves."

His wife, Dr. Shirley Ann McGarrell, has stood by him loyally and faithfully, through his years of service, as a worthy Shepherdess. God granted her the privilege also to earn her M.A. and Ph.D. Degrees for service in His vineyard, as a Bible Worker, secretary to three Conference Presidents, Dean of Women at CUC, Faculty Dean and Professor and Academic Dean at USC, and Interim President for the college, later university, for the year 2002. She has recently retired, her last assignment having been the Vice President for General Administration (or Provost) at USC. She has also done well as an author of several books. They have three (3) adult children: Fenton Andre

Roy McGarrell, a clinical laboratory scientist; Mrs. Fern Althea McGarrell-Hudson, a critical-care nurse; and Dr. Faith-Ann Abiola McGarrell, who, up to just recently, an Associate Professor at Andrews University, is presently, the Editor of the Journal of Adventist Education at the General Conference of SDA.

The Good Lord has been very gracious to him and the rest of their family. They thank Him, their Heavenly Father, the Guyana Conference and the church membership, the Caribbean Union Conference, and the University of the Southern Caribbean for their solicitous care.

# Brief Biography of Gordon Ornsley Martinborough

Gordon O. Martinborough was born on November 12, 1936 in Georgetown Guyana to Gordon Sr. and Maisy Martinborough. He and his siblings - Shirley, Patrick and Dolly - grew up in Vreed-en-hoop and Buxton. He attended Friendship Government School and Washington High School before graduating from Caribbean Union College (now USC). He secured his BA in Religion and BA in History degrees from Loma Linda University, then an MA in Church History from Loma Linda University. His thesis, "The beginnings of a theology of the Sabbath among American Sabbatarian Adventists, 1842 – 1850" is considered a standard reference for researchers in early Adventist studies.

On April 17, 1963, Gordon married the former Waveney Hinds, and they are the parents of three children: Dr. Esther Biamonte, a research scientist in San Diego; Samuel, a music educator in Boston; and John, a musician in New York. Waveney holds a Master's degree in Education from Andrews University, and has taught at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. She became the first Director of Women's Ministries of the Inter-American Division, and is a credentialed Commissioned Minister.

Elder Martinborough has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for over forty years as Pastor-evangelist, Personal Ministries Director, and President of the Guyana Conference; Personal Ministries Director, and President of the Caribbean Union; and Associate Ministerial Director, Evangelist, and Vice-President of the Inter-American Division of the General Conference. He has been an international evangelist ministering in English, French and Spanish countries in Inter-America and North America, and has had the joy of leading over 3,000 persons to Christ.

Pastor Martinborough has pioneered the innovative strategy of Family Life Evangelism, which combines family issues with conceptually compatible



Bible doctrines. He has produced a wealth of resources including *Family Life Evangelism Manual*. He is the author of seven publications in the fields of Evangelism and Family Living, including the best-seller, *I Love You*. At present he and his wife serve as Co-directors of *Happy Family Bible Seminars International*, and their programs are aired weekly on the Hope Church Channel as well as on the Loma Linda Broadcasting Network.

During his presidency of the Guyana Conference (1980 – 1986), Pastor Martinborough was used by God to cause Guyana to be the leader for Lay Evangelism in the Caribbean Union. He also carried a burden for East Indian Evangelism, and championed the employment of Lay East Indian evangelists who started congregations in Indian strongholds. During the most challenging days of Guyana, he was instrumental in inaugurating the Maranatha Press, to supply the printing needs of the Conference. He was inspired to institute the daily Prayer at Noon, because God is a God of miracles. He was then. And He still is now! Let's give Him the glory!

# Brief Biography of Hilton E. Garnett

The story of his life began at Lusignan on the East Coast of Demerara.

The third of three children born to Beatrice Jessie Mc Pherson-Garnett of Lusignan and James Albert Paul of Buxton, Hilton Garnett's childhood was characterized by frequent bouts of sickness. He claims that was the result of his grandparents keeping him indoors for most of his childhood days. Since his older brothers had died mysteriously within days of each other, his grandparents decided to take every precaution to save him from the same fate.

During his primary schooling at the Buxton Anglican School, he performed so outstandingly in Standard 3 that he was promoted to Standard 5 along with Andrew Roland and Shirley Martinborough (who later became Mc Garrell). Within six months they were again promoted, this time to Standard 6 in preparation for the common entrance exam in 1952. Since Hilton was too young to take the school leaving exam, he opted to attend Mr Theriens' private school in Buxton but could not continue after six months because of financial constraints.

At thirteen, he entered the world of work at the Lusignan estate in the Creole Gang. For the next eight years he was involved in several types of work on the estate until at twenty-one, he obtained his driver's licence and left for Linden. At Linden he secured a job with the Alumina Plant and after only 6 months, he encountered Christ and the Seventh-day Adventist church through the efforts of Sister Clarice Daniels, a colporteur.

On his first visit to the Wismar church, the Lord brought him face to face with an angel in the person of Sister Winifred Hinds/Giles who promptly introduced him to Caribbean Union College (CUC). She sent him off to school in January 1963.

In June 1968, Hilton graduated from CUC and began his career with the

Guyana Mission in the West Demerara District under the tutelage of Pastor Gordon Martinborough.

During his first seven years of work, he had short stints in West Demerara, Essequibo, East Bank, Linden, Matthews Ridge, Essequibo/Pomeroon, West Demerara again, Berbice #1 and the Corentyne Districts. During this period he conducted crusades in Den Amstel, Bagotville, Pouderoyen, Sisters (Berbice), Canefield, Canje, and Alness on the Corentyne. It was during this time, in 1972, that he married Pearl Sydney and saw the birth of their first child. Ordination was conferred upon him in December 1973. Also in this seven year period, he was emboldened by the Lord to see the completion of the Alness and Bara Cara churches.

In September 1975, he matriculated at the West Indies College in Mandeville, Jamaica to complete the Bachelors degree. During this time their son, Theodore (Teddy), was born in Mandeville.

His contemporaries at West Indies College were Malcolm Cort, Maxwell Blakeney, Compton Gaskin, Errol Liverpool and Steve Constantine.

Hilton Garnett's career in the office began upon his return from West Indies College when he was asked to serve in the Personal Ministries and Sabbath school departments while also serving as pastor of the Shiloh church. In seven months Shiloh church was completed, dedicated, and the Garnett's third child, Karen, was born.

During the next four years, he conducted the McDoom crusade and left the office to pastor the Georgetown #1 District. In 1981 the family went off to Andrews University where he completed the master's degree. They returned to Guyana and to Georgetown # 1 District in 1982. In 1983, he became conference secretary and conducted the Moriah crusade in 1984 and the Buxton crusade 1985. That same year he accepted a call to be secretary of the East Caribbean Conference with headquarters in Barbados.

During his 5 years in the East Caribbean Conference, he pastored the

Ephesus and Breath of Life churches, conducted the Eastlyn crusade in Barbados and the Pauls Lot crusade in Kingstown, St Vincent. Pastor Garnett was called back to Guyana to be president in 1990. The new conference office was his biggest undertaking during his second term, but God was in the work.

The call to the Ontario Conference in 1996 to pastor the Scarborough Church led to his first North American assignment. That was followed by his call to the Ontario Conference office in 2001 for four years. He subsequently pastored the Hope Adventist Church and completed the Doctor of Ministry in Christian Counselling at Canada Christian College.

In 2007, he returned to Guyana and was asked to be president for the third time.

During this tenure, by God's grace the senior's home was constructed, major renovation was carried out at Central church, and the Beterverwagting manse was renovated as a part of an effort to convert it into a shelter. In addition, the downtown feeding programme was started, the Mobile Unit brought in, the Revolving Fund was started, cubicles were constructed for the secretaries, satellite dishes were installed at the office and at Central Church, internet was made available to all directors, the boardroom was air-conditioned, the website was established and the bimonthly church news letter was started. The Canter truck that transports tents and other supplies to be used especially in evangelistic campaigns was bought. Several districts were divided, and at Session, the president of the nation and fourteen other outstanding Guyanese professionals including the head of the Anglican and Pentecostal Churches and some twenty five outstanding Adventist professionals including Dr Roy McGarrell and Pastor GO Martinborough, were honoured.

Pastor Hilton Garnett's pastoral and evangelistic activities have produced 13 pastors and many other outstanding persons who currently serve in different parts of the world.

His three children are also serving in the church. Pretha is married to a pastor and her singing talent is blessing many. Dr Theodore Garnett, a microbiologist, works for the Federal Food and Drug Administration in Washington and is active in his church on the keyboard. Karen holds a MA degree and is currently at Loma Linda University where her husband is a third year Medical student. He and Pearl have been blessed with 7 grand children.

Pastor Garnett acknowledges all these accomplishments as God's doing. He says, "I see His footprints in every step I take. To Him be glory and honour and praise, dominion and power forever and ever, Amen!"

## Brief Biography of Lindon Gudge

He was born on November 18, 1955 at the Suddie Hospital, to his loving parents James Gudge and Elva Gudge (nee Paton), and grew up in Bethany, a settlement up the Supenaam River. His family was blessed with four boys and three girls namely Joseph (a son from a previous marriage), Philbert, Lindon, Winston, Verlon, Desiree and Elizabeth. They lost both of their parents, as well as Joseph and Desiree to the hands of death.

Young Lindon attended Bethany Primary School and did his GCE O' levels privately before he left for Caribbean Union College (now University of the Southern Caribbean) in Trinidad. While there, he did a few additional O' levels and then completed two degrees: a BA in Theology and a BA in History. He then attended the Andrews University extension campus in Jamaica to read for a Master of Arts in Religion.

Lindon Gudge's career life began in Bethany where he taught at the Adventist school for about three years just before leaving for college. After his studies in Trinidad, he rejoined the employ of the Guyana Conference in 1982 as an intern. His first assignment was the East Coast Demerara District (Plaisance to Belmont, Mahaica), and next, for a short period, he pastored the Olivet Church in Lodge which had been established as a result of the Don Crowder crusade in late 1982.

In December of '82 he married the beautiful Clydavern (Clydie) Haakmat and from this union three handsome, talented and much loved sons were born: Laurence, Lincoln and Leon.

Clydie and Lindon left Guyana in February 1986 in answer to a call from the Suriname Mission to pastor in that territory. They would spend ten years there as he pastored most of the districts in the field and then functioned as departmental director. He returned to Guyana in February 1995 to pastor

the Georgetown # 1 District and at the Conference Session the next year (1996), was asked to serve as President. This he did for one term.

One of the major undertakings of this tenure was the streamlining of the conference's financial operations in an effort to reflect the financial best practices of the time since it was critical at this juncture to implement measures that would lay a strong foundation for the financial future of the Guyana Conference.

After serving as president from 1996 to 1999, he resumed pastoral functions on the East Bank of Demerara, (which extended from Peters Hall to Long Creek) until he moved to Suriname in November of the said year. This time, the Mission asked him to serve as its president and he was privileged to do so from 1999 to 2011. Presently he pastors three small churches just outside the capital city, Paramaribo.

He thanks God for His rich blessings and for the privilege of being His co-worker. He is especially humbled by what God has used him to accomplish in the process of the growth and development of His church in the Guyana Conference.

# Brief Biography of Philip Bowman

Philip Bowman was born to Harris and Mary Johanna Bowman on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1937 in the village of Plaisance on the East Coast of Demerara. The Bowmans had four other children: Oscar, Rudolph, Doris, and Evadney (now deceased).

Philip received his early education at St Paul's Anglican School in Plaisance, and his secondary education at Caribbean Union College now University of the Southern Caribbean. In September 1977, he began his college education and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Theology in 1981. In an effort to enhance his ministry, he pursued a graduate programme at the Andrews University Extension School in Jamaica (at West Indies College, now University of the Northern Caribbean) and graduated in 1995 with a master's degree in Religion. Six years later, in the summer of 2001, he successfully completed the requirements for the certification in Family Life Education from Andrews University.

Some of Philip's contemporaries in College are Alfred Sinclair, Lawrence London, and Lindon Gudge, Stephen Patterson and Jason Thomas. At university, he studied along with Pastor Ashton Alleyne (now deceased) and Dr Fazadudin Hosein.

On 29<sup>th</sup> June, 1982, he took the hand of the charming Claudette Anora Wilson, the love his life, in marriage. Together, they would walk the road of ministry. God has blessed their marriage with two lovely children: Tonette Yolanda, who is presently pursuing a masters' degree in Counseling Psychology at the University of the Southern Caribbean, and Philip Troydon, the second child, who is a sound engineer and technician at Channel 2 Television Station in Georgetown, Guyana. On 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2014, Pastor and Mrs. Bowman celebrated thirty two years of marriage, on account of which he claims, "If I had to do it again, I will choose the same, sweet, adorable Claudette."



Philip Bowman's ministry in the Guyana Conference began with pastoral responsibilities in the Essequibo No. 2 District which at that time included Bartica, Leguan and Wakenam (September 1981–July 1983). His second district appointment was Essequibo No.1 North (1983–September 1986) followed by Berbice No. 1 District (1986 – 1989). Next he was called to serve the Demerara/Essequibo District briefly toward the end of 1989, and then the Georgetown No. 1 District the following year. In 1999 he was moved yet again, this time to the Upper Demerara West District where he served until he was elected president of the Guyana Conference at the April 1999 Session. He served as Conference president for two terms.

God blessed the Conference under Pastor Bowman's presidency in significant ways. Worthy of mention is the 18,000 souls who were baptized during that period. Also, On September 24, 2005, seven pastors, including four lay pastors, were ordained to the Gospel ministry. This was the largest number of ministers to be ordained in a single service in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist work in Guyana.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by GERSHOM G. BYASS (Acting)

January 13 – 17, 1976

As we begin this historic first session of the newly constituted Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, we welcome all of you. We welcome Elders R.R. Drachenberg, G.W. Brown, and T.G. Sample, from the Inter-American Division. Elder Brown is well acquainted with Georgetown. He visited here many times when he was Youth Leader of our Union. He also came here in 1973 and held some evangelistic meetings in this very church. As a result, over fifty (50) souls were baptized.

We also specially welcome Elder W.W. Weithers, the valiant indefatigable warrior of the cross, who is now president of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Until August last, Elder Weithers was the president of this field. To him, therefore, is due full credit for the progress achieved during the last four years in Guyana. But for his appointment to the Union, this should have been the privilege to deliver this report.

To our leaders from the newly formed North Caribbean Conference, as well as from East Caribbean and South Caribbean Conferences, Suriname Field, and the Union headquarters in Trinidad, we say WELCOME. And to all of you

who have come from sprawling Berbice, from compact Demerara, and from the far-flung corners of Essequibo, we say WELCOME, AND MARANATHA!

Today, we thank God for His wonderful protection to all of you who have travelled on the waterways, highways, or through the skyways, to be here at this conference.

As we proceed with this report, let us do so with grateful hearts and the deepest sense of God's goodness to His work and His blessings to His people during the last four years in Guyana.

Doubtless many of you will recall that the period under review began with the clarion call for "Revival and Reformation." This call was taken to the districts, to the churches, to the people, until it became the rallying cry of all during the quadrennium. This resulted in the changed life-style and methods of our pastors and members. And the results became evident in the fruits that our efforts bore.

## **EVANGELISM**

Evangelism, as you will see from the other reports, became more than a watchword. It became the heart-beat that circulated the blood of the gospel commission in the veins of our polity. Departmental directors took to the churches far and near, and conducted fruitful efforts. Pastor Maxwell Blakeney, conducted efforts in Berea, Golden Grove and Springland churches. Pastor Alan B. Johnson went to Rose Hall—Corentyne, Beterverwagting, and East La Pentitence churches. Pastor Charles Williams, before he left for the Union Office, did his bit at Mocha; and Pastor Reynold Howell, since succeeding him, added many souls to the Plaisance church where he conducted a successful effort in 1975. And so did Pastor Edson Weithers at Mocha. Even the Secretary-Treasurer did 'his thing' at Carmel church, where in a reaping campaign, many precious souls were won including an entire family, except the father. Pastor Roy McGarrell also took time off his most exacting schedule and conducted evangelistic meetings at Grove and Soesdyke churches. In many of these evangelistic efforts, some of our office secretaries actively participated in supporting and saving souls.

Our pastors made evangelism one of their primary concerns. And in all districts, evangelistic programs were pushed throughout this period. Outstanding in such programs were Pastors Arthur H. Hunter, Hilton Garnett, and Howard Cush—now on study leave at Caribbean Union College, and three of our young pastors who recently took to the field—Royce Mentore, Lael Caesar, and Bernell McPherson. Our Bible workers likewise, kept letting down their nets in the deep with good results. Our Amerindian workers and the other two regular Bible workers have won many souls in their non-pastor associated efforts.

Many of our lay-members entered the evangelistic act with zest, and as you will see from the reports of the departments, lay participation increased tremendously, and baptisms from such efforts multiplied significantly. Whereas youth participation in 1972 was 402, in 1975 (3 quarters), it rose to 728. Baptism resulting from youth-conducted or assisted efforts increased from 163 in 1972, to 320 for the three quarters reported for 1975. Whereas in 1972 only 58 lay preachers were involved directly, in 1975, up to the September report, 150 were engaged in evangelism, Thus from 1972 to September 1975, three hundred ninety-nine lay preachers rallied in the fields and reaped a harvest of 1,669 precious souls for Jesus. Baptisms reported by lay preachers for three quarters of 1975 totaled 641. This is more than were won in the giant tentorium of Campbellville. And the lesson is clear. More direct participation by members in evangelism is needed. The greater this participation, the greater will be the results in souls saved; and in fact, only thus will the “work” be finished and the coming of Jesus realized.

In September 1975, we received with thankful hearts from the Inter-American Division, a giant TENT. This tent measure 60 feet by 90 feet. Almost immediately after receiving it, it was pitched in Campbellville. And for six weeks Union Evangelist, Kembleton Wiggins, preached. The fruitage of this effort amounted to 354 souls. We thank the Inter-American Division for this tent as well as the US\$5,000.00 they gave to provide seating for the 1,000 people the tent can accommodate. We thank our Saviour for the first fruits reaped as a result of this tent.

The combined efforts of the church in evangelism during the last quadrennium resulted in the addition of 4,137 souls to the church. In the process, 16 new groups and companies were raised up. Among the outstanding ones are Cumberland, Friendship, Gangaram, Orealla, and Parapie, in Berbice; Amelia's Ward and Comaka in Upper Demerara; Wakapow in the Pomeroon, and Kamarang Mouth and Waramabia in Upper Mazaruni. Thus, we can truly say that as a results of the Revival and Reformation, lively churches and groups became livelier, sick-ones were energised , the dying were resuscitated, the dead resurrected, and the non-existent, called forth into existence by the power of God. Now our membership is 11,525. We say "To God be the glory, great things He hath done."

## **FINANCIAL**

Up to September 1972, our financial condition as a field was desperate. In fact, it was a matter of grave concern not only to us but also to the Caribbean Union Conference. In September of the same year, a high-powered committee comprising Elders G. R. Thompson, Chairman; E.J. Murray and H. L. Lee from the Union, E.A. Blackman, from East Caribbean Conference; along with W.W. Weithers and G.G. Byass from the local field carefully and prayerfully studied the situation. Recommendations were made embodying suggested courses of action to effect a remedy. In October and November, several teams made up of our office and Union personnel, went to the districts with the revelation of our condition, and a call for reformation and revival in Stewardship. The Holy Spirit worked. Our people responded favourably. Money came in adequate amounts to the treasury. We came out of the "red". The blessings of God became increasingly evident. We were becoming financially viable. Today we rejoice that that trend continued. And as you will see from the treasurer's report, tithe income increased from G\$287,627.00 in 1972, to G \$424,107.99 in '75. We look forward to reaching the half million mark in 1976. Whereas in December 1972, our total liquid assets amounted to a mere G\$12,137.00, in November 1975, our cash securities and investments alone stood at G\$38,000.00 Truly, God has been blessing us.

## **CONFERENCE STATUS**

As a result of the consistent healthy trend in our finances, we became confident and were emboldened to request consideration for Conference Status. Led by Elder W.W. Weithers, on November 20, 1973, our Mission Committee voted to request the Caribbean Union Conference that Conference Status be granted us. On November 28, 1973, the Union Committee considered our request for a change in status and voted to appoint a committee to study and determine our readiness for such a status. This committee which comprised Elder G. R. Thompson, E. J. Murray, K.E. Forde, W.W. Weithers, and G.G. Byass, met in Georgetown Guyana, on March 11 and 13, 1974.

After carefully examining the Guyana Mission's program in the four important areas according to denominational policy criteria, the committee was completely satisfied with our readiness. It was therefore "VOTED, to recommend to the Union Committee that the request of the Guyana Mission for a change of status from that of a mission to that of a conference, had merit." The Union Committee thereafter confidently requested the Division to look with favour on granting the change. The Division concurred. And you brethren, have been actors in and witnesses of, the historic inauguration of the New Guyana Conference, on the opening night of this session. The dream becomes a reality. The vision becomes a tangible sight. This achievement for which we thank God, was made possible only through the combined efforts of all members, workers, and the higher organization. We thank God our Heavenly Father, for His copious blessings.

## **DEPARTMENTS**

During the past four years, the departments continued to grow and out-do themselves in past accomplishments. In 1972, Pastor Charles Williams took charge of the publishing work, and transformed it from a sleeping babe to a fledging giant. Today, under the youthful David of publishing – Pastor Reynold Howell--many Goliaths of literature evangelism have been brought to heel, and are manfully advancing the bookwork. Deliveries in 1975 exceeded G\$250,000.00. This is a Guyana record!

The Sabbath School department mentions a 48.31% increase in membership over the year 1972. Its membership now stands at 13,400. The increase in Vacation Bible School conducted is most spectacular. Two (2) in 1972; thirty (30) in 1975. The exploits of the Lay Activities department must be read for full impact and enjoyment. But let me mention in passing our ingathering program. We have enjoyed 132% increase over 1972—G\$23,000.00 in 1972, as compared with G\$55,000.00 in 1975. The same marvelous successes occurred in the Adventist Book Center's performance and the stewardship department accomplishments during the period. The 120 youths inspired at the Youth Bible Conference will continue to tell and live their experience for many a year to come. One weakness plagued several departments: under-reporting. We have not been receiving the full story from the churches. Only about 35% of MV societies, and 54% of the sabbath schools reported. How much more rejoicing would there have been had the full story been told and heard!

## **WORKERS**

The program of this field during the past four years was people-based and oriented. Our president, Elder W.W. Weithers saw to it that workers grew and progressed. Upgrading of workers is an on-going program. Thus more bursaries and scholarships were granted this period than hitherto. A total of 25 bursaries and scholarships were awarded during 1972 to 1975. Returning home from such grants are: Harper Esmond, Reynold Howell, Edson Weithers, Theron Caesar, Paula Chung, Faye Trotman, just to name a few from Caribbean Union College, and Merille Simon, from West Indies College. Among the dozen presently on the mission-sponsored study program, is Lloyd Henrito, the first of our Amerindian workers to pursue a regular theology course.

But while the program marched on, workers' movement to and from Guyana took place. Leaving during this period were G. A. Beresford, P.S. Harry, G. V. Malcolm, D. Kadan, U. Abrams, D.J.Z Anderson, L. A. Gittens, J. R. Simmons, C. L. Williams, and of course, W.W. Weithers. Among the memorable losses are the last named three, who without exception, have been trained, matured and/or mellowed in the expansive challenging

vicissitudes of this great field, and who as a result, have caught the eyes of keen observers from other fields, to the extent, that they were called to higher responsibilities and wider service. We rejoice with our brethren at God's blessings and leading in their lives, and voice once more our tribute to them for their contribution to the growth and prosperity of the Guyana Conference.

Among the highlights of the period, were the many ordinations of young men to the gospel ministry. Five men—Maxwell Blakeney, Hilton Garnett, Alan Johnson, Bernell McPherson, and Charles Williams—were ordained. On Sabbath afternoon next, as part of the climactic feature of this historic session, Pastor Royce Mentore will, by ordination, be inducted fully into the ranks of the Adventist Ministry.

## **MEETINGS**

In January 1975, all our pastors retreated to Camp Kayuka for a very inspiring workers meeting.

During March 28 – 31, 1975, over 120 church elders and leaders met at Sophia, Georgetown, in what is now referred to as the historic Elders' convention. Besides making an effort to sharpen the operational tools of the elders, and to give them a deeper and clearer understanding of the functioning of our organizational machinery, much time was spent discussing the Five-Year Development Draft. This was overwhelmingly accepted.

In 1973, Pastors A. H. Hunter, G.V. Malcolm, and W.W. Weithers attended the Division's Ministerial Retreat in Florida, United States of America. And in July 1975, Elders W.W. Weithers, G.G. Byass, and R.T. McGarrell, attended the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Conference held in Vienna, Austria.

Other meetings in which the Mission participated in financing and by sending delegations, were convened in Barbados, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Many pastors, teachers, office secretaries, and laymen attended these various meetings.



## **AMERINDIAN WORK**

The work started by noble pioneers among the Amerindians of the Upper Mazaruni continues to march on. Because of the rapid growth of the work there, in 1973 we employed Lloyd Henrito to join Pastor A. Abdool's team as a Bible worker. Resulting from the evangelistic fervour of the four who comprised the worker-corps in the area, new areas were entered, many new souls were won. Among the new areas where our work is now established is Kamarang Mouth and Philippi. Brother Henrito is now attending Caribbean Union College where he is preparing for future and more effective service among his people.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY**

It is not always easy to perceive every blessing, or to assess growth in terms of quantity added or quality attained. But undoubtedly, the past quadrennium has been one of Revival, Reformation and Regeneration. The spiritual tone of the church in Guyana improved not a little. Growth has been evident in several areas. More people are now members of our church in Guyana than ever before. Also more funds were received than hitherto.

Let us therefore thank God for all His blessings and enablings. Especially should we be thankful for a peaceful climate and freedom to operate. Doubtless, this is one of the major contributory factors to our commendable attainment. We are also deeply appreciative of the meaningful help received from the Caribbean Union Conference, and the Inter-American Division. We also wish to say thank you to the former East Caribbean Conference leaders—Elders W.W. Thomson, and Brother E.A. Blackman—for the spirit of non-sectional liberality that motivated them to help us tangibly in our times of need. Indeed, is it time for a system to be worked out in our church whereby a portion of the operating surplus of the prosperous field could be contributed to a fund specially maintained to help indigent fields within the Union?

I wish also to thank all our members, church officers, teachers, bible workers, pastors, and office staff, for whatever positive contributions they

made to our work for the period under review. Let us also thank God for enabling us to attain CONFERENCE STATUS, for which we so earnestly prayed and eagerly looked. But, brethren, conference status is not a terminus, but rather a giant and significant step on the road comprising the continuum of challenge. It is an updating of the mandate to prosecute the gospel commission with renewed vigour. It is a challenge to greater and total faithfulness in all the dimensions of stewardship. It is an urgent call to FINISH the work of Christ on this earth, speedily. Hence, it is a call to all our members to evangelize ALL of Guyana. For it is a truism that: "The supreme need of every man is Jesus Christ. And the supreme business of every Christian is EVANGELISM."

We intend by the enabling power of God during this next quadrennium to lay special emphasis on Indo-Guyanese evangelization. With this in view, we have already selected Brethren Peter Dookie, and David Rajigadoo, who along with our veteran Brother Philbert Ramotar, will form the vanguard of a new army of evangelists.

Finally, to one and all of us, the paramount challenge is to be fully surrendered to Christ, to be fully used by Him, and in the days ahead, to clearly and effectively REFLECT HIS GLORY.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Roy I McGarrell

January 16 – 19, 1980

Welcome: with arms wide open and hearts heaving with excited pulsations. I say, on behalf of our people and constituency, welcome to all of you here tonight, particularly to those who have come from overseas to share in the felicitations, blessings, camaraderie and, I dare say, challenging business of this session. Elder M. G. Nembhard is here as the lone representative from the Inter-American division with headquarters in Miami, Florida, which makes our gratitude to him more fervent than if he were one of several from the IAD. Elder Nembhard is a field secretary as well as the associate ministerial secretary of Inter-America, the largest division of our world work. He visited Guyana during and in connection with the W.C. Scales' crusade and field school, late 1978. The delegates from Bethel Church here tonight will remember that he preached the sermon at the dedication service of their church. Welcome again to Guyana, Elder Nembhard.

We are very happy for the presence of our union officers— Elders Eric John Murray, and Joseph Grimshaw. Elder Murray, our union president, has frequented Guyana over the years because of the administrative roles he has been carrying in our union. As union president, he will be a key figure at this session. Elder Grimshaw, the treasurer and acting secretary of the

union, has been our financial advisor for many years now, due to the fact that before donning the treasurer's mantle at the last union session, he was auditor and assistant-treasurer of the union, then area auditor of the Inter-American division to these parts. Welcome to these two brethren as well as to all the departmental directors of the union. We also welcome the leaders and the officers of our four sister fields, and administrators of the three union institutions— Caribbean Union College, Port-of-Spain Adventist Hospital, and Davis Memorial Hospital.

I must welcome also the delegates from this colourful country of luxuriant greenery; land of many waters, pregnant with optimistic dreams and exotic romance. From bustling sugar-rich Corriverton to pacific gold-rich Kamarang you have come; from the music and the saga and laughter of the Canje Creek to the flood tide of the fertile Pomeroun you have come. From the lush coastal plains of Essequibo, Demerara, and Berbice, to the breath-taking majestic heights of the Pakaraimas you have come. From sophisticated and conservative New Amsterdam to steamy vivacious bauxite-laden Linden, you have come. From cities and towns, villages and hamlets, you have come to this session; and may the choicest blessings from heaven's store-house come to all of us as we do God's business. WELCOME!

## **BACKDROP**

The remnant church in Guyana like its counterparts throughout the world field has a rendezvous with destiny. Eschatological verities (predictive and fulfilled prophecies that point "toward a sure and certain hope") tell us that there is little time left. Parched hearts long for quenching. Limp hands reach for filling. Frayed nerves appeal for soothing. Shall we disappoint them? We have the plans. Dare we sleep on the blueprints?

Guyana with a population of 800,000 people is a land of many faces, a potpourri of cultural patterns, ethnic groupings, and religious persuasions with roots in the Orient as well as in the Occident. To serve this land of 83,000 square miles demands a dynamic witness. We must flee static complacency.

Caught in the swirling eddies of a political and social revolution which brought about societal change in our country through restructured approaches to management of foreign exchange, imports ( for us literature), and education, to name three areas, the church found it a challenge to operate. Sweat, tears, prayers, tenacity, with the Master Pilot at the wheel, kept us afloat as our fragile barque negotiated difficult, choppy seas.

When we set sail in January, 1976, after the reconstitution of the new Guyana conference, a triennium was intended. As we are all aware, we have run the gamut of a full quadrennium. We apologize for the lateness of the session by one year. Many factors are responsible for this. Our stark nudity of 1978, that is, our depleted and slim personnel was one reason why your administration asked for a change from April, 1978. We had hoped to have the session before 1978 ended, but the division and union did not find it possible to schedule us then. We told you all of this through letters from the office. Dr. B. L. Archbold, our division president, asked during a meeting in St. Croix when the final dating of this session was discussed, to pass on the division's apology to you. However, we have had four exciting years of copious blessings and chastening blisters; brimful elation and painful extractions; lunging leaps in some areas of the work but pedestrian paces in others.

### **THE LIFE OF THE CONFERENCE**

The conference needs men, means, money and methods. These, however, do not constitute the life of the conference. The life of the conference is spiritual power.

During the quadrennium the call to revival and reformation, sounded during the triennium preceding it under the leadership of the indefatigable warrior, Elder W.W. Weithers, now the field secretary and acting ministerial secretary of the Caribbean union, was continued. All night prayer meetings, fastings and prayers and constant appeals for the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit sustained the conference. Because of unexplainable problems we did not receive our Week of Prayer Reviews in 1978, but this was corrected in 1979. Our membership looks forward to these annual feasts. The

challenge of the times in Guyana has definitely forged, in the crucible of circumstances, sterling fibres in hundreds of our members. The youth Bible conference – a spiritual matrix– delivered a new breed of youth in our conference. Check the roster of lay evangelists, and see how it teems with youth.

Above all acquisitions, we prize most dearly spiritual power made possible through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, that supreme Gift to the church through which all other blessings flow.

### **PERSONNEL CHANGES**

The period under review, 1976-1979, has been one of unprecedented movement of workers in both office and field. Of the elected personnel who took office in January, 1976, only two—Brother Harper Esmond (our secretary-treasurer) and your humble servant— survived the quadrennium. Deaths, departures, casualties, resignations, dogged our determined strides from dawn to past noon of the period under review. Concerning those who have left for other fields, we are happy that the Lord's work of which we are integrally a part still receives their service.

We bow to the dictates of our Heavenly Father in allowing two ministers who were not old men to put down their burdens in 1976. They died with their swords in hand. With the shouts of many victories in their ears, they died with their "boots" on. It is our hope that Arthur Henry Hunter and Josiah Brathwaite will stand on the sea of glass to receive the diadems of victory on that golden morning. Our God who promised to be husband to the widow and father to the fatherless, has been taking care of the two families left behind.

However, standing in bold relief against the seemingly negative forebodings, the work of God in many areas moved forward in leaps and bounds. As it were, unseen helpers joined forces with the depleted staff and performed a modern miracle. "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." II Cor. 4:9, 10.

## SUMMARY OF WORKER MOVEMENT

	<u>Departures</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Destination</u>
1.	A.H Hunter	Died March 1976	
2.	Josiah Brathwaite	Died August 1976	
3.	G.G. Byass	1976	Called to North Caribbean Conference
4.	M. P. Blakeney	1976	Called to Davis Memorial Hospital
5.	A. B. Johnson	1977	Called to North Caribbean Conference
6.	B. E. Mc Pherson	1977	Migrated to the U.S.A.
7.	Lloyd LeGendre	1978	Called to Port-of-Spain Adventist Hospital
8.	L. O. Caesar	1978	Migrated to Canada
9.	R.F. Howell	1978	Migrated to the U.S.A.
10.	E.W. Weithers	1978	Left for U.S.A. on Study Leave
11.	Balrajh Kewallal	1978	Left for U.S.A. on Study Leave
12.	I. A. Williams	1978	Migrated to Canada
13.	R. S. J. Caesar, Jr.	1978	Migrated to the U.S.A.
14.	R.A. Mentore	1978	Left for the U.S.A. on Study Leave
15.	Deryck Williams	1979	Resigned (16/2/79)

	<u>Arrivals</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Present Position</u>
	Leon C. Wilson	Andrews Univ., 1976	Pastor, N.A. District
	Paul S. Harry	Suriname Field, 1976	On Brusary at C.U.C
	Hilton E. Garnett	W. I. C., 1977	L. A., Sab. Sch., Comm. & Community Services Dir.
	Malcolm A. Cort	W. I. C.; 1977	Book Centre Manager, Ed. & Youth Director
	Winston Patterson	C. U. C., 1977	Pastor, Corentyne District
	Winston Albert	CUC & Canada, 1978	Intern, G/town #1 District
	Errol Liverpool	C. U. C.; 1979	Intern, G/town # 2 District
	Frederick Brathwaite	C. U. C., 1979	Intern, New Amsterdam District

We have had a few workers who joined us during the period being considered, but departed before it ended. Pastor Gordon O. Martinborough who was away for eight years in California, U.S.A., returned home, December 30, 1976. He served as pastor of the Georgetown #1 district for almost three years before he was called mid last year to serve the union as its lay activities and sabbath school director. Pastor Martinborough is now busy in this post. Brother R.S.J. Caesar, Jr., also rejoined our staff from bursary at Caribbean Union College during the quadrennium, but migrated to the United States of America mid last year. Brother Peter Dookie who was a Bible worker, entered Caribbean Union College during the period reported on but, upon graduation, returned last June, and is now serving on the West Coast of Demerara. Brother Lloyd Henrito who was also a Bible worker and was away on bursary at Caribbean Union College, returned to the field in June last year with his Bachelor of Theology Degree. He is the first of our Amerindian workers to have attained this academic level. Pastor Henrito is now an intern in Georgetown.

### **EVANGELISM AND GROWTH**

There is always much more land to conquer. We should never rest upon our laurels and be satisfied, yet we can truly say where evangelism is concerned, "To God be the glory, great things He hath done."

Three aspects of significance were (1) the use and gains of the big tent, (2) the exploits of district pastors, evangelists, and office personnel, and (3) the upsurge of a sleeping giant – the mighty potential of the laity. We must again thank the Inter-American division for the big tent which came to us in 1975. Several evangelists, overseas and local, with their teams have used it since, and on two occasions the Caribbean union loaned us the services of Miss Maureen Burke who was then secretary to the ministerial department of the union.



Following is a summary of the use of the big tent:

### **SUMMARY OF THE USE OF THE BIG TENT**

<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Result</u>
K. S. Wiggins & Field School 354	1975, October	Georgetown	
R. F. Howell & Team	1976, September	Linden	186
J. Carmichael (Mrs.) & Team (2/3 of tent)	1977, April	Georgetown	54
G. O. Martinborough & Team	1977, September	Georgetown	133
E.W. Weithers & Team	1978, May	New Amsterdam	110
R. F. Howell & Team	1978, August	Georgetown	144
W.C. Scales, Jr. & Sr. & Field School	1978, October	Georgetown	227
R.S.J. Caesar, Sr. & Team (2/3 of tent)	1979, April	Soesdyke	36
H. E. Garnett & Team	1979, October	McDoom, E.B.D.	60

In addition to big tent evangelism, the pastors, evangelists and departmental directors of this conference stormed the diabolical battlements and pulled down the mighty strongholds and infested ramparts of sin by holding crusades in church buildings, halls and basements. Our dapper Secretary-Treasurer, Brother Harper F. Esmond, aimed his sling at Victoria on the East Coast of Demerara, and claimed a victory of thirty-five souls by the power of the Spirit. Many of our men became centurions, double centurions, and triple centurions during the period under review. Some are no longer with us, but the record lives— Abdool, Caesar (Lael), Cush, Garnett, Howell, Parkinson, Martinborough, Mentore, Ramotar, Weithers (Edson), Wilson, fondly embraced three figures with pneumatic elation. Thirdly, we reached new heights and sounded deeper depths through the evangelistic thrusts of the laity. The Guyana conference gained the first prize offered by the

Inter-American division for the 1978 Easter Evangelism. This gift was used to further the work of soul-winning.

Pastor Allan B. Johnson, the lay activities director chosen at the 1976 session, was called to the North Caribbean conference around mid-1997. He departed leaving the laymen in a fair state of momentum. However, the lay institutes conducted in most districts throughout the field by his successor, Pastor Hilton E. Garnett, definitely had a tremendous impact on their fervour and expertise, hence the yields of the laity. These weekend training sessions treated with: methodology, sermon preparation, neatness and cleanliness of person, glimpses into grammar and syntax, hints on voice inflexion, gestures in preaching, a consecrated holy life, et cetera. I had the pleasure of lecturing at some of these sessions.

We must refer to the structured and systematic approach to lay motivation of Pastors G.O. Martinborough and Reynold F. Howell, in 1978, giving attention to preparation of materials, teaching of laity, monitoring of crusades, et cetera. Fifty crusades ran simultaneously and produced two hundred fifty souls. This plan was repeated in 1979. Other districts—Essequibo, Linden, East Coast, New Amsterdam—tried the simultaneous crusading. It worked. No wonder we have lost Pastor Martinborough. We can only pray that our loss will be the union's gain and that our bread will come back to us after many days. The lay activities director's report will give more details.

## **GROWTH**

The conference secretary's report will show our membership statistics. We began the period in January, 1976, with a book membership of 11,214. Our present membership is 14,346, a net gain of 3,132, the bulk obviously coming through baptism, with transfers accounting for 288 and professions of faith 40. Our membership suffered sizably because of a clean-up campaign carried out by the secretariat. Hypothetically, if we had no losses, our baptisms plus other gains would have given us a gross increase of 5,276 because 4,948 souls were baptized during the quadrennium. The mortality rate through apostasies, transfers out, deaths, and missing dealt us a cruel blow. Sometimes the baptisms reported by the pastors and others to the

president's office outnumber that of the statistical report accumulated from the clerks' reports for all official records.

## **FINANCE**

The energy crisis had brought home forcefully the fact that this world of ours is nothing but a global village. It is now an everyday term that when the Middle East oil states sneeze, the entire world catches a cold. The dollar has shrunk making it a monumental and herculean task to finance any operation today. The inflation spiral, like a giant king cobra, snakes its way into every transaction and in many cases leaves asphyxia behind.

The beginning of this decade of the seventies found the financial position of this conference in a most fragile and delicate condition: operating capital below par; liquidity sagging; no investments and securities; accounts receivables high; accounts payables high. The reconstruction began under the astute leadership of Elder W.W. Weithers and his corps of workers during the 1972–1975 period. A team of union workers assisted the local administration and stewardship department, and several districts were visited. A call to revival and reformation and faithfulness in stewardship was made while, at the same time, our people were given certain highlights about the mission's financial structure. Boosted by an aggressive stewardship programme which followed, our people responded, and our overseas donors did not let up. The treasurer's report will give you details, but a quick, sweeping glance over the income picture is in place.

In 1972, the title income was \$287,627.00. In 1976, we neared the half million mark, \$479,000.00 to be exact, and 1979 brought us outside the door of the three-quarter million mark, nearly \$700,000.00. It is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. That the abundant resources of the universe are God's is a truism, but when He impresses hearts to respond and return to Him His own, we stand aghast in awe. Yet, per capita-wise, the Guyana conference is very very far behind her sister fields. A survey might reveal where the weaknesses lie. In managing the finances of the conference, the administration and committee exhibited skillful brinkmanship and relaxed austerity. We were cautious and frugal but not

stingy. Some aspects of conference and worker development will support the preceding claim.

We must give gratitude to God that whereas our savings and investments in 1975 stood at \$38,000.00; presently, the figure is \$175,000.00, an increase of 360.5%. Our present liquidity is of such that, if we must pay all we owe at once (i.e. trust funds, reserves, and accounts payables), we can pay. We must thank God for these blessings, and for the faithfulness of His people. Let not this picture deceive you, however, for the needs of the conference as against the higher expenditure involved in operating, remind each one of us that painful or rather joyful sacrifice must continue until Jesus comes. Our workers are not a privileged group. The church cannot compete with government and private enterprise in paying salaries and wages. Most of us are in the work not for what we can get out of it, but for what we can put into it— SERVICE. Sometimes I feel for the workers who need cars to have the work done. Spare parts and tyres are almost prohibitive to the workers' purse. Petrol is \$4.56 for every gallon. Spray painting is close to \$2,000.00. And in passing, may I state that the conference does not give a worker a car. It is the worker's own expense. May God help us all to be faithful stewards. Ellen White, the servant of the Lord, says in *Counsels on Stewardship*, "We should never forget that we are placed on trial in this world, to determine our fitness for the future life. None can enter heaven whose characters are defiled by the foul blot of selfishness. Therefore, God tests us here, by committing to us temporal possessions, that our use of these may show whether we can be entrusted with eternal riches." p. 22.

## **CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENT**

Enlightened, progressive and thorough-going conference development demands church management through planned, systematic, and structured objectives. Our administration regrets that we have not been able to do what we knew was the correct thing to do: the setting up of a sophisticated and well-documented development programme. We mean activating the programme, for a draft was initiated by the 1972-1975 administration. Such a programme calls for heavy funding and, to some extent, technocratic expertise.

First, money was premium. Therefore the administration decided on building a strong financial base which could serve as a springboard for further development. Secondly, hit by deaths, departures and resignations, we barely keep our noses above water personnel wise. It was no “boy’s job” to keep the bare essentials of the conference’s daily life operable with a slim staff in field and office. Not as a mere adjunct, but as a salient part of a daily routine, administrators and departmental directors managed pastoral districts along with their substantive roles. Optimistically, we can pray and hope that the needed development programme will some day be embarked upon.

There is need for a new conference office. We have adequate lands at Lodge, adjacent to the Davis Memorial Hospital, suitable for such a structure. A youth camp at Loo Creek for weekend and short camping sessions, (Goshen must never be put on the back seat), workers’ homes too, a senior citizens’ home, a youth auditorium or gymnasium, more church buildings and welfare centers are some of the needful developmental works. At the same time the conference did not mark time. With limited men and means we pushed forward, led by the Holy Spirit. We give God thanks for the following acquisitions in real estate:-

<u>Property Purchased</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Place</u>
Building & Land	1976	Church	Linden (Mora Street)
Building	1976	Church	Coomaka
Land	1976	To Build	ChurchSoesdyke
Building & Land	1977	Church	Agricola
Building	1977	Church	Fyrish
Building & Land	1978	Manse	Georgetown
Building & land	1978	Manse	Anna Regina
Land	1978	Expansion	Mocha-Arcadia
Building & Land	1979	Church	Land of Canaan
Land	1978	Expansion	Mocha-Arcadia
Building & land	1979	Church	Land of Canaan
Land	1979	To Build Church	Hopetown

<u>Property Purchased</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Place</u>
Land	1979	To Build Church	Cumberland
Land	1979	To Build Church	Sisters (W. B. Dem.)
Land	1979	To Extend Church	#51 Village (Corentyne)
Land (lease)	1979	To Build Church	DeVelde

For most of these purchases, the churches concerned did their part, but some circumstances dictated that conference do the major portion financially for some of them, especially when new groups were raised up. We must thank the union and division who assisted in the procuring of the Mora Street property at Linden. We must also thank our pastors and church elders and others for the interest displayed.

### **CHURCH DEDICATIONS**

We ascribe praises to our Heavenly Father for the churches dedicated during the quadrennium:

<u>NAME OF CHURCH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAME OF CHURCH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Plaisance	1976	Shiloh	1978
Sandvoort	1976	Bethel	1978
East La Penitence	1977	Wakapow	1978
Bachelor's Adventure	1977	Parika	1979

### **CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS**

By way of people development, the maturing of leadership potential in our churches, we are happy to present at this session, eight churches where leadership has developed enough to give them the right to be organized into full-grown churches. They are:

- |                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (1) Cumberland, East Canje  | (5) Lodge, Georgetown                 |
| (2) Fyrish, Corentyne       | (6) Mora Street, Linden               |
| (3) Kako, Upper Mazaruni    | (7) Perseverance, East Coast Demerara |
| (4) Kwakwani, Berbice River | (8) Wauna, North West District        |

## **UNFINISHED CHURCHES & RENOVATIONS & EXTENSIONS**

It is hoped that some unfinished churches will be completed soon. Some of these are, Ephesus, Leguan, Better Success, Catherine, Tapakuma, and Danielstown. Major renovations and extensions were carried out at Central, New Amsterdam, Linden, and Eversham. We communicate the gospel not only through voice and pen, but also by the quality of our church buildings. It is an essential aspect of a public relations programme. May God protect our church buildings.

## **AMONG THE DEPARTMENTS**

Education: Permit me to quote a few lines from my education report for the January, 1976 session: “Radical, dramatic, and sweeping changes are taking place in Guyana in the field of education. The government of this country has been restructuring the educational programme. . . Truly the hour is late: the sun of time has almost orbited its course; some of our most glorious opportunities have slipped by.”

It happened. September 13, 1976, was the day. All schools were taken over by the government. The challenge of holding our youth is now excruciatingly fantastic. We try as much as possible to “dove-tail” the Missionary Volunteer [now Adventist Youth] and pathfinder programme, sabbath school and home education, to fill the void left due to the loss of our schools. We have noticed a significant interest in Caribbean Union College. Presently, fifty-four Guyanese students are at Caribbean Union College. In co-operation with the Caribbean union conference, we have spent thousands of dollars as an investment in worker development through bursaries and tuition scholarships. Our conference sent candidates to the extra-mural programmes of our universities— the Andrews University M.A. Extension School, and the Loma Linda University off-campus course leading to a Master of Science in Public Health. Education is still a major concern of this conference.

Publishing and Adventist Book Centre: The publishing department and Adventist Book Centre have been caught and strangled in the vortex of the country's impecuniosity in the realm of foreign exchange. From a vibrant

stalking giant, “publishing” has been reduced to an impoverished invalid, plummeting from the heights of Ayanganna to mudflats of the coastal belt. To scan the pathetic scene you must wait for the publishing director’s and the ABC manager’s reports. The paralysis of the ABC brought about the near demise of the publishing department.

Health and Temperance: Youth, health, and temperance came under the guidance of one director. Pastor Edson W. Weithers began the quadrennium with active zeal and bubbling zest, but after two and a half years he left on study leave. While we cared for the youth arm of the department, health and temperance pastured without a shepherd. We record our gratitude to Pastor Weithers who prepared a report before his departure. Quite a sizable portion of the activities accomplished received the guidance and personal attention and presence of Sister Naomi Modeste M.P.H., at that time, the health and temperance director of the South Caribbean conference. Thanks again to Sister Modeste, and South Carib. The report will give us the facts and details about the nutrition courses, five-day plan to stop smoking, drug seminar, films shown, et cetera.

Youth: Dotted at other parts of this report, I have made references to the outstanding advances made in our youth programme especially in evangelistic inreach and outreach. Four years of youth Bible conferences under Pastors Van Bemmellen, Josiah, English and Martinborough bore a healthy harvest. Brother Cort’s report will tell you about the camps, and other activities of our young people.

Communication: The director who handles lay activities, sabbath school, community services and the Radio Bible School also had communication as part of his portfolio. In addition, Pastor Garnett divided his time or rather expanded it to get 30 hours into a day to look after a church and a pastoral district for most of the two and a half years since his return from West Indies College, Mandeville, Jamaica. In spite of the paucity of attention which communication received, some aspects of the church’s programme is always in the press. We need to make more appearances in the “Gleanings” and “Flashes.” The PR profile of the advent church in Guyana, I would consider rather healthy.



Lay Activities: We have already looked at the soul-winning exploits of our laity. We have really had an up-surge within the last few years. We can only hope that this trend continues.

Ingathering: In ingathering, the “sky is the limit” in Guyana. The gains have been fantastic, unbelievable and unprecedented. Our people wasted no time “pelting the devil’s dogs or chasing the devil’s rabbits.” To the task they went. Pastor Hilton E. Garnett has been an able five-star general of the conference forces: our pastors, skillful district commanders; and the response of our valiant lay activities leaders and members was heart-warming. The figure reached in 1975 was \$55,000.00. In 1979, it was \$130,000.00 as reported by the treasury to date, an increase of 136.36%. What a tremendous victory for 1979! God be praised.

Sabbath School: Personally, I believe that the sabbath school department has enjoyed, if not spectacular, reasonable growth during the period under review. Unfortunately, the spectre of reporting will not bear this out. We really hope we could find the solution to this problem. In spite of the constraints we face with regard to importation of supplies, the vacation Bible school idea is growing rapidly. Sabbath school quarterlies have to be printed locally, and there are some problems tied up with this. Many churches are also improving their “lamb shelters” in order to make their tiny tots more comfortable. We believe that the sabbath school is the “cradle” of the church, and is an evangelistic agency par excellence.

Community Services: The fiery zeal of our members in their ingathering exploits was matched by a parallel hunger through devastation and destruction caused by literal fires. The implications of these conflagrations mean simply one thing— money. We have spend thousands of dollars in our attempt to assist government and other welfare agencies, to rehabilitate the fire victims of this country. Carelessness, wooden structures and pranks of demons, contributed to these disasters in Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice. It is heartening to watch the growth of the welfare federation – a conglomeration of district societies.

## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

Our conference was host to several visitors during the period under review. At the very dawn of the period in January, 1976, a segment of the Marathon Colporteur Institute was held in Guyana. Colporteurs, publishing directors and ABC manager of the South Caribbean conference joined ranks with the Guyana group for a most memorable colporteur fare. Elder I. B. Benson of the division was also present.

Stewardship was not to be outdone. Elder Walter M. Starks, general conference stewardship chief at that time, visited Guyana to lead out in a most profitable stewardship workshop. Pastor Leon Phillips, the then stewardship development director of the Caribbean union, accompanied Elder Starks. It was a ministers' workshop, and with us were the ministerial staffs of the South Caribbean conference and Suriname fields.

Dr De Witt Williams of the general conference communication department, along with Elder Tulio Haylock of the Inter-American division, conducted a communication workshop early 1977. The Suriname workers came over to Guyana for this programme too.

Davis Memorial Hospital is a union institution, and as such a detailed report will not be presented to this session. In passing, however, since this hospital sits on the doorsteps of our conference territory, nay rather, occupies a very prominent place in our spacious living room, we must say a word about this institution. In spite of severe constraints during the past year, particularly, this hospital continues to hold its own as a worthy health care institution in this country.

There was no permanent doctor during the year 1997. No less than twelve relief doctors visited Davis during that year. At the time of writing, the hospital expected Dr. Felicito M. Fernando and Mrs. Fernando, to return for a term of service. The hospital had four business managers during the quadrennium. Pastor Maxwell P. Blakeney, who recently gained his M.B.A. at Andrews University, was appointed to return to Davis. We are optimistic that the very stormy period of the hospital will soon end. Thanks to the division and union for standing by the hospital in these bleak days.

The old power of attorney from the general conference office in Washington D.C., gave way to an Incorporation Act, passed in parliament in March, 1976. Our solicitors, Cameron & Shepherd, prepared the legal draft, and Dr. Lyttleton Ramsahoye, an M.P., piloted the bill through the House. Conference administrators sat in the visitors' gallery in parliament that day. The act allows for no less than three and no more than five trustees of the Incorporated Trustees of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Guyana. The secretary and chairman (president) or a member as trustees can sign for the transacting of conference business.

The Amerindian work in the Upper Mazaruni continues. Elder Alanzo Abdool is still there. Someday, Pastor Lloyd Henrito, now an intern in Georgetown, will return to labour amongst his people. It will be of value if another Amerindian young man of talent could be sent to Caribbean Union College to study for the Bachelor of Theology degree as Pastor Henrito did. Apart from our work in the villages of Paruima, Waramadong, Kako, and Kaikan, some other groups are coming alive at Kamarang Mouth, Phillippai, Arrow and Waramabia.

We sent four of our ministers to observe the Kenneth Cox crusade in Trinidad for brief periods. The multi-media method was quite intriguing. Conference administrators also had the opportunity of visiting the crusade.

We remember fondly and with sincere gratitude the labours of the sustentees amongst us. Bros. David Dazell and Eugene De Mendonca slipped away since the last session concluded and now await the first resurrection. Presently, there are seven of these battle-scarred warriors of the cross— Sister Isabella Downer, who laboured as church school teacher, Bible worker, and departmental director; Berthon Steele of Paruima and Waramadong fame and messenger/clerk of the conference office upon retirement; Priscilla Fraser, who went into retirement during the period under consideration, was church school teacher and office secretary; then there are the worthiest of the Bookman Army, former colporteurs— Clarice Daniels, Clara Blenman, Arthur Joseph and Joseph Williams who recently became a sustentee. May God bless them richly.

Thorough-going evangelism gave birth to some new groups. Hopetown, West Berbice, has a new group of believers as a result of Linden George's evangelistic crusade. This, for us, is a dream come true. Then there are, Amelia's Ward, Linden; Kairuni and Yarrowkabra on the Soesdyke-Linden Highway; Low Wood, Demerara River; Sisters, West Bank Demerara; Supernaam, West Bank Essequibo; and Lethem in the Rupununi. Caria Caria in the Essequibo River was revived during this period.

## **GRATITUDE**

My heart overflow with profuse and profound gratitude to my Heavenly Father who sustained me as president of this rapid growing conference with its exacting challenges, demanding administrative functions, and massive constraints heightened by societal changes due to political and economic manoeuvrings. In spite of all these, I say, "To God be the glory." It was a privilege and an honour to serve.

I must say thanks to the union and division for the advice, support and guidance given to me and our field. Two union presidents straddled the quadrennium— Elders W.W. Weithers, and Eric John Murry. I thank them.

My heartfelt thanks must be expressed to the faithful members of this conference. Their co-operation, support, faithfulness and prayers for the various programmes of the church brought home the victories.

Permit me to express gratitude to Pastor Harper Esmond who was elected treasurer of the conference at the 1976 session, and was later appointed by the executive committee to carry out the duties of secretary, about one year ago. We worked closely together and I treasure much his association and assistance and full co-operation. May God bless him and his family.

I must also thank Miss Marjorie Thompson for the experience she brought to bear on the treasury.

I would be remiss if I do not thank the former Pastor Deryck Williams who was elected conference secretary and stewardship director in 1976. He

carried three offices for three years prior to his resignation. While he was in office, I valued his help greatly. That God may ever guide his steps is my sincere prayer.

My gratitude goes out to the entire staff of office and field. Some directors had to double up and carry churches because of the grave personnel shortage which came about in mid-1978. Without such selfless service we could not have operated. Some of our pastors, too, carried a heavier load than under normal situations.

Thanks to Brother Philip Laurence for placing his marketable skill as a builder at our disposal, below market price, in assisting us to rear edifices for God's glory and worship. Sister Clothilde Morgan is deserving of our gratitude for her unstinting and indomitable courage in the area of welfare work. The demise of her husband just over a year ago, instead of cramping her ardent zeal, has only fired it more. May God bless her.

Permit me to express gratitude to the conference executive committee, and in a special way to the faithful laymen of the committee— Brother Ernest Burgess, Edgar Carryl, and Philip Laurence, who had to leave their daily pursuits in order to attend our meetings. I valued the role of the committee greatly.

I record also my deep appreciation and gratitude to my three efficient secretaries who have labored faithfully unravelling shorthand scripts, compiling data and typing a monumental mass of correspondence and other minutiae, filing, meeting office callers, and sometimes actually being my "other" brain. Mrs. Irma Johnson served well for one and a half years until mid-1977, when she left for Antigua along with her husband Pastor Alan B. Johnson who was called to join the corps of workers of North Caribbean conference. I thank her.

When the department of education was attached to the president's office, Mrs. Patricia Lewis helped ably as my secretary. She also served my office as auxiliary secretary during the post-lunch period. I beg to thank her also.

Last, definitely not least, but rather for emphasis and prominence, I want to thank my devoted and beloved wife who teamed up with me, after Mrs. Johnson's departure, to perform the duties of office secretary, and much more than that. Due to domestic reasons, Shirley worked during the pre-lunch period only, but without any attempt to exaggerate, many a day she completed a day's work in half the time. She performed beyond the normal call of duty, for many Sundays and afternoons she donated her time freely to the work in my office. On the home front, I am deeply appreciative to her and our children for their prayers, support, empathy and understanding, as I carried under God, a most exciting responsibility particularly at the precipitous period during which it was carried.

### **CONCLUSION: "TOWARD A SURE AND CERTAIN HOPE."**

Delegates and friends gathered here tonight, we realize without debate that we have come to momentous and precarious, yet exhilarating times. The backdrop of a bloodied, battered, besmirched, and beleaguered world only serves to give prominence and meaning to our motto for this session—"TOWARD A SURE AND CERTAIN HOPE." This motto strikes a note of triumph. Against the somber blackness, it shines. As stars driven like silver nails into the vault of heaven will shine with more luster, the darker the night, so hope shines in the midst of despair. But concomitant with the sweet of deliverance is the sweat of delivery, and the sweat of delivery for us comes through the rigorous promulgation of the gospel commission. The Master says, "Go ... teach ... baptize. And lo I am with you...." We must tell it. Hearts are waiting. We must tell them. "Let us tell them that the triumph of the everlasting gospel is imminent, that the kingdom of grace is soon to be superseded by the kingdom of glory. Therefore, it is time to repent and turn to the Lord, for He will have mercy and He will abundantly pardon. Let us tell those poor, deluded, hell-bound souls that probation's door still stands ajar. They can come in and have their sins forgiven, their broken lives mended, their hope restored and their fears allayed."

Let us tell them that panting hearts sick through the hectic, maddening callous pace of life can find rest in Jesus. Let us tell them that this rest in Him opens the gateway "Towards a Sure And Certain Hope." As Dr. James

Stewart of Edinburgh, Scotland, says, “Our task is to confront the rampant disillusionment of today, and SMASH it with the cross of Christ, and SHAME it with the splendor of the resurrection.” And we can add as Adventist preachers, and SHATTER it with the glorious news of the second coming of Christ in apocalyptic glory, and SMOTHER it with the theme in joyous expectation “Towards A Sure And Certain Hope.”

Brothers and sisters, fellow delegates, we are tired and want to go HOME. May we do our part to live for Christ and finish the work; and may this SURE AND CERTAIN HOPE consume us as we prosecute God’s business at this session, and do our utmost by His grace to be ready to meet Him when He comes. AMEN.



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Gordon O Martinborough

March 23 – 26, 1983

## **WELCOME**

Fellow delegates assembled at this fifteenth session of our conference, I bid you welcome! We've come from the east and west, we've come from the north and south. From North West's Wauna and Mazaruni's Paruima, we have come! From Essequibo's Tapacuma and the ancient Bartica, we have come! From Lethem's Rupununi, Demerara's Ituni, and Berbice's Kwakwani, we have come! From Demerara's Bootooba, Canje's Bara Cara and Corentyne's Orealla, we have come! Yes, from the rolling plains and the rugged mountains, from the crooked creeks and the raging rivers, we have come! So, **W E L C O M E!**

Why did we come? Why convene sessions like these? For three reasons: evaluation, adoration, and projection. We need to analyse our past: that's evaluation. We must give thanks for past blessings at this present: that's adoration. And we should name brave leaders and lay bold plan as we face the future: that's projection.

## **PRAYER-ACTION OBJECTIVES**

The past three years constituted a very trying triennium. It involved both a



trial of our faith and our trying by faith. In the trial of our faith, we faced the border crisis, perpetual migration, a crippled economy, scarcity of certain commodities, retrenchment, galloping inflation, and the emergence of the “parallel economy”.

On the other hand, we tried by faith. Our faith went into action when at the beginning of the triennium we set out fourteen prayer action objectives. Our prayer action objective calendar reminded our people of the rotating monthly objective for which the faithful in Isreal interceded. We prayed not only in our private and family devotions, but in the daily PRAYER AT NOON and in the monthly SECOND SABBATH DAY OF PRAYER.

Three months after new administrators moved into office, these objectives were placed before the local leaders of our conference; and at the elders’ convocation of August 1980, the local leadership registered its wholehearted commitment. The goals were next presented to the constituency in a series of district conventions, and the people swore their allegiance.

This report tonight testifies to the fact that the majority of these objectives have been realized, and together with Fanny J. Crosby we can exclaim: “To God be the Glory, Great things He hath done!”

## **PERSONNEL**

### Administrative and Departmental

We began the triennium with very limited staff to the extent that we functioned with only one full-time departmental director. But we are thankful that we experienced a gradual positive evolution. In June, 1980 , Janice Emmanuel was named departmental assistant to the president with special responsibility for sabbath school work, and in September, 1981, she was appointed sabbath school director. In that same September, Clifford Ishmael terminated his assignment as pastor to assume his role as publishing director.

In January, 1982, Colin Parkinson took the leadership of the lay activities department, relieving the chief administrator of that function. Pastor Parkinson was also named health director. When Treasurer Harper Esmond left in February, 1982, Assistant Treasurer, Marjorie Thompson was appointed acting treasurer; and in April Carlyle Walton was named assistant treasurer, auditor and ABC manager. At the commencement of 1982, Winston J.B. Enniss was invited to join our staff as development coordinator, and in February, he was appointed SAWS director. Thus during the trienium our administration and departmental staff grew from five to nine.

### **ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

Having begun this period with a work force of thirty-seven we closed with a team of forty-two. We ended as follows: administration: four; departmental directors and SAWS director: five; pastors, interns and evangelists: nineteen; bible workers: four; office workers: ten.

Departing from our staff were: Elder Roy I. McGarrell, former president, and Mrs McGarrell for Andrews University; Harper F. Esmond, former treasurer, for the United States of America; Elder Howard Cush for the United States of America; Elder Henry Dorway for the South Caribbean conference; District Pastor Errol Liverpool; Ministerial Intern Compton Gaskin; Treasurer Assistant Olga Richards; Secretary to the President Christine Norton; Voice of Prophecy Assistant Joyous Fadlin; and Office Messenger Bruce Permaul. Sister Myrtle Fleming retired after thirty-two years of service, and Elder Alonso Abdool went into retirement for the second time. Sustentee Clarice Daniels went to rest with her Lord.

But while some went, others came. In addition to those mentioned earlier (under Administrative and Departmental) we welcome the following: Office Messenger Buyan Stephens; ABC Assistant Patricia Archer; Treasury Assistant Cheryl Mack; Secretary Grace Bobb-Semple; and Voice of Prophecy Director Naomi Ninvalle. We augmented our shepherding with: Pastors Alphod Sinclair, Ken Adams, and Horatius Gittens in 1980; Pastors Philip Bowman, Laurence London, and Stephen Patterson in 1981; and

Pastors Lindon Gudge and Basil Patterson in 1982. Reuben Stuger joined us in 1980 for pastoral work, and Bertie Toolsiram joined our staff in 1981 for East Indian Evangelism. Pastor Lynden George returned in 1982 after a bursary to Caribbean union college, prior to which he served as district pastor for three years. Elder Hilton Garnett also arrived in 1982 after one year's study leave, during which he earned his Master's Degree at Andrews University.

## **THE MINISTRY**

During the triennium, there were two milestones for our ministerial personnel. One was the ministerial retreat at Camp Goshen, August 1981. Our pastoral workers and their families were joined by our Suriname counterparts who enriched our fellowship. Elder J. Glen Roberts, then ministerial secretary of the union, and Elder Maxwell Blakeney, then administrator of Davis Memorial Hospital, were a great blessing to the shepherds, while Mrs. Waveney Martinborough served the shepherdeses.

The second highlight was the ordination of three men to the gospel ministry on Sabbath, September 12, 1981. They were Pastors Lloyd Henrito, Henry Dorway, and Winston Patterson.

Ours is a very youthful ministerial team. In December, 1982, there were seventeen ministerial men manning our fourteen districts as follows: two first-year interns, three second-year interns, four third-year workers, four men of four years' experience, and just four ordained ministers. When we add one ordained Indian evangelist and two ordained administrators, it brings the total number of ordained ministers in this conference of over seventeen thousand to just seven men. Of course, this uncomfortable situation taxes the oversight of administration.

Yet our pastors shepherd the largest number of churches per district in the Caribbean union. Outside the city of Georgetown, each shepherd cares for between seven and fourteen congregations. In some districts companies are scattered along fifty to one hundred miles of river, apart from the churches on the landmass. And each of the two city pastors in Georgetown

is responsible for three to five churches with a district membership of some two thousand, eight hundred apiece!

But only four of our fourteen district pastors own cars. And day by day the ownership of a vehicle is becoming more prohibitive in this economy.

When we combine these challenges with the other prevailing constraints about us, we come face to face with the issue of loyalty. Although Guyana now holds no attraction to non-Guyanese workers and even taxes the loyalty of Guyanese themselves, we are thankful that there is a perpetual stream of concerned graduates who return to give some years of loyal service to the homeland.

The majority of our workers here possess a sense of commitment and a spirit of sacrifice that stands second to none in the Caribbean community. True, there are a few who flee. But there are others who go genuinely, for in our moving world it is difficult to stand still eternally. On the other hand, sometimes our constituency takes for granted the sacrifices of those who stay. Let us express our appreciation to our young men who stand by the stuff.

Yes, one of our objectives was adequate and committed leadership. Thank God he gave it to us. "We have this treasure in earthen vessels" (II Cor. 4:7).

## **MEMBERSHIP AND CHURCHES**

During this triennium our membership grew from fourteen thousand three hundred sixty-six (14,366) to seventeen thousand three hundred thirty-seven (17,337). The accessions to the faith totalled four thousand, three hundred seventy-nine (4,379). Of these ninety-five percent (95%) were by baptism. Unfortunately we also had our losses: One thousand four hundred eight (1,408) persons lost their membership. Seventy percent (70%) of these by being deemed "missing" or by "apostasy". This gives a net increase of two thousand, nine hundred seventy-one (2,971) and represents an average annual growth rate of 6.9%--a figure that beckons for improvement.

These believers have been worshipping in one hundred twenty-four (124) congregations: sixty-nine (69) organised churches, twenty-four (24) recognized companies and thirty-one (31) sabbath schools. They are arranged in fourteen pastoral districts. Five in Essequibo, six in Demerara, three in Berbice.

We are happy to state that during the course of this triennium twelve (12) new congregations came into existence. They are: Jewalla in the Upper Mazaruni; Port Kituma (different from the Old Kaituma) in the North West; Capoey in Essequibo I North; Skull Point off Bartica; three Friends, Upper Demerara; Turkeyen, East Coast Demerara; St Francis up the Mahaicony River; High Dam, Novar and Plantation Bath in the Demerara/Berbice District; No. 53 on the Corentyne; and Siparuta, Corentyne River. Twelves sabbath schools developed and have received recognition as companies. Six companies matured, have just been organized as churches, and are ready for acceptance into the sisterhood of churches. They are Amelia's Ward, Ariapaico, DeVeldt, Orealla, Stewartville, and Tapacuma.

## **EVANGELISM**

Evangelism is the heart-beat of the church. When the heart stops beating, the church has died. Over the past triennium, our baptisms totalled four thousand, one hundred sixty-seven (4,167). In 1980 we saw one thousand, three hundred ninety-nine (1,399) baptized; in 1981, nine hundred ninety-five (995); and 1982, one thousand, seven hundred seventy-three (1,773) souls followed Christ in this sacred rite.

Our objectives embraced a multi-dimensional evangelistic advance, and we are happy that these baptisms came from FIVE sources: guest evangelism, pastoral evangelism, lay evangelism, Amerindian evangelism, and East Indian evangelism.

One evangelistic highlight of the period was the Crowder crusade. This was Guyana's largest single crusade. All our pastoral workers and bible workers together with some lay workers teamed up with Don Crowder in a nine-week series that took Georgetown by storm. Opened by the Lord

Mayor of the City, this crusade attracted crowds to fill our giant new tent, plus our old one, and resulted in the baptism of five hundred eighty-six (586) precious souls. Out of it came the new Lodge Church which has been renamed "Olivet".

During the triennium most of our district pastors conducted their own evangelistic crusades with good success. Our target has been one major crusade per pastor per year.

But beyond their own growth as evangelists, our pastors have given guidance and supervision to the development of their lay evangelists: lay preachers and lay bible instructors. Under the tutelage of Conference Lay Activities Directors Hilton Garnett (1980), Gordon Marttinborough (1980 – 1981), and Colin Parkinson (1982), our laymen baptized one thousand, seventy-six (1,076) souls in 1980, five hundred thirty-six (536) in 1981, and five hundred fifty (550) in 1982, making a total of two thousand, one hundred sixty-two (2,162) for the triennium or 51.8% of the total baptisms. Laymen were responsible for establishing new congregations at Turkeyen, High Dam, Three Friends, Copoey, and Port Kaituma.

## **AMERINDIAN AND EAST INDIAN OUTREACH**

### **AMERINDIAN EVANGELISM**

From the time that Elder O. E. Davis laid down his life at the foot of Mount Rorima in 1911, our Amerindian work has captured the imagination of Adventism. During this triennium the work in the Upper Mazaruni continued its upward march. The territory was zoned for work between Bible Workers Sebastian Edmund and Van Thomas, and a new village, Jawalla, had been entered with the Advent Message. Pastor Lloyd Henrito became the first Amerindian to be ordained to the gospel ministry, and the first Amerindian to have been given supervision of the work of his people in the Upper Mazaaruni. Thanks to the foresight of previous presidents: W.W. Weithers and R. I. McGarrell, who laid a wise foundation. We are now looking for the next potential leader.

But we must be aware of the fact that in our traditional labour for Upper Mazaruni we have been serving only four percent of the Amerindian population of Guyana! Over the past decade diversification was implemented with emphasis off the Essequibo Coast. During this triennium Pastor Henrito entered St. Francis up the Mahaicony River and baptized a new group of fourteen believers, while Elder Ramotar went seventy miles up the Corentyne River, beyond Orealla to Siparuta and baptized a new congregation of fifty-four (54) souls.

The challenge now lies in the Rupununi where thousands of Amerindians reside. This is the “South Savannah” of our Theme Song, and it should be entered quickly with the Everlasting Gospel.

### **EAST INDIAN EVANGELISM**

It is a well-known fact that East Indians constitutes the majority of Guyana’s population. But they reflect only a tiny minority of the Guyana Adventist Church. While we are aware of the bulwark of Hinduism and the fortress of Mohammedanism, we are also conscious of the dynamic power of Calvary!

One of the objectives of the triennium has been to make annual progression towards the employment and placement of one East Indian evangelist called “Special Evangelist” in each pastoral district that has a density of Indian population. These evangelists are drawn from East Indian lay preachers who have demonstrated consecration, satisfactory scholastic standard, and success in evangelism among East Indians. We have proceeded surely, though slowly toward the goal. To date, we have three special evangelists: Pioneer Toolsiram, Hubert Campbell, and Roy Samaroo. Of, course there is the veteran, Elder Ramotar.

On this occasion, we are reminded of that tragic night of June 20, 1982, when Pioneer Special Evangelist Philip Joseph, just from the Indian evangelistic meeting lost his youthful life in a vehicular accident. May I invite the delegation present to pause in silence for half-a-minute in his honour, while we offer silent prayer for the progress of the cause for which he died: East Indian Evangelism?

New Indian areas that have been entered with the gospel are Unity, East Coast Demerara; Zeeland; Demerara/Berbice; and Cornelia Ida, West Demerara. New companies that have been organized are Novar, Mahaicony; and Pln. Bath, West Berbice.

Giving valuable assistance in this outreach had been Dr. N. "Ranju" Prakasam Staff Physician of Davis Memorial Hospital. Her contribution has been very greatly appreciated.

### **BASIS NEEDS**

There are two basic needs in these areas of outreach: finance and personnel. Mark this: If our Indian evangelism is to survive, we must find a way to erect simple houses of worship to tell Hindus and Muslims that Adventism is there to stay. We must find a source of funding for East Indian centres.

Secondly, there is an urgent need to increase the quality of workers in both Amerindian and East Indian areas. Consequently, our conference committee has requested Caribbean Union College to run a summer Bible seminary, that will give the accumulative equivalent of a Bible worker certificate course. This request has been approved, and Caribbean Union College has just announced that course work is scheduled to commence in the summer of 1983.

### **FINANCE**

Another of our objectives was the attainment of the million-dollar mark in tithe income. While to affluent fields this is but a paltry sum, for Guyana it has been a real challenge. At the close of the last triennium our tithe income stood at \$621,708.75. When the national economic paralysis occurred, we wondered about that target. But man's adversity is God's opportunity. It was in that crisis year, 1982, that we went past the million dollar mark!

It is heartening to note that the tithe income at the close of this triennium rose over that of the close of the precious triennium by 84%. It is also encouraging to observe that the total local income increase of this era rose over that of the previous period by 70%. What God hath wrought!



We must commend Stewardship Director, Leon. C Wilson who despite his other varied responsibilities, gave leadership to a strong programme of Stewardship Education. Forty-three (43) Stewardship programmes were conducted this triennium.

But while our income arose like a giant, our expenses stood up like a savage to devour our giants. In addition, there were expedient inter-organizational transactions that burdened our liquidity. We are grateful, however, that our nose was kept above the water.

Not only did giving grow inside the church; it increased outside the church as well. Our ingathering moved from \$118,122.00 at the close of the last period under review to \$162,101.05 at the close of the present period. "All praise and thanks to God, the Father now be given, the Son and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven."

## **DEVELOPMENT**

This triennium, we embarked upon an exciting experiment: the replacement of conference development with district development. The machinery involved: district development councils, a national board of development councils, and a development coordinator working under the supervision of the director for development.

District development was a move toward decentralizing-with each church contributing systematically to the district development pool, and the districts in turn contributing to the conference pool, which is augmented for distribution back to the districts. Each district identified its annual primary project for district and conference financing.

As a new vehicle, district development took time to get into gear. While only a small minority of districts participated in 1981, a large majority moved into line in 1982, and work has been moving ahead on eleven projects simultaneously.

This delegation will be happy to learn that miraculously, the Georgetown Adventist Academy building had just been partially vacated and will soon

be ready for our re-possession. This property is now being made available to the district development councils of Georgetown I and II for a complex, which will include: a church, a needed welfare centre and a long-awaited youth centre. It is also hoped that the structure could be used as an adjustable convention centre.

In addition to the building project, each district had been challenged to operate a small industry for the vocational education of our people, and the fostering of a spirit of self-reliance. Most district development councils are moving into agricultural projects. The largest of these is being the fifty-five (55) acre farm just purchased by Berbice I district development council for diversified agriculture. We have recently received a modest sum from the Inter-American division to give a financial boost to some of these industries.

We are not forgetful of our need for: a Senior Citizen Home, Loo Creek Development, and a new office building. These are projects that require careful, prayerful, and early attention.

### **LITERATURE MINISTRY**

Yet another Prayer Action Objective of this triennium was the revival of the publishing work. July 1981 saw the Guyana Adventist Church in prayer and fasting. God heard our prayers and inspired us to wise action. It is worthy of note that in that very month when the church prayed, our first shipment of books arrived in the country. We felt a special thrill when on July 28, 1981, that truck rolled into our conference compound.

Since the nature of operations advised caution, we began with part-time colporteurs only. As additional shipments came, we gradually proceeded to enlist full-time workers.

In its year and a half of renewed operations the ABC has been in receipt of stock to the value of \$211,239.10. It has done \$134,212 worth of business; \$80,041.66 of which has been sales to colporteurs. Its liquidity is low, but its stock is high.

The recently completed institute has trained forty-five (45) full-time and

part-time colporteurs, some of whom are now being recommended to be licenced colporteurs. This led to the conscription of Clarence Webster, Sr., to serve as Assistant to Director Ishmael.

Thank God for this new open door!

O come and let us Him adore,

And bless His Name forevermore!

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

Within the boundaries of our conference, Health Services have been offered in three different, but related dimensions. Nineteen hundred eighty-two was a year of initiation for the new Seventh-day Adventist World Service (SAWS) nutrition education programme. Winston J. B. Ennis was appointed SAWS director and Dr. N.R. Prakasam, part-time project director. Our three M.S. P. H. students, Malcolm Cort, Colin Parkinson and Janice Emanuel, constituted the health education team. Phebe George has been called to be full-time project director.

This programme is community-oriented; it is not evangelical, but educational. It aims at a measureable change in the health of under-nourished children of ages 0-5 years in five target communities of the country, and involves the services of twenty (20) community nutrition promoters over a three-year period. We shall be viewing very carefully its scientific progression.

The church-oriented health programme is the responsibility of the conference's health department. It is unfortunate that our original design suffered because of early misunderstanding of its relationship with SAWS. To borrow the parlance of the Revelator we must "prophecy again".

Late last year, we were blessed with the arrival of a beautiful mobile health unit to render community health services to the nation. This unit became a possibility through Ingathering funds, overseas donations, and the goodwill of Dr. Samuel Deshay of the general conference health department. It has already entered rural areas with health education.

Davis Memorial Hospital, an institution managed by the Caribbean Union,

continues to serve the Guyana Constituency in both the areas of curative and preventative medicine. We wish to register our appreciation for the services rendered by doctors and nurses both inside the health care facility, and outside the institution—in its supportive role to the Conference’s health outreach.

### **TRAINING**

During this triennium, Sabbath School Director, Janice Emanuel, conducted forty-three (43) workshops: twenty for officers, ten for teachers, nine for branch sabbath school workers, and four for vacation bible school workers. A total of one thousand, five hundred (1,500) persons were trained.

Meanwhile, Youth Director Malcolm Cort conducted forty-one (41) workshops: twenty-five for A.Y. officers and sixteen for Pathfinder leaders. Sixteen hundred youth benefited from this training.

Lay Activities Director Colin Parkinson and his predecessors conducted annual area lay evangelism workshops, and one thousand lay preachers and lay instructors have been trained. Many of these in turn trained thousands of lay workers in their churches.

Further afield, the Conference invested in the training of nineteen (19) college and university students: thirteen Caribbean Union College students aided with tuition scholarships, one bursary student, two M.A. students at Andrews University, and three M.S.P.H. students on the extension programme of Loma Linda University.

### **TRIBUTE**

It is now time to pay tribute. First of all, I bow to the members of our office staff who have worked faithfully, conscientiously and willingly. Whenever necessary they have laboured beyond office hours to get the job done. More than that: with rare exception, we have worked in peace and loving harmony. “There’s a sweet spirit in that place and I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord.”

Next, I wish to salute the ministerial workers. I have already spoken about

them. We have had excellent camaraderie and open-faced fellowship. It has been thrilling working together.

Now for our administrative team. Pastor Leon Wilson, Secretary, will immediately after this session be joining the Theology Faculty of Caribbean Union College for one term before commencing his deferred doctoral studies. He had been a committed, energetic, dependable administrator. This resourceful leader—ever ready to experiment with me—always exuded a cheerful cooperation and we worked within a milieu of mutual trust. As he goes, may God bless him and his family abundantly.

Brother Harper Esmond served as treasurer for two years, and we wish to record our appreciation for his very faithful service. Sister Marjorie Thompson took control of the Treasury from February, 1982, and has performed with sincerity, commitment and competency. In a few months, this “English lady”, whose humour is at times disarming, goes into retirement, and we wish to register our profound appreciation for her thirty-four years of service. Carlyle Walton served not only as auditor and ABC manager, but also as assistant treasurer. This competent, dedicated youth has been both a man of action and a gentleman. Let me underscore the fact that whatever was accomplished during this triennium has resulted from administrative team-work.

Thanks to the executive committee for the very valuable counsel and guidance given. I wish to pay tribute to two out-going men: Pastor Maxwell Blakeney and R.S. J. Ceasar. Pastor Blakeney, who has been called to be business manager of Caribbean Union College, has been an invaluable resource person to our committee and our conference. His keen perception has been a blessing and as he leaves, we wish to register our deep appreciation. We wish too to welcome his able successor, Bertrand Todd.

At this session, Elder R. S. J. Ceasar Snr. who has given four decades of sacrificial, dedicated service to his native land, goes into retirement. This sincere, humble, vigorous warrior of the cross has pastored every district within this conference (except Georgetown), and has shepherded some of them more than once. The young men will surely miss the astute humour,

the cheerful smile, the dogged determination, and the convincing resonant voice of this old veteran who at heart is ever young. God bless faithful Sister Lucy. May they still bring forth fruit in old age-fat and flourishing.

We must not forget to salute our retired workers: Clara Blenman, Isabella Downer, Myrtle Fleming, Priscilla Fraser, Arthur Joseph, and Berthon Steele. May they remember that their labour was “not in vain in the Lord”.

My thanks go out to Elder Roy I . McGarrell who faithfully served as Acting President for the first four months of this exciting triennium.

We wish to express our gratitude to the higher organizations: The Caribbean union conference and the Inter-American division for their continuing support by way of appropriations, counsel, interest, and fellowship.

Tonight, I want to publicly pay a special tribute to my precious wife, Waveney, for her cheerful commitment, and her courage; for her spirit of sacrifice; for her prayers and her constant support of my ministry.

## **DOXOLOGY**

But the greatest tribute must be paid to Jehovah, the Guide and Guardian of His people. As Israel rose at the close of each harvest and broke forth into an anthem of praise, so let us rise at the close of this triennium, and declare our psalm of thanksgiving. “O magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt His name together” (Psalm 34:3)

Leader: For administrative unity and vibrant sacrificing ministry,

People: We praise His name forever.

Leader: For an active, committed, multiplying laity,

People: We magnify His name forever.

Leader: For exploits in ministerial and lay evangelism, in Amerindian and East Indian evangelism,

People: We glorify His name forever

Leader: For miracles in tithing and miracles in ingathering,

People: We give thanks to Him forever.

Leader: For the health experiment, and our district development,

People: We extol His name forever.

Leader: For the revival of our literature ministry,  
People: We magnify His name forever.  
Leader: For our country in peace and tranquility,  
People: We glorify His name forever

### **CHALLENGE**

But not only is this a day of EVALUATION. Not only is this an hour of ADORATION. This is also a time of PROJECTION: Like Joshua of old we are sobered by the fact that “there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed” (Joshua 13:1) “A finished work in all Guyana” is our watchword. But it must be more than our word, it must be our action!

Let me pause to recognize the artist for our logogram, youthful Mark Anthony, and the composer of the music of our Theme Song, Pastor Laurence London.

#### **Our horizon must be:**

A finished work in all Guyana: Be it Berbice, Demerara, or Essequibo South Savannah—Harvest-time! It’s harvest-time!

#### **Our burden should be:**

East Indians must be warned and won; The Amerindian work be done; In every race of this our nation—Harvest-time! It’s harvest-time!

#### **Our aim must be:**

Make every member a soul winner! Every pastor a soul trainer! And every book-man a truth harer! Harvest-time! It’s Harvest-time!

#### **And our prayer should be:**

Do finish first your work within; free this soul, Lord, from all sin. O Holy Spirit, fill with Power-FINAL PENTECOSTAL HOUR! Harvest-time! It’s Harvest-time!

May this fifteenth session be a stepping stone to that finished work and the ushering in of the FINAL HARVEST.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Gordon O Martinborough

September 2 – 6, 1986

Fellow delegates assemble at this sixteenth session of our conference, I bid you welcome! We have come from the east and west, we've come from the north and south. From our giant rivers and coastal plains, from high savannahs and distance mountains, we have come. Through our sunshine and our rain, through our smiles and through our pains, we have come. And so, I bid you welcome!

Why have we come? For four reasons:

- Evaluation - to analyse our performance of the past;
- Adoration - to praise God for past blessings;
- Projection - to plan for the future—the men and the means;
- Intercession - to pray for power—the power of Pentecost.

### **PERSONNEL**

We began the triennium with a work force of forty-four and closed with fifty-six—an increase of twenty-seven percent. At the administrative/departmental level, Malcolm Cort, conference auditor, left in 1983 for leadership of the SAWS project in Dominica. The auditing responsibility was assigned to Theron Caesar and subsequently to Winston J. B. Enniss.



In July 1983, Clement Teixeira arrived, assuming his function as conference treasurer, and Marjorie Thompson ceased her full-time labour as acting treasurer. Also in 1983, Carlyle Walton, manager of the Adventist Book Centre, went on study leave, and Theron Caesar assumed the office of A.B.C. manager.

At the fifth triennial session of the East Caribbean conference, August 1985, Elder Hilton Garnett was elected secretary of that conference and bade us adieu. With the imminence of this session, the secretarial functions were given to Clement Teixeira who was designated secretary-treasurer, with Christine Norton as his administrative assistant.

In March 1986, Collin Parkinson, lay activities and health director, emigrated and we made further internal adjustments. Youth Director, Alphod Sinclair, held the brief for lay activities; and Phebe George, director for the completed ADRA nutrition project, was named health director. At the closed of this session, Janice Emanuel will be going on leave.

In the pastoral sphere, we are happy to observe that we were blessed with a high level of stability. Departures were approximately two per year. In 1983, Pastor R. S. J. Caesar, Snr., went into retirement, and Pastor Leon Wilson departed for doctoral studies. In 1984, Pastor Basil Patterson went on leave of absence. In 1985, Pastor Horatius Gittens left for Andrews University, and Brother Ernest Burgess exchanged the post of pastor of Demerara/Essequibo for that of administrator of Davis Memorial Hospital. This year, 1986, Pastor Colwick Wilson went on study leave, while Pastor Lyndon Gudge accepted the call to Suriname.

But while we said farewell to seven, we said welcome to eleven. These were: Pastor Ashton Alleyne, Ivor Keizer, Elton Lindie, Tamindra Outar, Jason Thomas, and Colwick Wilson in 1983; Dennis Hamilton-Cox and Clement Edward in 1984; and Joseph Aaron, Michael Henry, and Hubert Jack in 1985. Among the Bible workers there were two departures and two arrivals.

On the other hand, the office staff was extremely unstable. Of the ten

positions available only three: the accountant, the cashier and one secretary stayed through the triennium. In the other seven places there were twelve arrivals and a dozen departures. This latter instability is but an epitome of the national mobility. Guyanese are on the move. And many a church is hurting over the brain drain.

But this milieu highlights the blessings of a stable ministry—men who for years are “staying by the stuff.” And I think it is appropriate to pause at this point and pay tribute to our dedicated pastors. Ours is a challenging land; geographically, it’s difficult—you’ve got to fight with those rivers, the mountains and savannahs; politically, it’s challenging; economically, it’s sometimes just frustrating. But tonight I want to salute the fearless generals who are leading the battle in this “green land.” I invite them to stand right now. And if you join me in this salute, say “Amen.” Gentlemen, I am proud to have associated with you. Thank God for your consecration and commitment. Thank God for your fraternity and unity. Thank God for your selfless service. May He keep you faithful to the end.

We ended the last triennium with just seven ordained ministers. Shortly after session, Elder R. S. J. Caesar went into retirement and Elder L. C. Wilson left for school causing us to end 1983 with only five. In 1984, five men were ordained and we ended that year with ten. In 1985, Elder H. E. Garnett left for the East Caribbean Conference and Elder H.C. Gittens for further study, so we closed the triennium with eight. I am happy to announce that the grand finale of this session will be the ordination of four men to the gospel ministry, bringing our contingent to twelve.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

During the triennium under review, we had the blessing of seeing our membership cross the twenty thousand mark. We began the period with 17,368 members, and our gains by baptism were as follows: 1983—1,318; 1984—1,351; 1985—1,577; total 4,246. On the other hand our loss by apostasy and missing totalled 959. In the final analysis, our net gain was 3,044 representing a triennial growth rate of 17.5% and an average annual growth rate of 5.5%. Our closing membership stood at 20,412.

These believers have been worshipping in 141 congregations: 82 organized churches, 33 companies, and 26 sabbath schools. They are arranged into fifteen pastoral districts: three in Berbice, six in Demerara, and six in Essequibo.

New congregations raised up during the triennium include: Hampshire and Johanna on the Corentyne; Eden, No. 2 Village, and Maria's Ville in Berbice 1; Belmont and La Bonne Intention on the East Coast Demerara; Jericho in Linden; Saxacalli in Essequibo II; and Aishalton and Sand Creek in the Rupununi. These represent the "blood, sweat, and tears" of the true Guyanese "pioneers."

During the period, nineteen children were born: these were the new sabbath schools recorded. Eight children grew up to become adolescents. Those sabbath schools that became recognized companies are: Bath, Bonasika, Good Hope, La Bonne Intention, Long Creek, Seafield, Silvertown, and St. Francis. Six adolescents matured into adulthood. These newly-organized churches are: Eden, Hoptown, La Harmonie, Moriah, Parapie and Stanleytown (W.B.D.) Too late for the statistical report but early enough for this session is the seventh new adult: Jericho.

I pause to pay tribute to the loyal, dedicated army of local leaders and church leaders who serve these congregations in season and out of season. Because of our challenging geography and our limited pastoral manpower, the Guyanese church elder is indispensable to the church's operations. Will our elders please stand. Please accept man's gratitude and God's richest blessings.

## **FINANCE**

The national economic woes of our country weighed heavily upon the church, making this a trying triennium for fiscal management. But the cause of Christ surmounts every crisis. We thank God for His gracious provisions: the faithfulness of His people in challenging times, and the careful fiscal management which He supplied in the person of Conference Treasurer, Clement Teixeira.

In his report, the treasurer termed 1983 “the year of the fiasco.” But we are thankful that the Lord moved us from an operating loss of \$84,150 in 1983 to an operating gain of \$2,016 in 1985; and from a liquidity of 42% in 1983 to 49% in 1985.

During the triennium, despite the national financial distress, our tithe income increased from 1.13 million dollars in 1983 to 1.63 million dollars in 1985 – an increase of 46% within the triennium. And when we compare trienniums, the 1983-85 total tithe of 4 million dollars exceeds the 1980-82 total tithe of 2.8 million dollars by 44%.

While, on one hand, to our more affluent sister fields these figures may seem meager, they are determined by our lower national wage. On the other hand, they represent significant percentage increases, sacrificial giving in stressful times, and the blessings of Almighty God. To Him we give glory and praise.

It is regrettable that our auditing service suffered during the major part of the triennium because the auditor carried other responsibilities. On the other hand, it is commendable that in less than a year; Auditor Winston J. B. Ennis, with the temporary assistance of Brother Royston Jackson, covered a significant part of the conference. We need to ensure the services of a full-time auditor for the future.

## **CHURCH MINISTRIES**

At this session, a church ministries department will come into effect. This represents an amalgamation of the sabbath school, lay activities, stewardship, and youth departments. Please note that this amalgamation is at the conference level, but NOT at the church level.

During the triennium, the sabbath school department was a hive of activity. Sister Janice Emanuel, who may be justly called “Sister Sabbath School,” conducted sixty-nine workshops nation-wide training 2,750 sabbath school workers: officers, teachers, children’s division leaders, branch sabbath school workers, and vacation Bible school leaders. One hundred

fifty branch sabbath schools and branch schools were conducted, and the membership totalled 2,704. Two hundred twenty-five vacation Bible schools were conducted with an enrolment of 10,857. In addition, each quarter a children's division workshop was conducted. Scores of children's division leaders met to improve methods, learn songs, and work with locally-prepared visual aids.

Under the leadership of the Lay Activities Director, Pastor Collin Parkinson, this triennium yielded an ingathering harvest of half-a-million dollars—representing a 32.8% increase over the past triennium! And our faithful lay preachers, under the power of the Spirit, were responsible for the baptism of over 2,200 souls. More on this later.

Stewardship Director, Hilton Garnett, conducted officers workshop, stewardship revivals, and week-end boosters, and challenged district pastors to do likewise. Each year, September was designated stewardship month. The response has been positive.

The youth department also executed a vigorous training programme. Pastor Alphod Sinclair, assisted by Pastor Lawrence London, trained over seven hundred seniors in youth leadership and more than two hundred juniors in evangelistic preaching techniques. Almost five hundred pathfinders and over two hundred Master Guides were invested. Three hundred forty-seven pathfinders attended two camporees, and five thousand youth assembled for the climatic 1985 youth congress. Youth baptism for the triennium went past the two thousand mark and accounted for over fifty percent of total conference baptisms.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Eight communication workshops were conducted training one hundred communication secretaries. And Communication Director Emanuel practised what she taught for she kept Guyana in the news! Thirty-eight articles appeared in denominational papers: Review, Flashes, and Gleanings; and twenty articles appeared in the local press.

During the triennium, we lost the airing of the venerable Voice of Prophecy radio programme, and the local programmes--Health and Life and New Life- - assumed more prominence. Our radio bible school, however, has continued its ministry.

## **EDUCATION**

We are ever conscious that with the absence of a parochial school system, the home and the church carry heavy responsibilities, and new areas of christian education were explored by the education department.

For our students at Caribbean Union College, we did our part. Despite the peculiar economic constraints during the triennium, one student received a bursary, eleven students received tuition scholarships, and nine students received other significant assistance to attend college. It is worthy of note that in spite of the difficulties encountered, in the 1985-86 school year Guyana has the largest overseas contingent of college students at Caribbean Union College- - almost one hundred students or thirty percent of the total college enrolment. Consequently, we anticipate no shortage of workers in the 1986-1988 triennium, such as we experienced in the 1980-1982 period. In fact, it is likely that we may join our sister conferences in having more graduates than we can employ.

We are happy that not only did Guyana go to Caribbean Union College, but Caribbean Union College also came to Guyana. During each summer of the past triennium, college personnel with local counterparts conducted the Caribbean Union College extension school, and on August 10, 1986, the first class of eleven students received the one-year Bible Instructor's Certificate issued by Caribbean Union College. We wish to say thanks to the college, congratulations to the graduates, and glory to God.

During the triennium, this conference also gave significant educational assistance to five of our workers to pursue Master's degrees. Pastor Collin Parkinson and Sister Janice Emanuel graduated with the Master of Science in Public Health from Loma Linda University in 1983, and Pastor Ken Adams and Winston Patterson have just completed the requirements for the Master of Arts degree from Andrews University.

## HEALTH

Health Director Collin Parkinson nurtured the growth of the food fair in 1984 to the health fair in 1985, with booths on nutrition, sanitation, drugs, hydrotherapy, dress, agriculture, and physical fitness. He also prepared the health component of the Health and Life Course. Our health emphasis has given much publicity to our church and has earned the respect of Government offices and professional people at varied levels.

Another health component was the ADRA [formerly SAWS] nutrition project. Under the leadership of Director W.J. B. Ennis and Project Director Phebe George, this project catered to the needs of four hundred mothers in the five target areas of: Pomona/Huist D'ieren, Essequibo; Alexanderville/Albouystown; Cane Grove, East Coast Demerara; Belladrum/No. 41, West Berbice; and Letter Kenny, Corentyne. The aim of the programme was: Decreasing the Prevalence of Under-Nutrition in Children 0-5 Years of Age. This programme has achieved limited success.

Yet another facet of health outreach was the mission of Davis Memorial Hospital. Although this is technically a union-administered institution whose report does not belong to this conference session, its operation in the Guyana Conference territory makes it more than just a "sister institution," and constrains me to a brief comment.

Our conference constituency wishes to express our appreciation to the administrator, Brother Ernest Burgess, to the physicians: Dr. Jean-Rober Mathador, Dr. José Roca, Dr. Nesamony Ranjitham Prakasam, and the recent arrival—Dr. Eli Honoré; to the nurses; to the technicians and to all members of the staff of D.M.H. for their significant contribution and sacrificial service.

We cannot fail to make mention of the outreach teams led by Chaplain Waveney Martinborough, Nurse Stella Craig, Matron Leila Julien, and others; and the effective evangelistic participation of Dr. "Ranju" Prakasam.

Permit me to make passing mention of a health-related concern: the Senior Citizens' Home. Administratively some attempts were made, but

regrettably, no significant progress was experienced. We would like you to know, however, that the outgoing administration has set aside \$52,000 toward the project.

### **ADVENTIST BOOK CENTRE, PUBLISHING, AND PRESS**

Limitations on the importation of literature is common knowledge. It is miraculous, therefore, that during this triennium the sales of the Adventist Book Centre totaled \$545,000.

More than thirty colporteurs- - full-timers and part-timers- - under the leadership of Director Clifford Ishmael worked 49,602 hours and delivered over half-a-million dollars worth of truth-filled literature. Praise be to our God!

Four of these canvassers have been operating as licensed colporteurs. Some of them are about to be advanced to credential status, while others are ready to join the ranks of licensed workers.

One of our dreams has been the ownership of our own small printing facility. We proceeded cautiously and prayerfully, looking for the openings of the Lord. This project- -equipment and initial supplies - - involved US \$80,000. In addition, the housing unit needed about G\$150,000.

But we serve a great God: He is ever faithful to the promise, "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19. By His grace, we now own our own press.

We are very grateful to our financial supporters of this project: the general conference, the Inter-American division, the Caribbean union, the Guyanese-American Missionary Endeavour, and various individuals abroad. We appreciate deeply the goodwill of G.C. Publishing Director, Elder Ron Appenzeller, and the labours of G.C. Associate Publishing Director, Elder Rudi Henning, who personally purchased the equipment in Germany. I am thankful to Brother W.J.B Ennis who was my administrative assistant on this project.



But Satan did not give up. There was this three-month delay for cement, then the six-month delay for a G.E.C. transformer. But, unlike man, God knows no haste and no delay. "O, magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt His mane together."

This Heidelberg offset press has the ability to handle quarterlies, magazines, and paperback books. But our production will be controlled by our paper supply. Let us keep praying for an open door.

## **EVANGELISM**

In the period under review, we carried forward our evangelistic thrust from six directions. Firstly, there was LAY EVANGELISM. The Guyana conference is committed unswervingly to lay evangelism. During the triennium, laymen conducted 642 crusades and baptized 2,244 precious souls. Praise the Lord! At least sixty percent of our baptisms has been through the ministry of laymen. During this session we shall have a nightly salute to the laymen.

Secondly, there was PASTORAL EVANGELISM, and different pastors operated at different levels. Permit me to mention a few of the most outstanding. Pastor Hilton Garnett baptized one hundred in North Ruimveldt, Georgetown, in 1984, and the Moriah Church was born. In 1995 he launched out at Buxton and was again a centurion.

In July, 1985, Pastor Collin Parkinson pitched his tent at Plaisance and the Lord gave him one hundred twenty-one souls. Pastor Alphod Sinclair conducted the long-awaited Danielstown crusade and the Lord blessed with forty souls. Then Pastor Frederick Braithwaite with a lay team invaded the multi-racial village of Grove and the Lord added one hundred twenty-five souls to His church.

But such exploits are not only for men. Departmental Director Janice Emanuel went fifty-four miles out of town to Union, West Berbice, and conducted a health crusade, combining health and religion in single presentations. Forty-two souls were baptized into Christ.

Thirdly, there was the EAST INDIAN outreach. This is a necessary but very challenging field of evangelism. Yet, God has blessed us with some progress. Peter Dookie baptized seventeen at Hampshire, Corentyne. Veteran Philbert Ramotar won twenty-two at Johanna, Black Bush Polder. And James Joseph, a new Indian worker, started a new group of thirteen at No. 2, East Canje.

We welcome Elder Justin Sher Singh of India who served the Caribbean union. His methodology, immersed in Indian culture, was very effective. His 1984 crusade at La Bonne Intention, East Coast Demerara, resulted in a new church of forty-six believers and his 1986 crusade at Belvedere, Corentyne, yielded a harvest of fifty-two souls and the establishment of the Belvedere-Hampshire Church.

A chapel was bought at Tain, Port Mourant; another Indian chapel was erected at La Bonne Intention, East Coast Demerara; and we are in the process of a purchase for the new company at Belvedere-Hampshire, Corentyne.

The fourth evangelistic facet was AMERINDIAN OUTREACH. Our aim was not only to consolidate previous gains, but to enter the new territory of the "South Savannah" in the Rupununi.

Using Lethem as home base, Pastor Lloyd Henrito invaded Aishalton. This meant small aircraft to Lumidpan and a walk of fourteen miles to Aishalton. The Lord rewarded these labourers with a new congregation of seventeen believers.

His next advance was on Sand Creek, sixty miles south of Lethem. At the opening meeting the attendance was only five from the community of five hundred that consumes anything – from alcohol to alligator. But, assisted by Medex Jeffrey and wife, the pastor pressed on and twelve souls were baptized. Another company was established in the South Rupununi.

Our fifth area was a partial experiment in attempting to reach the UPPER CLASS of society. The strategy involved three sets of seminars: the first on health, the second on health and Bible subjects, and the third on Bible topics. Unfortunately, limitations on time and personnel prevented the completion of this programme. But . scores of people in the upper strata of the Guyanese society have been exposed to Adventist health principles.

Finally, there was CITY EVANGELISM. It was our plan to conduct a major crusade in each area of population concentration within the triennium. So, in 1984 Evangelist Earl Baldwin, on loan from the South Caribbean Conference, gave proclamation in Kitty, Georgetown, and two hundred twenty-three were baptized. A new Smyrna Church arose. Evangelist Peter Prime, ministerial secretary of the Caribbean union, sounded the alarm in New Amsterdam. One hundred eighty-five surrendered to Christ and the Eden Church was born. This year the ministerial team with their president invaded Linden. Three hundred were baptized and the new Jericho Church appeared. For all these trophies of His grace, we praise the Lord, and bless His name forever.

First of all, let us pay tribute to those warriors of the cross who laid their burden down during the triennium. They are: Elder Alanzo Abdool, Sister Clara Blenman, Sister Isabella Downer, and Brother Arthur Joseph.

Tonight, I want to say thanks to my fellow administrators. Elder Hilton Garnett who served as secretary for the majority of the triennium has given yeoman service. He has been a loyal, perceptive, and diligent administrator and simultaneously pastor/evangelist and departmental director. Brother Clement Teixeira who has served as secretary since the departure of Elder Garnett and as treasurer from July, 1983, has been a committed leader and an alert "captain of the guard" of the royal funds. It has been a warm and rewarding experience working with these gentlemen. I am grateful too for the work done by Sister Marjorie Thompson as acting treasurer for four months, and as assistant treasurer through most of the triennium.

Our departmental staff has been a wonderful, co-operative, and hard-working team, and I have appreciated their inspiration. Despite the turnover, we have had some very fine young ladies on our office staff, and we have had good fellowship. I salute the four secretaries who worked with me: Grace John (then Bobb-Semple), Patricia Lewis, Desiree Van-Sluytman (then Gonsalves), and Phyllis Moore. I must also express appreciation to Office Messenger Buyan Stephens who at times has been on 24-hour call and has responded willingly in season and out of season.

My sincere thanks go out to the executive committee. They have been perceptive, supportive and analytical, and I have appreciated their counsel. I have already expressed appreciation to our committed ministerial workers. And we must remember our retired warriors: R.S. J Caesar, Myrtle Fleming, Priscilla Fraser, Berthon Steele, Marjorie Thompson, and Joseph Williams.

It is important that I pay tribute to our overseas friends and supporters. Special mention must be made of Dr. Kennard Stoll who made it possible for us to acquire three cars, Dr. Lloyd Pratt who contributed a Land Cruiser for the Rupununi, Dr. C. H. Dybdahl who has sponsored two Indian chapels and Brother Daniel Maddon who has presented thousands of Bibles. And there are many others who have given support: some with their might, others with their mite. To all we say thanks.

Our gratitude goes out to the higher organization—the Caribbean union, the Inter-American division, and the general conference for their goodwill, counsel, and financial blessings.

This tribute would be incomplete without an expression of gratitude to my precious wife, Waveney. Her daring spirit, her commitment, her sacrifices, her optimism, and her charming smile have urged me ever onward, and she deserves this public commendation.

## **ADORATION**

But over and above them all, I lift my heart to praise the mighty God of heaven, the Gracious Shepherd of Israel. He has been our Omnipotent

Provider, our Omniscient Director, and our Omnipresent Protector. Let us pause to laud and magnify His matchless name. "O praise the Lord all you nations; praise Him all ye people. For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord." (Psalm 117)

Tonight, I invite you to stand with me and let us praise the Lord.

Leader: For administrative unity, and a conscientious, sacrificing ministry,

People: We praise Thee, our God, forever.

Leader: For an active, committed, and multiplying laity,

People: We magnify Thy majesty forever

Leader: For exploits in Ministerial and Lay Evangelism,

People: We give thanks to Thee, our Redeemer, forever.

Leader: For victories with East Indians and trophies of Amerindians,

People: We glorify Thy name, O Lord, forever.

Leader: For the miracles in Tithing, and the exploits in Ingathering,

People: We extol Thee, our Creator, forever

Leader: For the miracle of a printing press through God's gracious goodness,

People: We magnify Thy name, Great King, forever.

Leader: For our Peace of Today, and our Hope of Tomorrow,

People: We glorify Thee, our Lord and Saviour, forever and forever.

## **PROJECTION**

Yes, we have done our evaluation and given our adoration. Now for our projection and our intercession.

This past triennium has seen many blessings. But you and I must admit that we have only scratched the surface of God's plan for His people. Yes, we have been toiling in the Lord's vineyard. We may rightly say:

This green land ploughed and planted, with the Advent Gospel seed;  
Each pastor, every member, in the fields of human need.

But while we long for the promised miraculous harvest, it has not yet come.  
Why? Because we need a power which we do not yet fully possess- - the  
power of the Holy Spirit. So our theme song continues:

And now we look for showers from heaven to ripen golden grain.  
We NEED the Holy Spirit's pow'r. We want the Latter Rain.

During the latter part of the triennium, there has been an escalating  
emphasis on the need for the Holy Spirit in our lives and service. God  
used Pastor Collin Parkinson to initiate this emphasis. A revival has been  
experienced at district camps, at the conference's 1985 senior camp, at the  
Grove crusade, and at the ministers' fellowship at the 1986 Linden crusade.  
But brethren, these have been only drops, we need the showers.

### **INTERCESSION**

This conference session brings together the highest level of the church's  
leadership. My burden is that as leaders of this church we will spend  
hours on our knees during this session—praying for Pentecost. Firstly, for  
ourselves; secondly, for the church's leadership; thirdly, for the church's  
membership. What do you think would happen when the church's  
leaders—ministerial and lay leaders—agonize for hours with the Lord?

Some of you are already aware that at this session I am not available for  
re-election. And many of you are carrying as your number one burden who  
will be president? But at the opening of this great convocation I want to roll  
upon your hearts a different burden: Who will receive the Holy Ghost? I  
want to challenge you to stop worrying about President and start praying  
for Pentecost. You see, one will solve the other. When the Holy Spirit takes  
control of this assembly and its various committees, He will choose the  
right president! And whether that man lives in Guyana or Cuba, Barbados  
or America, we will be open to having God's will done on earth as it is in  
heaven.

So our chief burden is not PRESIDENT; it is PENTECOST. To this end we have initiated a prayer band committee which we voted earlier this evening—a group that will supervise unceasing prayer for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. This entire delegation will be in intercession three times daily: morning, noon, and night. But more than that: Whenever we are in session, an hourly revolving prayer band of select delegates will always be in supplication in the prayer room. And whenever it is your hour, join in prayer power.

In the chorus of our theme song, our prayer should be:

Lord, send this ripening Latter Rain. Now is the Harvest Hour!  
Come, Holy Spirit, come, we pray; Bring Pentecostal Power.

Brethren, you need the Holy Spirit in your life, in your home, in your church, and in your community. Let us not only sing it lustily, let us pray it earnestly:

Send rain upon my life, O God, and purge me of each sin;  
Send rain into my home, O Spirit, ever live within;  
Send rain upon my church to reach each race, each class, each soul;  
Send rain upon my country—leaders, people, make them whole.  
Lord, send this ripening Latter Rain. Now is the Harvest Hour!  
Come, Holy Spirit, come, we pray; Bring Pentecostal Power!

O may this session usher in a PENTECOSTAL experience for you, for your home, for your church, for our conference, and for our nation. And may this experience be multiplied to fields afar that God's work may be finished, that Jesus may come, and that we all may be gathered home. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Gershom G Byass

January 17 – 20, 1990

As I said in the welcome message, "God is good." He has been exceedingly good to me in particular, and to our conference in general. While ordering and directing the affairs of this field during the past triennium, He blessed us with balanced development, unprecedented growth and outstanding accomplishments. As we count our blessings, let us review quickly what the Lord has done.

## **RETROSPECT**

### **The Departments**

Responsible for the largest area of operations is the church ministries department:

Lay Activities: The performance here has been simply scintilating. Under the banner of King Jesus, harvest ingathering accomplishments have broken all local records, and have reached new heights. The figures speak for themselves.



	Amount Raised			Increase	%
	1986	1987	1988	1988 over 1986	
Ingathering G\$	275,446	327,284	484,983	209,537	76

Amount raised during 1986 – 1988 = 1,087,713

Amount raised from 1983 – 1985 = 581,574

506,139

In 1989, ingathering receipts for that year only was the astounding sum of \$687,000, which is 249% of the amount raised in 1986. To God be the glory!

It was in the area of soul winning that gave us the greatest joy, however; for during the period under review, our intrepid and valiant lay reapers were on the cutting edge of the reaping exercise.

In 1986, their hearts were truly fixed. In 1987, they gleaned over 700 souls for heaven. In 1989, they stretched their faith.

From 1988, HOME CELLS began to emerge as the leading and most significant evangelistic force. With little or no money spent on evangelism, several districts have reported baptisms ranging from 18 to 35 souls per cell. Among these have been Calvary Church in Georgetown that pioneered the home cell experiment. Thanks to Pastor Nigel Lewis, and Sister Joyce Carmichael. In Bartica District, Sister Waveney Bissoon's cell won 35 in one year. Congratulations to Pastor Owen Jack. Then, there is Brother Franklyn Mentore's cell at Grove, that beaptized 18, thanks to Pastor Hubert Jack. Of course, there are other worthies in Berbice No. 1, West Berbice, and Olivet, which made a very good start until it was distracted.

All in all, we thank God for our laymen, who, through personal sacrifices and unflinching dedication, have been sickles in the hand of God.

As will be seen from the departmental reports, Pastor London, our church ministries director has stated that, despite many problems and the decline

in the value of the dollar, “the faithfulness of God’s people in Guyana is on the increase.”

Not only in the area of lay evangelism and stewardship, have there been commendable progress, but also in youth, education and sabbath school. Sister Margaret Ramsarran, who joined our forces in mid-term, has been doing a great job.

Our Communication and Health Director, Miss Phoebe George, left for the United States of America in June of 1989, due to ill health. But, she reported the following activities for up to November, 1988:

Health & Temperance

Health Workshops	11
Health Marches	7
Health & Physical Fitness Evaluations	2
Health Fairs	3
Health Lectures at Crusades	13
Health Lectures at Crusades	14
Health Lectures to non-SDA Groups	7
Blood Pressure Screening Program	5
Health Articles in Local Newspaper	
Health Councils with Health Secretaries	11
Conference Health Councils	8
Drug Handouts	127
Baptisms from one Health Crusade	16

Also, health screening of several hundred persons was conducted during the Expo 1987 crusade. Screening of the executive president, his cabinet, and staff, was also done.

In the Communication Department, there were:

12	Workshops
3	Articles in Local Papers
14	Articles in Gleanings
4	Articles in Flashes.

The Bible school recorded a goodly number of students and graduates in the three courses offered.

Even in the area of auditing the Lord has been good to us. More churches have been audited during the triennium, and some longstanding treasury problems were solved.

From the treasurer's report, it is evident that the Lord has been very good to Guyana conference. An analysis of exhibits 1 and 2 of his report shows that whereas in 1986, title receipts were G\$2,048,500, in 1988, by God's grace, they recorded G\$4,290,501. This is an increase of 109%. A comparative look of the total income reveals the following:

	<u>1986 – 1988</u>	<u>1983 – 1985</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Operating Income	9,376,404	4,330,828	117

Of course, this triennium was also a period of two devastating devaluations and distressing escalation in prices, thus an inevitable increase in expenditures. But despite it all, God has been good to us; so, let us all say: "Thank You Lord for your blessings!"

### **CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENT**

When I came to Guyana at the end of 1986, one cursury look revealed that there was very much to be done in this area. As many of you know by now, having articulated the concept of balanced programing, I am a fervent exponent of balanced development. Yes, the programs of the departments must be well planned and executed; evangelism must be done with all of our vigour. These we ought to do, but do not leave the others undone.

However, despite the daunting economic times to which we came in 1987 and after, there was much to be done in the conference development sector. Here again, the goodness and blessings of our Lord were self-evident.

We were able to paint the conference office, and thus clothed our headquarters with a measure of representative dignity. Our committee

room is carpeted, and completely refurnished with new chairs and fans for the comfort of the members. But the blessings do not end here: new electronic typewriters were acquired so that our secretaries could produce work of acceptable quality. The treasury equipment was upgraded with the acquisition of a computer, and new desk calculators. Also, a new P.A.B.X. telephone system, a Fax machine, and two photocopy machines were purchased and installed. We also now have achieved adequacy in public address systems.

Here is a quick look at what the Lord has helped us to accomplish:

### **Buildings Acquired**

	<u>Workers' Homes</u>	<u>Type of Building</u>	<u>Year</u>
1.	Beterverwagting	3 Bedroom Wooden 2 Flat.	1987
2.	92 Sectn. "M", C/Ville	3 Bedroom Concrete	
3.	Alness, Corentyne	3 Bedroom Concrete & Wood (2 Large Lots)	
4.	Best/Crane, W.B.D.	3 Bedroom Concrete & Wood.	

### **Church Sites (Land)**

1.	Wakenaam	Church Site (Very Large Plot)
2.	New Amsterdam (Eden)	Church Site (Very Large Plot)
3.	Belvedere	Church Site
4.	Wismar Hill (Jerico)	Building & Land
5.	Lighttown, Berbice	Church Site

### **Other**

- |    |                                      |  |
|----|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Georgetown                           | 1.3 acres for New Conference<br>Headquarters Complex |
| 2. | Loo Creek lease effected (Received). |  |

### **Office Equipment**

- |                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Telephone (P. A. B. X.) System | 2. Photocopy Machines (2)  |
| 3. Electronic Typewriters (7)     | 4. Computer System (1)     |
| Manual Typewriter (4)             |                            |
| 5. Video Camera & Accessories     | 6. Photographic Camera (1) |
| 7. Calculators                    | 8. Fans                    |
| 9. Staplers, etc. & etc.          | 10. Power Horns (3)        |
| 11. 36 Upholstered Chairs, etc.   | 12. Stereo Mixers (2)      |

### **Evangelistic Equipment**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Tents (Two new)   | 2. P.A. Systems (6 amplifiers,<br>16 mikes with stands and speakers)<br>(the four tents we have could be<br>pitched simultaneously and are all<br>fully equipped with P.A. systems). |
| 3. Yamaha Keyboard   |  |
| 4. Outboard Engines (4)<br>(3 received)  |  |
| 5. Radio Telephones (4) –<br>for better communication with our interior-based pastors. |  |

### **Renovation/Repairs**

1. Conference Office
2. Conference Annex (Completely New)
3. Arakaka Place House.

### **Maranatha Press**

The printing press which the Lord enabled the previous administration to acquire was installed and commissioned in July of 1987. In November of the same year it was dedicated.

Today, thanks be to God, we enjoy lesson quarterlies of the highest quality, and soon will be producing books for our colporteurs.

Also, despite all the difficulties, our church buildings program continued apace.

## **Church Buildings –**

### Dedicated:

Yahuka	-	January 1988
Victoria	-	March 1988
Anns Grove	-	July 1988

### In Progress

De Velde (ded. 1-80)	Catherine
Beterverwagting	Leguan
Muncker (ded. 12-89)	La Harmonie (ded. 12-89)
Bartica	Lighttown
Kaikan	Springlands
Soesdyke	Tacouba

May I note in passing, that Davis Memorial Hospital also benefited from the interest in the upgrading of our infrastructure. A computer, a new Fax machine, along with several other pieces of new equipment were added to their stock.

## **EVANGELISM**

The primacy of the Gospel mandates the paramountcy of evangelism. Soul winning therefore is the lifeblood of the church.

### Pastoral

With respect to evangelism, through the enabling grace of God, the period under review started with a bang, and ended in an unprecedented crescendo of largescale baptism. Smouldering embers were fanned into ravenous flames of evangelism. Men and women of spartan fortitude, heroic, intrepid warriors of the cross, fanned out into the fray and did valiantly for God. As a result, 4,433 souls were baptized 1986 through 1988.

The evangelistic vision was:

1. To foster the organization of evangelistic units in each church, and have them trained for effective, economic, self-sustaining soul-winning efforts. Thus the promotion of the HOME CELLS concept.
2. To develop the evangelistic potential in each district pastor, and nurture the blooming of more centurions among this group. This should enable us to reach our basic baptismal goal without any outside help.
3. To develop a culture of nurture, that will see us holding many more of the souls baptized, thus enhancing church growth.

We thank God that much progress had been made along this church growth front.

We may summarise the evangelistic exploits thus:

Large Efforts (City Evangelism.)

<u>Evangelist</u>	<u>Results</u>	<u>New Church</u>
a. Pastor Reynold Howell		
i) Expo'87 – G/town.	526	Calvary
ii) COME ALIVE '89 – G/town.	280	-
b. Pastor Earl Baldwin - Linden	406	-

Pastoral Efforts:

<u>Centurions</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Ashton Alleyne	-	-	-	201*
Philip Bowman	-	115	120	137
Fred Braithwaite	121	-	-	147
Nigel Cole	-	-	-	117
Peter Dookie	142	180	-	208
Hubert Jack	-	-	-	110

Pastoral Efforts:

<u>Centurions</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Owen Jack	-	-	-	102
Ivor Keizer	-	-	135*	126*
Nigel Lewis	-	-	142	250*
Elton Lindie	-	157	151	229
Easton Marks	-	-	100	101
Ashton O'Neil	-	-	-	100
Stephen Patterson	-	128*	-	-
Reuben Stuger	-	127*	100	108
Linden George		140		

Over 50 (Honourable Mention):

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Number of Pastors baptizing over 50 but less than 100	7	3	7	2
Number of Pastors baptizing over 100	3	5*	6*	13
Number of Pastors baptizing over 200	0	0	0	5

\* Helped by visiting evangelists.

<u>Baptisms:</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Pastors' Reports	1,451	1,8784	1,188	2,054
Statistical Reports	1,093	1,951	1,177	

We thank our Lord for the progressive achievements in baptisms, except for 1988. However, as you have seen from the above comparison of the pastors' reports with that of the church clerks, we have a problem to solve in the coming triennium.



## **PERSONNEL**

The vehicle on which the Gospel moves is human. People are our most precious asset. Our workers' welfare is always of paramount concern to me. In the area of salaries and allowances, there have been unprecedented increases. Twenty percent increase in 1988, over 1986, and more than 44% increase in 1998, over 1986.

In addition to that, when the hammer of devaluation struck, as it did in 1987, and again in 1989, immediately the administration effected salary and allowances adjustments to cushion the impact of inflation and rising prices on our workers. Although those were difficult times, brethren, let us thank King Jesus for seeing us through. For, "hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

Not only in the area of monetary rewards, but also in respect of professional skills and competence, decided efforts were made to sharpen and upgrade our workers. In August, 1987, Elder Peter J. Prime was brought to conduct a FAMILY LIFE seminar, especially for our workers. In 1988, from May to August, many of our workers benefited immensely from a continuing education program on the Psychology of Pastoral Counseling and other studies conducted by Pastor Burnell E. McPherson.

Illness prevented Elder Luther Palmer from coming to do a seminar for us in 1989.

We also continue our program of education assistance to prospective workers.

Although a few of our workers left, only one pastor – Stephen Patterson accepted a call to another field. Of the seven other pastoral workers who departed, three resigned. Two migrated to validate permanent resident status in the U.S.A. (These are Pastors Winston Patterson, and Alphod Sinclair); and one to further his studies on an IDB Fellowship – Pastor Ken Adams. The other, like John Mark, returned home.

Guyana is no easy field to live and work in, yet all in all, our work force

remained stable: Thank God for the corps of young, dedicated workers. Here is a summary of our personnel status:

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
Ordained Minister	12	11	8
Licensed Ministers	15	18	20
Credential Missionaries	12	10	10
Licensed Missionaries	12	16	19
Literature Evangelists	8	8	6
Others	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>62</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>66</u>

### **GENERAL**

Except for the Rupununi and the North West Districts, every other district benefited from conventions and special meetings conducted by the administration and other office personnel. Ten such district conventions were held, and two national elders' conventions. Two ministerial retreats were thrown in for good measure.

Much more can be said. Need I say more, but: "Thanks be to God."

### **INTROSPECTION**

As I survey the flock over which the Lord has made me overseer, I thank Him for the large and faithful band of members whose unstinted support is clearly evidenced in these reports. We need, however, to take note that among some of our youth there is a basic lack of discipline, reverence for God's house, and respect for leaders. There seems to be a need therefore for a toning up of the spiritual sinews.

### **PROSPECT**

### **CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENT**

Much remains to be done in this great conference. Some of the tasks for the future are:

**A. YOUTH**

1. A Youth Centre in Georgetown
2. Pathfinders' Marching Band (Music, Drum Corp)
3. Commercial/Education Center
4. Camp Facilities at Loo Creek.

**B. HEALTH**

1. Health Van
2. Health & Fitness Center
3. Health Food/Nutrition Center/Restaurant

**C. WELFARE**

1. Strong, Viable Welfare Federations
2. Welfare Centers in:-
  - a. Georgetown
  - b. New Amsterdam
  - c. Linden
3. Senior Citizens' Homes:-
  - a. Georgetown
  - b. New Amsterdam.

**D. A Mission Plane for Interior Travel.**

**E. WORKERS' BENEFIT**

1. Resource & Audio Visual Center
2. Workers' Homes
3. Credit Union/Financial Services
4. Contributory Retirement Plan  
(Have Workers participate).

**F. ADMINISTRATION**

1. New Headquarters Complex
2. Trust Services
3. Conference Corporation
4. Association of Development Pools

The list of things to be done may seem daunting. But, “With God, all things are possible.” “Christ will never bring His people to a place where retreat is necessary, or advance is impossible.

## **EVANGELISM**

Evangelism and church growth remain the greatest challenge and most urgent tasks. The Macedonian cry of over fifty unentered East Indian towns and villages, as well as the forty-four unentered Amerindian villages in the Rupununi alone, must be heeded.

To this end, along with other proven evangelistic methods, the HOME CELL offers one of the best and most effective options. A minimum goal of two hundred fifty CELLS, yielding an annual baptism of only ten each, is easily achievable. With this approach, where each church becomes an ongoing soul-winning and nurturing center, the centurionizing of every pastor is easily attainable.

So, from the gentle spread of the low-lying coastlands, clothed in nature’s verdant garb, to the jewelled agricultural islands of the mighty Essequibo River; from the meandering rivers, whose majestic waterfalls make music fit for Gabriel’s orchestra and heaven’s studios, to the towering mountains canopied by clouds from heaven’s nostrils; from the industrial bauxite towns to the mountain regions where God paints a picture of rugged kaleidoscopic beauty on the canvas of nature; let us go forward victoriously with Christ.

## **TRIBUTE & THANKS**

As a successful general needs an army, and equipment, so did I; and I thank God, first of all, for His guiding hand and blessing. Then, I want to thank my other officers and supporting staff, as well as all the field workers. Without them, what could have been accomplished?

Special thanks go out to Pastor Winston Patterson who, as executive secretary, kept the conference ship on an even keel until I arrived from California to assume duties. Although his stay in office was brief yet, by his

diplomacy, grace, and quiet efficiency, he made a favourable impact on the conference and his office.

His successor, Pastor Ken Adams, is also worthy of special mention. He had the Midas touch and the uncanny ability of achieving whatever needed to be done.

Honourable mention must be made of Pastor Dennis Hamilton-Cox who emerged as the leading church planter. During the past triennium he pioneered and raised up, by God's help, five new groups and companies in the Berbice River.

The administrators of the Caribbean union conference have always been a source of counsel, guidance and support. To them I say: "Thanks."

Also, to our faithful, sacrificing members, both at home and overseas, please accept my heartfelt thanks.

Now, let us aspire together, advance together, and achieve together. Let us work, pray, and with Christ, **MOVE FORWARD TO VICTORY.**



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Hilton E Garnett

April 13 – 17, 1993

Brother Chairman, representatives from the Inter-American division, representatives from Caribbean union, representatives from our sister fields and institutions, special delegates from New York, Toronto and Washington, special guests from overseas, delegates from within the Guyana constituency, other guests, ladies and gentlemen:

This is a particularly significant moment in my life. As I stand before you to present this report, I am constrained by a sense of gratitude to step back in time just for a moment to see where the Lord has brought me from. Every time I engage myself in an exercise like this, I can more deeply appreciate the magnitude of God's grace. I can sing with ecstasy and deep emotion, "His love has no limit, His grace has no measure, for out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth and giveth again".

I entered the world of work at thirteen with a bucket and a saucepan on the sugar plantation of Lusignan on the East Coast of Demerara, the place of my nativity, little realising that one day the honour would be mine to be the spiritual leader of the remnant church of God in Guyana, in the first

three years of the final decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. No human language can adequately capture and meaningfully transmit the depth of gratitude I feel to the Almighty who has selected me for this extraordinary manifestation of His grace. I just want to praise the Lord for what He has done for me personally.

### **GENERAL MELIEU**

We started the activities of the seventeenth triennium upon the foundation laid by our predecessors. They had their entrances and their exits, everyone doing his part under God. When we came on stage, the challenges were ominous, the economy was in serious trouble, cost of living was extremely high, salaries in our conference were ridiculously low, the work force of the conference measured an all time low in morale and optimism. Today, we are happy to report that the picture has changed dramatically for the better. The economy has turned around, salaries in our conference have increased by 480% since we took office. There is, generally speaking, a feeling of satisfaction at the work place; and it is evident to all that we have come a very long way since January, 1990.

### **EVANGELISM**

Bro. Chairman, delegates, the Adventist Church exists for evangelism. It is our *raison d'être*. The church in Guyana has never lost that vision. Our laity has an evangelistic focus that is second to none in the Caribbean union. When the director for lay ministries reports, you will discover that our lay people, among them a large percentage of youth, have been in the vanguard of evangelism. This they have done with little or no equipment, poor lighting facility and less than comfortable housing accommodation. But they, motivated by their pastors, inspired by Rev. 14:6,7 – the magna carta to this church - boldly and fearlessly proclaimed the imminent return of our Lord and over 2,525 souls have been won by their united efforts.

Our pastors have not been asleep on the battle front. Even though the ministry in Guyana is very young and inexperienced, most of them donned their evangelistic armour and attempted great exploits for God. Two of these young men, Pastors Drakes and Chichester at their first pitching of

a tent, each garnered over one hundred souls. Others have not been so dramatic but each has won his 'thousand' or 'ten thousand' for the Lord. A total of 2,200 souls were won by the ministry.

The office personnel have also taken evangelism seriously. The president of the conference has pitched his tent consistently. In 1991, he conducted a Family Life Crusade at Springlands on the Corentyne and in 1992, he was again under a tent at Plaisance. Those crusades yielded 62 and 57 souls respectively. Pastor Ashton O'Neil pitched his tent at Soesdyke last year and 36 souls were won to the Lord. Others are planning to get into the firing line soon.

During the period under review, we were blessed with one overseas evangelist. The man who piloted family life evangelism in the English-speaking territory of the Inter-American division, and who has consistently taught the importance of lay involvement in the finishing of the Gospel proclamation, pitched his tent at West Ruimveldt and 260 souls were won. The New Life Church was born out of those meetings.

## **PERSONNEL**

Brother Chairman, fellow delegates, when we started the triennium, morale among the work force was very low. The cost of living was very high and the conference's basic wage factor was less than US\$24.00 monthly. It was a very difficult time. The situation was compounded by two drastic devaluations. Several workers left for other fields within the union and North America. But the present administration had consistently made a study of how to improve the lot of the work force and, as a result, the conference's basic wage factor has increased appreciably, since January, 1990. Every district is manned including the Upper Mazaruni, Rupununi and North West. There are no pastoral vacancies at this time. Two of our districts are manned by laymen who showed outstanding promise in the area of pastoral leadership. Ian Chichester and Oliver Thomas are now full-time pastors and are doing a fine job. Further, two Bible workers, Bertie Toolsiram and Compton Gaskin, have been given ministerial licence and pastoral responsibilities. A number of outstanding lay persons are now serving as Bible workers in the conference.



There has been a number of departures from our office staff but we presently have a full staff and the best you can find anywhere. Permit me to mention that several of our young men have matured in the ministry and, over the period under review, four of them have been recommended for ordination.

### **WORKER BENEFITS**

Brother Chairman, fellow delegates, the welfare of the workers has consistently engaged our attention. How to make life more comfortable for each worker was a priority of the administration. We have made a bold attempt to improve salary and allowances. We have bought toiletries, footwear, haberdasheries for free distribution to workers and their families. Last summer, we made a change and gave every worker a suit length and G\$1,000 towards the sewing of the suit. In addition, we are purchasing tyres and batteries from Miami. We sell these to workers at a ridiculously small cost. We subsidized these items from our overseas income. Workers continue to benefit from gifts that come from sister conferences, individuals, and churches overseas. These come in the form of US dollars – the Northboro SDA church in Massachusetts under the leadership of Pastor Ives Roberts, sends US\$100 every month. This is distributed to workers monthly. Last year, that church bought us two motor cycles, and this year, they are helping with some repairs at Goshen.

Our union administration studied the plight of our work force when they sent a commission here in March, 1992. Coming out of that commission are several valuable recommendations. For example, workers and their families will be financed by the union for overseas vacation once every four years. The Union will sponsor two workers on the MA extension program. This will bring our number of students to four. The conference has always sponsored two workers. The conference has established a fund to help returning graduates purchase some necessary household items in Trinidad. The fund was a gift from the Grenada mission and the North Caribbean conference.

Brother Chairman, delegates, the administration became very concerned about the unavailability of transportation for pastors. Very early in the triennium, we decided to purchase the following:

motor cycles	8
bicycles	9
outboard motors	3
cars	9

Every district pastor is now on wheels. Last yearend, we took action to purchase two more cars, and two more motor cycles in 1993. A pastoral library with hundreds of books at a cost of several thousand US dollars is now in place at our office.

### **EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED**

Ladies and gentlemen, God continues to bless His work in a very signal way. Our office furniture is completely changed to things modern. We acquired two 40-foot containers of relatively new office furniture from the ADRA Office in Washington. They changed office and disposed of their furniture. We were in Washington at the right time and our request was honoured. Pastor Harold Lee has sent us two shipments of computers, some used and some new. Pastor Lee sent this conference thousands of dollars worth of all kinds of equipment which he solicited from friends in the United States. We owe him a great debt of gratitude. In addition, this conference has purchased recording equipment (for recording the radio program), overhead projector, slide projector, TV and VCR, cassette recorder, microphones, et cetra. We have purchased a small bus and put the mobile unit back on the road. That unit was out of use since 1986. These things were made possible through the generous donations of our overseas brethren and friends.

### **OVERSEAS DONATION (TITHES, OFFERINGS, ETC.)**

Our local giving has been commendable. Through all the devaluations and hard times, our members have been generally faithful in returning the tithe. The treasurer will point this out but local giving could not sustain the programs of our conference, we needed the help of overseas brethren. And,

Oh! How faithfully and consistently these loyal brethren and friends have rallied to our cries for help. GAME in New York, Guymetro in Washington, the group in Toronto, the group in New Jersey and the scattered faithfuls in Los Angeles, Loma Linda, Lancaster and Pasadena. These North American brethren, along with others in England, Holland, Trinidad, Cayman and the Bahamas have swelled the funds at IAD to such an extent that we were able to bring in a container of paper in 1991 costing over US\$12,000 and purchased over US\$14,000 worth of books for the ABC at the same time. In 1992, we were able to purchase a property – a pastor’s manse in New Amsterdam for US\$25,000 cash and still purchase over US\$10,000 worth of books for the ABC and do all the other things. May God richly bless these faithful and loyal people. Our prayer objective in January was devoted to our overseas donors.

#### **PROPERTIES PAID OFF & NEW PROPERTIES ACQUIRED**

Brother Chariman, when we began the period under review, a number of transactions were incomplete:

a) West Demerara manse	-	owed US\$5,000
b) Campbellville manse	-	owed US\$7,000
c) Jericho (Victory) Property	-	owed G\$71,000
d) Alness manse	-	owed G\$145,000
e) Wakenaam property	-	owed G\$80,000
f) Lodge Backlands property	-	owed G\$194,000

We paid off all of these except Lodge banklands which is not yet ready for passing of transport.

We have acquired the New Amsterdam manse for US\$25,000 (paid cash). We have acquired a property in Airy Hall (house and much land for just under one million dollars). This is still in process. Much of the cash that financed these transactions came from overseas funds. Thanks again to our overseas brethren.

## **BUILDINGS: CHURCH & CONFERENCE**

Brother Chairman, fellow delegates, you would have known that the last administration repaired the annex; this administration painted it for just over half a million Guyana dollars. It has changed the image of the office compound.

Now, work has begun on a new office building. This new building is estimated to cost approximately 20 million Guyana dollars. We have begun by faith. Ours is the worst looking office building in this union. The time has come for change. The conference has over one hundred churches and it is our intention to have every church assist in the construction of our new building.

The church, the place where we worship God, must look better than my house. This has always been my philosophy when in regular pastoral duties. Some of our church homes in this conference were an apology and a dishonour to the message we teach. We therefore embarked on a program to improve the condition of these churches:

- a) Conference spent approximately G\$160,000 on Mahaica
- b) Conference spent over G\$100,000 on Springlands
- c) Conference spent over G\$ 50,000 on Queesntown  
Mrs Desiree Renaud assisted with an additional US\$1,000 on the Queenstown building.
- d) Conference bought a building to house the Belmonte Church costing G\$30,000.

Every building under construction on the coast and in the interior has received sizable portions of money from the conference to assist in its construction. In addition to all these, when the conference president visited Wakenaam in January, 1992, and discovered that the Advent message had reached Wakenaam since in the early 40s and the two groups of believers on the island were still worshipping in members' homes, he decided that the situation must change immediately. The conference hired contractor Brother Eustace Paul, to erect a 30' x 26' concrete structure on the land

acquired by the last administration. The building still needs windows but the San Souci group has begun to worship in that new building. The cost to date is G\$132,000.

The Leguan land dispute, that engaged the attention of the conference for nearly twenty years, was settled last year. The conference has sent approximately G\$90,000 to help the Leguan church come to completion. Hopefully, it can be dedicated soon.

Nine churches have been helped to completion and dedication in this period under review. Thanks to the Caribbean union for its financial contribution in commencement and completion grants. Thanks to Sister Grace Cush-Williams and Sister Olga Mayers of Beterverwagting who sent in large sums of United States dollars to help finish that church; to Sis. Chalmers and Sis. Abrams who helped Springlands with generous donations; to Sis. Ruth Boston and her son, Hugherrol, who have purchased a plot of land for Bushlot Seventh-day Adventist Company and are planning to erect a church building for the group. Time will not permit me to mention people like Bro. Bill De LaPara and scores of other persons who are doing their part from overseas to help individual churches in the Guyana conference. God bless all of you. We say a great, big, Thank You.

## **CONVENTIONS & DEPARTMENTS**

Brother Chairman, fellow delegates, during the triennium under review, the conference administration and departmental directors have been very active in the districts. We have conducted conventions in every district except the North West. Some districts had several conventions or what can be described as annual conventions. These conventions proved opportunities for fellowship, inspiration, motivation, training and exposure to conference operations. They were well organised, well attended and richly blessed by the presence of God. In addition, the conference administrators visited the Upper Mazaruni twice, once in 1991 and again in 1992. Both the sabbath school and the youth directors also visited Upper Mazaruni. The conference president and the treasurer visited the Rupununi separately. The president visited Lethem, Sand Creek, Aranaputa and Annai. He urged the believers

at Lethem to erect a church building. Work has now begun on that building with financial assistance from the conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, the departments of this conference are active and very much alive. Pastor Ivor Keizer is a young man seriously overworked. He has put more into the youth department than can be asked of any director. He and the conference president are in competition for the work-o-holic crown. However, the time has come for an assistant in the youth department. The larger portion of our membership is youth. We do not have church schools, therefore, our master guded, pathfinder and other youth programs must be carried to every district of this conference. Pastor Keizer has been ably assisted by Brother Cyril Persaud, Sister Enid Luard, Marlene Sears and others. Hats off to all of you, dedicated people.

Sabbath school has a regular heart beat. Thanks to our dedicated and indefatigable Margaret Ramsarran. Margaret has BA in Management from the University of Guyana. Her field is really business. She hopes to pursue the MBA very soon. But Margaret has done a fantastic job in putting Sabbath School on course. Her training programs and incentive devices have motivated sabbath school officers around the conference. The conference has plans to make teachers' quarterlies available from the third quarter of this year. Youth quarterlies will be introduced again in June and so will large print seniors. You would recall that we started printing juniors, primaries and kindergartens since mid1990. We are committed to the nurture of our children and youth. The cost on subsidy is heavy but the benefits are immeasurable.

The lay activities and welfare departments throb with activities. Pastor Ashton O'Neil has only been there for approximately one year. He has led the lay people of this conference into hitherto unknown victories. What can we say about the stupendous miracles of ingathering? Let God be true and all men liars!

The Radio Bible School, under Sister Alpha Union is still reaching scores of people weekly. The weekly radio broadcast by Pastors Keith Drakes and Dennis Mingo and technical operator, Brother Calvin Dover, is creating new

interest for the Radio Bible School. Thanks to this hard working radio team. Four months ago, the Breath of Life telecast with Pastor Charles D. Brooks began on Channel 10 TV at 3:00 p.m. on Sundays. Already, the interest is high and the response is positive.

The audit department, under the leadership of Assistant Auditor, Nigel Lake, has revealed some startling facts. Brother Lake and his corps of workers in the audit department are performing a very valuable exercise. They have made us aware that there is need to put some checks and balances in place to stop reckless misappropriation of the Lord's funds.

The Maranatha Press has continued to supply the constituency with quarterlies. Plans are afoot to request of the Inter-American Division Publishing Association negatives for the printing of small books. Should this request be approved, we would embark on large scale printing. This will necessitate the recruiting of several new colporteurs. Already, we are bombarded with requests from persons who want to join the bookman army. Mrs. Janice Mingo, acting manager of the press, is optimistic about the future of the printing exercise. She will report in detail about her plans for the future. We deeply appreciate the dedication of the manager and her staff. So often, they have had to work long hours to satisfy the needs of the constituency.

Pastor Cleophas J. Quashie, recently appointed publishing director, will report on the work of our dedicated band of colporteurs. We pay tribute to this illustrious band of workers. Sister Mary Davis, who has worked faithfully for many years in the colporteur ministry, died in October, 1992, after a brief illness. However, she lives on in the homes of the people where she has planted her truth-filled literature. Truly, there will be joy for her in the morning.

ADRA Guyana is in the doldrums. Brother Alvin Campbell, now seconded to the Maranatha press, will report in more details about the agonies of ADRA. Suffice it to say, all is not lost.

The Adventist Book Centre continues to supply the constituency with truth-filled literature. It has been a very difficult task supplying the Book Centre with books, since all books are purchased in the United States. The conference has had to subsidize all books coming from the US in order to make them affordable, both to the constituency and the general public. We are very appreciative of the efforts of Mrs. Shirley Hutchins who assumed duties as ABC manager last September. Hers has been a yeoman's task, trying to get the accounts up-to-date. She has made considerable progress.

### **GLOBAL MISSION**

Reaching the unreached, in preparation for the last great harvest, is our vision and our mission. To this end, Breath of Life is on the air. But we must make every effort to traget special people groups.

There are scores of East Indian villages not yet reached. There are a large number of Amerindian settlements not yet entered. We have put the health van back on the road in preparation for a dynamic health program targeted primarily on our East Indian communities. We have gone without a health director for a long time. It is hoped that one would be elected at this session.

### **PROJECTIONS**

Brother Chairman, fellow delegates, the triennium under review was almost like a bee hive. And yet, there are still so much to be done. There are a number of things we would have liked to get done but we ran out of time. I would like to suggest the following list of activities that should receive attention in the new triennium:

- a) Commencement of construction work on the Senior Citizens' Home. It is our hope that the sod will be turned during this session.
- b) On the same grounds with the Senior Citizens' Home, it is hoped that the Youth & Welfare Centre can get started. We believe that the youth of this conference can build their centre by self-help.



- c) We would like to see Camp Goshen upgraded and Camp Loo Creek develop into a permanent campsite.
- d) A bus, seating no less than forty, is a long felt need for the youth department.
- e) We would like to see a permanent guest house in the conference compound. The building that house the ABC and sabbath school department can be converted for that purpose, so that believers who travel from the country can overnight securely.
- f) A housing complex to relieve the problems workers now experience is an urgent need.
- g) The availability of vegetarian foods from our food factory in Trinidad is a goal that can be realized early in the new triennium.

## **GRATITUDE**

We have come to the most delightful sub-section of this report. This is the section for appreciation and thanks.

Brother Chairman, delegates, our conference is greatly indebted to Dr. Orville Scott, a SDA physician from Trinidad, who has a deep burden for souls in view of the imminent return of our Lord. Over the last two years, Dr. Scott has financed three Bible workers in this conference: Brother Leon Beckles of Wismar, Brother Elijah Wong-Walker of Tapakuma and Brother Timothy Madray of Tain, Corentyne. Dr. Scott has borne the salary of these workers and have kept a personal interest in their work. To the time of writing, apporximately 110 souls have been won by this program. God bless and prosper you, Dr. Scott.

Our sister conferences have been very understanding of our needs, Brother Chairman. And I'd like to single out the Grenada mission and the North Caribbean conference for their generous support of our workers. Both of these conferences have made tangible financial contributions to our conference. The churches on the island of St. Croix have been very kind.

One individual from the Sunny Acres church sent us a very tangible gift of US\$5,000 for all workers early in the triennium. The Peter's Rest church entered a twining exercise with the Moriah church in Guyana. And, what shall we say about Brother Edward Griffin. He was the prime mover behind everything that came to us from North Caribbean conference. He almost destroyed his health in the process. God bless you, Brother Griffin.

The organisation in New York, brain child of former president, G.O. Martinborough, has been very supportive. The president, brother Winston Ennis, is present here today. They deserve our special thanks. We are indebted to Pastor Errol Liverpool for reviving the group in Toronto and using his influence to keep it alive. Brother Esmond Harper is holding the group together in New Jersey and Pastor Allan Johnson was instrumental in the formation of Guymetro in Washington. In California, Brother Joseph Fortune, Brother Evans Lewis, Dr. Timothy Greaves, Dr. George Williams, Brothers Samuel Dey, Walter Harris and the Stoll brothers have been a very strong financial support group for our conference. But we must not fail to mention that in addition to the above mentioned persons, there are scores of other Guyanese and non-Guyanese in New York, Michigan, Massachusetts, Florida and elsewhere whose consistent financial support for this conference has greatly benefited the work of God here.

Permit me to say thanks to our union administration and the entire Union office staff including the office secretaries. The officers of the union have demonstrated a very keen interest in the welfare of our workers. We must single out Pastor E. J. Murry, our former union president, who was always responsive to our requests.

I wish to express special thanks to my fellow administrators, Brother Winston James and Elder C.J. Quashie. You have been very supportive, co-operative and understanding. To our dedicated and overworked directors, we couldn't do it without you. Thank you. To the office staff – treasury, press, audit, secretaries, ABC, etc: you were willing to go beyond the call of duty. We congratulate you. Thank you.

Three secretaries served the president during the triennium. Miss Phillis

Moore was efficient and thorough; Miss Sharon Payne's stint was short but productive. However, Mrs. Cecile Lake, quiet, thoughtful and pleasant, has served with distinction. Thank you, Cecile.

Brother Chairman, delegates, the Guyana conference has the youngest corps of ministerial workers. These workers enjoy very much less of the following benefits than their counterparts in the union - in equipment, transportation, household appliances and salary, but they are dedicated, co-operative and supportive. I salute you, pastors and Bible workers! Thank you for co-operating even when you did not always understand.

In saying thanks to my wife and children, I feel a deep sense of neglect. My wife and children consented to return to Guyana because they are committed to go with me wherever Jesus leads. Since returning, they have had very little of me. But they have never complained. We have not had a vacation since coming back, we have seldom had an outing. We were committed to serving our people. Thanks you, Pearl, Pretha, Teddy and Karen.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, let me praise God for permitting me to serve the nicest people in the entire union. I came back here because of your deep love for me. You are an encouraging, supportive, appreciative constituency. You nurtured me when I was a novice. And now that I am a little more experienced, I think you deserve to have the best I can give. I have given you my total dedication. You deserve it. I have doubtless made some mistakes in the execution of my office. These mistakes remind me of my humanness. I was never a president, you made me one. I didn't do it my way, I tried to do it God's way. In serving you, I tried to please Him. Ultimately, we will have to account to Him. Thank you for allowing me to serve you these three years. May God bless our co-operative efforts – yours and ours.

And now, to Him that doeth great wonders, to the only wise God, our Father, be praise, and honour, dominion and power, until the HARVEST, yea, until the END! Let us go out and tell it again, until we see Him face to face. Amen and Amen!



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Hilton E Garnett

July 16 – 19, 1996

Brother Chairman, illustrious secretary of the general conference, distinguished leaders of the Inter-American division and Caribbean union conference, colleagues from our sister conferences and institutions, honoured guests, special delegates from overseas, delegates from the Guyana constituency, other guests, ladies and gentlemen:

This morning, I have the honour of presenting the second president's report which comes at the close of my tenure of six and one-half years.

This report will capture events that occurred particularly during the trennium under review but there will be some degree of overlapping.

Permit me to say at the outset that I am deeply grateful to God Almighty for the honour he has conferred upon me to entrust the leadership of this most challenging conference in my feeble hands. Since God created man he has been taking risk with his human subjects. He has tried it with me. If this report, therefore, shows progress and success in this conference over the last three years, then the glory, the honour and the praises must be given to our God, for this is a report of what he has done through us.

## **IN RETROSPECT: THE ECONOMY**

When we started the triennium under review, the national infrastructure was under severe pressure. The electricity supply was unpredictable and has worsened in recent months. These infrastructural problems have seriously impeded our production at the office. In recent weeks, we have given consideration to the purchasing of a standby generator for the office and the Maranatha Press. This will be a costly venture but it may be the only way out.

In addition, the inflationary trends of the economy have sent the cost of goods and services spiraling to incredible heights. The treasurer will present in detail the serious impact of inflation on operations. Workers could not manage in the circumstances. Thus, in January of this year, we were constrained to make a giant leap by increasing salary by 50% to make life a little more manageable for our workers.

## **EVANGELISM**

Brother Chairman, fellow delegates, evangelism is our *raison d'être*, the heartbeat of our mission. Very early in the triennium under review we put together a development plan. We worked out a mission statement and a strategic plan to accomplish our mission. Our zeal for evangelism never faltered both among laity and clergy. The ministerial secretary in his report will highlight the achievements of the clergy. Pastor O'Neil, in his report, will feature the year-by-year achievements of the laity. But permit me to say that 1995 was our best year in evangelism – over 2,000 souls were brought to the foot of the cross. Our conference secretary will present our increases in evangelism annually and also our increases statistically. He will show you that we had an annual average growth rate of 4% but our losses were significant.

We salute our dedicated lay people in every district. We thank God for committed pastors, Bible workers and office workers. Several pastors have been centurions and double centurions. We say thanks to GAME for conducting a giant crusade here last August. Pastor Fitzroy Jackman preached with great conviction using modern technology and 187 souls were born again.

The prison ministry also has done its work of evangelism. As a result of meetings conducted in the prisons, 59 persons were buried with their Lord in those institutions. We salute Pastor C.J. Quashie who baptized 27 souls in the Georgetown prison at the end of his crusade there.

East Indian evangelism too has had its emphasis. At Lusignan, a new group was formed after Pastor Dookie's crusade. On the Corentyne at Albion, Belvedere and Rosehall, several East Indian believers have joined the church from lay efforts.

Dr Daniel Gibran of the US, and formerly of Hague-Back, sponsored two crusades here, one at Cane Grove and the other in Georgetown. A new group of 27 believers is now worshiping in Cane Grove. In Georgetown, Samaritan Morgan of CUC in pentecostal style, led 100 souls to the watery grave. His crusade was also sponsored by Dr. Gibran. Mention must also be made of the work done by the lay people who were sponsored by Dr. Orville Scott, MD. As a result of our evangelistic efforts and God's blessings, we have new groups at Cane Grove, Lusignan, Egypt, Chenowing, Aurora, Friendship (Pomeroon) and Mon Repos.

Whazir Khan, a recent graduate of CUC and Trinidadian by birth, saw the birth of the Mon Repos group after his crusade. Union Evangelist, Roseveltd Daniels has just completed a mammoth crusade in New Amsterdam, where 511 were baptized.

Mention must be made of Pastor Ashton O'Neil, lay activities director, who conducted three crusades during the triennium with resounding success.

We praise God for his marvelous power to bring men and women of every race to the foot of the cross. The gospel has not lost its power to win men. Oh, that we might experience its power to keep us from falling.

### **THE NEW OFFICE BUILDING**

Immediately after the last session, we proceeded to dismantle the old office building which no one wanted to purchase. Construction of the

new building, estimated at approximately G\$20,000,000 at that time started in September, 1993. We were unsuccessful in securing a loan at affordable interest, but we were not daunted. With no savings in hand, no loans available, we decided we would go forward by faith. In my pastoral experiences, I had seen God do miracles in church constructions at Alness, at Bara Cara and at Shiloh to name a few.

And He is still the same God. Today, as we gather here for the 19<sup>th</sup> Triennial Session, the evidence of our faith and God's miracle are open to your view. You have seen how far we are gone. We owe no one anything on the building. The Lord started it, He will finish it.

### **WORKERS' HOUSING**

A very significant challenge that faced us in this triennium was the cost of housing our workers in this conference but more particularly in Georgetown. We saw rentals moving from G\$25,000 per month for a three-bedroom house to G\$50,000 and a number of persons renting only for US currency. We were never able to rent beyond G\$11,000 and to this day we have only one house, renting at G\$13,000 the highest in the conference. Most of our workers were encouraged to rent houses outside the city. We paid a little more in transportation cost but it was less stressful on the budget.

During the triennium the Lord blessed us with the foresight and the ability to acquire several homes for housing workers:

1. Gudges' property at Airy Hall, Essequibo Coast, was purchased and now houses the pastor of Essequibo South: Approximately one million was spent in renovation works.
2. James Sydney's property at 11 Aubrey Barker Street was purchased for approximately seven million. Payments are still being made on this property. Some repairs are being carried out at this time.
3. The Marian Holder property also on Aubrey Barker Street is to be transferred to the conference shortly. This property is being purchased

for US\$25,000. When renovation works are carried out, it will house another pastor.

4. In November of last year, we purchased a house in Berbice River costing G\$600,000. It is a new two-bedroom building, a gift really. It has been recently taken down and moved to a plot of land belonging to the church at DeVeldt. This building will adequately house future pastors in the Bebice River. In the past, it was always a problem to house pastors in that district.
5. The property next to the BV church purchased by the last administration was restructured to accommodate two families. Except for external painting, the works are now completed. We spent approximately G\$1,000,000 on this project.
6. Another property was purchased at Lusignan to house the new believers from the Global Mission Project. The Lusignan property cost G\$3,000,000. Payments are still being made on the property. In addition to these purchases maintenance works were carried out on the Bartica, Anna Regina, Wismar and Campbellville properties.

## **INGATHERING**

Pastor Ashton O'Neil, our lay activities director will present the figures year by year, showing the progressive increase in the ingathering program. Guyana is unique in its ingathering achievements. God comes down and does miracles here in the Guyana conference. I have seen, boys and girls and other members on field day, and the results is always the same, the goal reached and past on every occasion. It is the only program that gets approximately 50% or more membership participation. When the members of the church get up and work, God will recognize the fact with an outpouring of His Spirit. That is Spirit of Prophecy. I guarantee that if we were to see the same participation in evangelism, we will see greater miracles. We salute all our youths and older members for these outstanding achievements. We pay special tribute to our champion ingatherer, Brother Patrick Caleb of Belmonte.



## **PERSONNEL – TRAINING**

The secretary of the conference will present the facts and figures of personnel growth in the conference. Our work force has remained relatively stable throughout the triennium. We lost a few pastors and gained a few young workers from CUC but we've had to employ several outstanding lay leaders, and give them pastoral responsibilities to meet the needs of our conference. This may be the way to go in the future. Ministerial graduates are becoming fewer and most of our experienced pastors have left. We have augmented our ministerial workforce with the employment of several Bible workers – these are outstanding lay people who demonstrated unusual ability in soul-winning. In the office, our staff turnover has been very rapid. We have only two graduate secretaries, the others are locally trained but they have done outstanding work.

Brother Chairman, during the triennium, we have sought to equip our staff with information relevant to their functions. Every yearend, we have brought at least two lecturers from overseas. In 1993, Pastor Errol Liverpool worked with counselling and Dr. Leslie Pollard of Andrews University with theology. In 1994, Dr. Norman Miles and Dr. Leon Wislon teamed up in theology and family life, and in 1995 Dr. Roy McGarrell and I teamed up in theology and family life. It must be stated here that all these overseas lecturers were also involved in a weekend of training for church elders. Since 1991, we began lay training at yearend. Pastor Harold Lee, was with us both in 1991 and 1992. In 1993, we served the Berbice constituency. In 1994, the Linden constituency and 1995, the Essequibo constituency was served by Dr. Eugene Daniel and I. Mention must be made of Pastor St. Clair Phipps of Allegheny East, who substituted for Pastor Dick Barron in December 1994, and spent the greater part of one week working with our pastors in the day and conducting revival meetings in the night for the Georgetown constituency.

In December, 1994, we were also recipients of a program sponsored by the ministerial department of the union that benefited our ministerial families. At that time, Dr. Walter Douglas was in attendance.

Words of commendation must be sent to Dr. Harold Lee. In addition to his two yearend visits, he helped us to computerize our offices with very reasonably priced computers and related components. Almost all our departments are now computerized. To this day, he continues to send literature and other items for our workers.

### **PERSONNEL – BENEFITS**

The workers of this conference have been the recipients of a number of benefits that augmented their salaries and allowances. Those who have done outstanding work in their districts have had incentives of one kind or other. All workers have benefited from US gifts in cash and kind. These have come from Washington and other places. For several years, the Northboro SDA Church, under the pastoral leadership of Pastor Ives Roberts, a friend from college days, has continued to send cash on a monthly basis and this is being distributed to the workers both in the office and the field.

The Caribbean union is sponsoring-- two of the four MA students each summer. Two pastors – Ashton Alleyne and Philip Bowman, have completed their programs. Three others are now on. These students go to school every summer, and are kept on payroll. They are not asked to contribute to the cost of their education. The cost is fully borne by the organisation. Two workers, the conference treasurer and the assistant treasurer are working on their MBA degrees fully sponsored by the conference.

In addition, the union joined with the conference to work out a vacation package for ministers in which the minister and his family can have an overseas vacation, once in a four-year period. Families received US\$1,000 and single workers received US\$250.

More recently, the Inter-American division approved a proposal from the conference to set up a revolving fund of G\$1,000,000 for the purchase of fridge and stove for new ministerial workers. Already, about ten workers have benefited, each receiving a maximum of G\$100,000 for the purchase of the two items.

Former Business Manager of CUC, Mr. Neville Ottley, a regular donor of tithes and offerings to our conference, has spent one thousand dollars in US currency to purchase books for workers in this conference recently. How can we say thanks to all these thoughtful and generous people!

### **INCOME: LOCAL AND OVERSEAS**

The income of this conference is another area of God's spacial divine intervention. In spite of the difficult economic circumstances our people have generally been very faithful. Over the period under review local income has increased significantly. The treasurer will present the figures but permit me to share these statistics:

	<b>Local</b>	<b>Overseas</b>
1993	29,599,523.23	12,167,683.77
1994	35,215,657.72	13,258,641.02
1995	42,429,040.70	20,820,247.22

Overseas income has increased significantly also. The treasurer will show you that approximately 40% of our budget has been funded by overseas Guyanese and friends who regularly send their tithe and offerings to support the work here. Most of these are in North America, but there are others in England, Holland and here in the Caribbean. But permit me to thank, without, mentioning names, several persons in California, some of them medical doctors and others, who conscientiously support this conference. May God bless these faithful soldiers. It can easily be said that our financial base overseas is in California.

During the last year and a half, a faithful son of the soil, Pastor Allan Johnson, has been making contact with Guyanese in the US. As a result, thousands of dollars have flown to our treasury. In addition, we have benefited significantly from the Guyana Day program in New York. That program sponsored by GAME has helped to keep Guyanese together in New York and has resulted in thousand of dollars to our treasury every year. The Guyanese organisation in Toronto has not sent much money but its gifts have come in kind. Pastors Errol Liverpool and Godfrey

Beresford have marshalled the forces in Toronto and we have been blessed accordingly. Guymetro in Washington and the Lindeners Reunion have been a tremendous benefit to our Conference too. Guymetro directs its assistance to Davis Memorial Hospital. But the Lindeners Reunion has sent Bibles and felt for all churches in Linden and some for other churches; and sponsored a student at CUC, among other things, all for the benefit of the work here.

A number of US residents have sent personal gifts for the office building and the Senior Citizens' home. It is still a struggle to get the foundations laid. Thanks for the hard work of Brothers Layne and Beck.

## **DEPARTMENTS**

A word of commendation must be said about the men and women who serve as directors of the departments. The departments have impacted positively on the constituency. The lay activities department under the dynamic leadership of Pastor Ashton O'Neil has done exceptionally well in evangelism and welfare services. Ashton is an indefatigable worker. The sabbath school, communication and education departments under the leadership of Sister Margaret Ramsarran, assisted by Sister Ann Bryan in children's sabbath school, have the best record for training and membership participation. Sabbath school has the best reporting records in the entire union. The youth department, under the leadership of Pastors Ashton Alleyne and Allan Chichester has conducted more camporees and congressorees than ever before. Hats off to Elder C. J. Quashie for bringing the publishing department back to life. Beginning with five colporteurs on the job. He will be assisted by Brother John Azeez who should be here shortly. The Audit department has helped to keep the funds flowing into the treasury. They have touched almost all districts. Congrats to Oliver Beck and his team. The health department has come alive with Pastor Alexander Isaacs. He was sponsored by the conference for a three-month health program in California late last year and that has equipped him further to serve the health needs of the Conference. Thanks to Pacific Health Education Centre for taking care of his tuition and boarding and making it possible for him to attend that course. The Marnatha Press, under

the leadership of Sister Janice Mingo, has served the constituency very well. She will present a report that will show what is happening with quarterly sales. It is a revealing report. We now have a new ADRA director who has recently taken up where Brother Campbell left off. We welcome him to this challenging conference.

### **RADIO AND TV PROGRAMS**

The Breath of Life telecast with Pastor C. D. Brooks is catching on across the nation. The program comes via satellite on Channel 13. It is also viewed in Bartica by a special arrangement in that town. It is viewed at Linden and Kwakwani. We say thanks to Sister Elva Blakeney in New York who has been soliciting financial support to keep the program going.

The radio program has changed speakers. Since the departure of Pastor Keith Drakes from our conference, Pastor Easton Marks volunteered to be radio speaker. He has just left. Both he and Pastor Drakes were outstanding in their presentations. We thank them and their narrator, Pastor Allan Chichester, and technician Calvin Dover.

### **CONVENTIONS, ADMINISTRATIVE VISITS AND CHURCH DEDICATION**

The conference administration has maintained contact with the constituency by yearly conventions. We have been tremendously encouraged by the overwhelming attendance at these conventions. We were able to share our perspectives and promote conference programs with the constituency to the benefit of all. During the triennium, Brother Chariman, we visited the Upper Mazaruni annually, and even conducted a special training program for the Adventist teachers from the entire district. Elder Eugene Forde, Dr. Vernon Andrews and Brother Wilston Anderson were lecturers. We were able to visit all our interior districts this triennium. We have gone to North West, Rupununi North and South, Bartica, Orealla and Siparuta on the Corentyne River, and the Berbice River.

Several churches were dedicated in this triennium in recent months; one is Paruima. We were happy for the presence of the union secretary and the treasurer among others who joined us on April 28 when we flew

to Paruima by special charter to dedicate that church, where over 600 persons from all of Upper Mazaruni were in attendance. The Ann's Grove church was rededicated on May 4 in a twin ceremony – dedication and fiftieth anniversary. On May 5, Perseverance was dedicated in a beautiful ceremony. Lighttown, Bethany, No. 51 and Moriah will follow soon.

### **CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENT FUND AND CONFERENCE REVOLVING FUND**

The conference development fund was born out of the 60-20-20 giving guide. This is a program sent from God. The program started in April, 1995. Over G\$1,000,000, flowed into the treasury. In February, a special committee comprising pastors and lay people met and made disbursements to assist churches that were nearing completion. The following churches requested assistance and were given help:

New Life	200,000.00
Moriah	180,000.00
Perseverance	175,000.00
Bethany	150,000.00
Buxton	150,000.00
Lighttown	90,000.00
Cumberland	85,000.00
Paruima	75,000.00
Sophia	75,000.00
No. 51	71,675.00
Lovelilass	60,000.00

The next disbursement will be in June.

The revolving fund idea was borrowed from the Grenada Mission: Thanks to Pastor Punch for lending ideas and materials. Today, the fund has approximately G\$1,000,000, having begun in February. Members and churches and the conference took their money off the bank and put into the fund. Loans will be made to churches for church building purposes at a lower interest rate than from the bank and those who deposit monies will still earn interest not lower than that given by the bank. They will have the

satisfaction that their money is being used to help the cause of God while they continue to receive their interest.

Brother chairman, when we ended the last triennium, three recommendations were voted and submitted to the new administration as coming from the plans committee. They are as follows:

- (a) To set up a program for East Indian Evangelism
- (b) To have a music ministry in the Youth department
- (c) To have an Associate Youth Director because of work load.

I wish to state that in each case these recommendations were implemented.

Time and space will not permit me to say much about the Bootooba centenary and the Golden Grove 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but we must salute Bootooba and Golden Grove for the sterling contribution these churches have made toward the progress of the work of the conference over 100 years and 50 years, respectively.

### **IN PROSPECT**

Brother Chairman, I must conclude this report by pointing out that the new administration will have to give close attention to the critical need of pastoral leadership. Unless close attention is paid to a certain quality of shepherding, our membership will suffer serious loss. I feel strongly that pastoral leadership may have to be recruited from outstanding lay leaders.

I trust that the new office building will be completed before long. That the momentum of evangelism will not be impacted and that a more aggressive work will be done for the East Indians, Amerindian villages in the interior and for people in the higher echelon of society.

### **GRATITUDE**

I would like to thank God firstly for putting me in the ministry and for the great confidence He has reposed in me to trust me with the leadership of

this conference, these six and one-half years. I thank the people of this constituency, young and old, the sisters, brothers, the mothers of Israel and the fathers too for having nurtured me these 28 years of my ministry and for providing me the opportunity to lead the force of this conference. As a prophet in his own country, I have been honoured by you beyond my expectations. I love you and bless you a thousand times over.

To the men and women with whom I have had to work closely: the other administrators – Winston James and Iver Keizer, I say a big Thank You. Ivor, you have been particularly insightful. Our hardworking directors and the supportive office staff, thank you. To my very understanding, pleasant and encouraging secretary, a big Thank You. To my first born, Pretha, who has substituted at times for my secretary and has had a ministry of her own, augmenting mine, a great big Thank You. To the very supportive footmen – the pastors, Bible workers and others, I salute you. We did it together. We killed the bear. To my colleagues in sister conferences, thank You for your very meaningful support. I would be remiss if I didn't say that your thoughtfulness and your concern had kept us on the road. To our union administrators and departmental directors – I thank you for counsel and encouraging support in financial and other ways. Your support for our building project, education and vacation package and your presence in this conference from time to time have given us the feeling that you care.

To our Guyanese brethren overseas and friends of Guyanese, Northboro and others who have kept us going on with financial support, we say God bless a thousand times over. To our workers at Davis Memorial Hospital, administrators – Esther Quashie and Michael Kendall, Dr. Oswaldo Lara and others with whom we have shared many pleasant moments in the task of making Davis a Christ-centered health care institution, we express our deep gratitude. Finally, to my wife and our children who were willing to give up personal ambitions and friends in the lovely island of Barbados to return here and who have endured so many inconveniences including my frequent absences from home and my long hours tending to conference matters – I say thanks for your love and your support. The time has come when family needs must receive due attention.



In a couple of months we will say goodbye but our hearts will be united by the love we have shared together. A great part of ourselves would be left here and you will always be on our hearts. Maranatha!.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Lindon Gudge

March 31 – April 3, 1999

Mr Chairman, delegates, special guests, brothers and sisters. I greet you, in Jesus's name.

The period under review has been extremely rewarding and challenging. It demonstrated that the God of heaven loves us passionately with an everlasting love. We thank Him for making us the object of His supreme regard.

Understanding that the development and progress experienced are the results of specific factors, sincerest recognition must be made of them. God must be given first place for His sustaining power, leadership and watchcare. "The government is upon His shoulders" and we simply followed His leading.

Second, we thank god for the faithful saints. Their prayers and counsel have made the burdens a little lighter. To know that the saints are praying for you is most reassuring.

Third, our team of workers :fellow administrators, directors, pastors, Bible workers, office workers, literature evangelists and others, propelled by love and sacrifice, gave of their best (with few exceptions) to carry out their responsibilities. Brethren, our workers are worthy of your prayers and encouragement, these should be given where they are due.

Fourth, the Executive Committee, for their informed counsel and guidance, we cherished their inputs and the insightful discussion during this period. Regrettably, Sister Maureen Dryden, a committee member, passed on while in active service. We look forward to seeing her again in the near future. She was a very perceptive person.

Fifth, the members and leaders of the church, who have given of their time and resources to ensure that the Lord's work moves on.

Not only do we have very capable and talented members but also we have the best anywhere. We salute our members, officers and crusaders for their sacrificial labours.

### **CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENT**

The new office building is nearing completion and we hope you use it proudly and with care. Thanks for the support of all who assisted. Special recognition however, goes out to the contractors Eustace Saul and Grafton Layne.

Our office has a new complement of computers while plans are in the final stage for satellite downlinking at Headquarters in Queenstown.

During this period, the development fund was very active. Fifty-seven churches accessed funds from this source in excess of G\$9 million. The down side is that some of our churches are still not fully on the program.

The revolving fund for "personal effects" continued and most of our workers have benefited therefrom. We have also been able to establish a Vehicle Revolving Fund and workers have begun to use the facility.

## **WORKERS**

During the triennium, a number of workers left, came, resigned or completed graduate programs.

Leaving us were Hilton Garnett, Alexander Isaacs, Jason Thomas, Allan Chichester, Whazir Khan, Ashton O'Neil, Colin Bacchus, David Nelson, Anne Khan, Felicia Azeez, Oliver Beck, Pretha Garnett and Rudolph Williams. Three pastors joined us. They are: Eon George, Exton Clarke and Malcolm La Fleur. Gwendolyn Brown and Pamela Mentore were added to the office staff. While we express thanks to those who left, we wish our newcomers God's richest blessings.

Congratulations to workers who completed graduate programs. Pastor Ashton O'Neil and Charles Gittens in Religion and Sister Ruby Alleyne in Business Administration.

Fortunately, during the period, we lost no worker by death and we praise God for His care.

## **CHURCHES ESTABLISHED/DEDICATED**

An Adventist presence is now established in Zeelugt (West Coast Demerara); Arau (Upper Mazaruni River), Lemuel (Upper Demerara); Moblissa, (Linden Highway); No. 27 (Demerara River) and Fyrish No. 1 Road (Corentyne)

Church buildings were dedicated at Bethany, Ann's Grove, Bartica, Kimbia, Clifton (Tain), Aishalton, Cumberland, Moriah, Paruima and Perseverance.

## **FINANCE**

The financial system of the Guyana conference has become more relevant in terms of decision making. Commendations are in place for the treasurer and her staff.

Our vow to place God first in our financial operation has produced blessings. We were able to pay our debts, almost complete the office building, increase salaries and pay cash for all our transactions. We used what was ours to purchase or stayed without.

Regrettably, many church treasurers' reports were not on time and in some cases not remitted. These are situations that are counter-productive and cannot continue. Each delegate is kindly asked to ensure that remittances to the conference are taken care of promptly by their church treasurer and local funds are properly recorded and banked regularly.

Special thanks to our brethren from overseas for their constant support by allowing us to benefit from their tithes and offerings. We also must thank the union administration for assisting us by word and deed. To the division, we simply say thanks.

### **DEPARTMENTS**

Brother Chairman, the Directors of our Conference have performed most creditably and we salute them for the jobs well done. Keep moving on progressively!

The women's and children's ministries have hit the "ground running". Director Margaret Ramsarran and her team have made "Action" the action word of women and children across this conference.

Our youth director will report on the activities of the youth of this great country. Camps and rallies, training programs, congresses, days of sports and other activities formed the basis for the youth program. Director Ashton Alleyne and his corps of self-sacrificing assistants need special recognition.

Family life came into its own during the triennium. Hats off to Director Ivor Keizer and his band of "never stop working" leaders. Special mention must be made of Sister Beverly Chan. Thanks very much.

Brother Winston James in stewardship and education will share with us the blessings of being faithful. He will also let us in on the school operated in Upper Mazaruni and plans for further educational development. We hereby register sincerest thanks to the thousands of faithful members in the conference for their unflinching support. Thanks also for the assistance of Brother David Gates and his organization to the development program here.

“Go Guyana!” “Operation Tidal Wave” and “Operation Love Punch” are just a few of the slogans of the lay activities/sabbath school department under the dynamic directorship of Pastor Kirk Thomas. Lay action is the real action and when combined with clergy action, it moves one level higher. We must pay special tribute to our warriors in the trenches, digging-in for Jesus. The lay federations with the umbrella organization - National Lay Preachers Federation is a commendable strategy. The inclusion of a “youth arm” to the community services department is improving the possibilities in this ministry. Ingathering continues to fascinate the entire union. Let us keep it that way. The first place trophy must remain in Guyana. Congrats Saints! The “Nice to be Nice” prayer action must be commended.

The Guyana conference is really incomplete without Veteran C.J. Quashie and the publishing ministry. He will report on the happenings in this ministry. Success is attending the department and thanks to Elder C.J. Quashie for being here with us. We really appreciate his labours. Thanks also to his dear wife for her contributions.

The audit department has come alive during this period. Brother Lake will report on the increase in churches audited and of the challenges faced in performing his duties. Sister Anderson and Brother Lake manned this department very ably.

In the communication and health departments, there was action. However, this was slowed somewhat with the departure of Director Isaacs. Thanks for the local health personnel and communication secretaries for their involvement.

The secretariat will report on the statistical data in the conference. There was improvement here and the growth shown is a direct result of the hard work of our lay people and workers. Thanks to you all and to Pastor Keizer and his assistants for keeping the records.

## **MINISTERIAL**

Our complement of workers in this conference has demonstrated times over that, in spite of adverse circumstances, success results from faithful commitment. We appreciate the work done by these workers and their families.

During this period, we had a vibrant Ministerial Council. At present, the members are Ivor Keizer, Philip Bowman, Cleophas Quashie, Charles Gittens and Lindon Gudge. This council assisted in the process of evaluation of workers, recommendation to committee on status of workers, recommendation for ordination, among others.

The above council took its responsibilities seriously and we thank them for the many long hours of work they put in.

## **EVALUATION:**

In 1996, annual evaluation became a part of the ministerial workers schedule. Each worker is evaluated by members of selected congregations, a colleague and himself. While we have never completed all ministerial workers, those evaluated by the council were appreciative of the process. There is clear evidence that this area needs to be continued. There are seven areas of concentration:

- (1) Evangelism – Church Growth
- (2) Pastoral Care and Nurture
- (3) Preaching and Worship
- (4) Church Management
- (5) Personal Growth
- (6) Personal Relationships
- (7) Professional Development

It must be noted that the newness of the exercise has led to members being cautious in their responses. Be that as it may, thanks to all who participated. Brethren, this will help your leaders to serve you better, please respond.

**TRAINING:**

During this period, in conjunction with the Family Life Department, Ministerial Workers were exposed to the following seminars:

- Marriage Commitment with Nancy Van Pelt
- Grief Recovery/Childhood Trauma with Alphod Sinclair and Brian Richardson.

In addition, the following areas were covered during our workers' meetings:

In 1996, Dr Eugene Daniel looked at –

- The Pastor and His Family
- The Pastor and Finances
- The Pastor and His Relationships
- The Pastor and His Colleagues

In 1997, Dr Eugene Daniel and Pastor Horatius Gittens covered the following areas:

- Professionalism in Ministry
- Bible Foundations for Ministry
- Ideals and Responsibilities in Ministry
- Pitfalls in Ministry
- Service in Ministry
- Coping with Heights and Depths of Ministry
- People Friendly Ministry
- Finances for and In Ministry
- The Family in Successful Ministry

In 1998, the following training activities were also covered:

Alphod Sinclair and Brian Richardson –

- Grief Recovery and
- Surviving Childhood Trauma.



Dr Eugene Daniel, Roland Thomson and Everette Howell lectured on - -

- Ministerial Ethics
- Interpreting Financial Statements
- Family Finance

During our year-end meetings in 1998, each director and the auditor spent time discussing the Basics of Pastoral Ministry, including Pastoral Visitation, Sermon Preparation and Delivery, Departmental Reporting, Understanding the Auditor's Report, Publishing Ministry, et cetera.

These sessions were informative and the blessings were abundant. Our appreciation to all the facilitators and participants.

The classification of ministerial workers is as follows:

<b>Ministerial Workers</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
Ordained Ministers	14	14	12
Licensed Ministers	15	13	13
Bible Workers	10	10	10

The ratio of pastor to membership for 1996 was **1:1652**; in 1997 – **1:1915** and in 1998 – **1:2286**. The work-load is heavy as indicated by these figures, however, in actual terms of active members, the picture could be far different. Again the hard work of our pastors and workers is cherished.

In the period under review, there was one Ministerial Retreat at Long Creek, under the sponsorship of the Ministerial Association.

The Ministerial Association was in operation, however, the prayer is that this association could move to a higher level of progress.

Training for Elders was not adequately done as was planned from this department. In spite of the constraints, I was still able to do some work in two districts – Bartica and Berbice River. We wish to congratulate the pastors and districts that had elders’ retreats and training for their leaders.

Elders Digest was distributed when available. A more structured delivery system must be worked out.

Brethren, as we approach the future, we must do more on the improvement of the service we offer. Please know you could help in this process.

### **CONCERNS**

Brother Chairman, we praise God for the many successes experienced and for the lessons learned from the failures. There are, however, reasons to be concerned:

- (a) Drop in the study of the Word.
- (b) Lack of total commitment to the cause.
- (c) Learned “Dependence Syndrome”
- (d) Disregard for Biblical guidelines in relationships, especially with regard to real or perceived wrong doings.
- (e) Brain Drain
- (f) Reduction in the “Team spirit” concept.

### **PROSPECT**

Delegates, the future of this conference is in the sure hands of God. In spite of that, He still asks frail finite human beings to share in the experience of guiding the church. How our incoming leaders will accept and pray for God’s leading in this conference, will determine the progress made.

We cannot continue to countenance low levels of efficiency. We must disdain laziness. We have to improve on relationship skills. We need to project a more “Pro Active” stance. Ladies and gentlemen, this church is people. On the whole we all need to be more “people friendly” under the guidance of God.

## **GRATITUDE**

Brother Chairman, the expression of praise and thanks is Biblical. Let us all therefore acknowledge the goodness of God in this conference and in our individual lives – “without Him, we could do nothing.” Thank you Jesus, for the opportunity to serve and for your guidance and care for the challenge and for sustenance. Thank You.

In a very special way thanks to Secretary Ivor Keizer and Treasurer Margaret Ramsarran – for sticking it out with me these few months. The team stayed together in thick and thin. I will always cherish the guidance and experience we shared.

Thanks to the directors and the entire office staff for your work and for the dedication you showed. What has God wrought through you?

To our pastors and Bible workers who do the legwork and are in the frontline, special thanks for your sacrifice and hard work. To your families, thanks a million.

I most sincerely thank the Guyana constituency for affording me the privilege of service at this level; and the prayers, calls, letters, cards, speeches, e-mail, fax messages and other expressions of encouragement and counsel were greatly appreciated.

To my colleagues from sister fields, thank you for teaching, counselling and guiding me in this task. To our union administrators and directors, you have been most supportive and kind in dealing with this conference.

The administrators and workers of Davis Memorial Hospital need to know how much we appreciate the service and inputs. Thanks to Brother Kendall and fellow workers.

It is a great feeling to work with a secretary who is not only competent, efficient, organized and focused but also knows how to make you look good. Cecile, thanks for accepting the challenge of working with me and doing a fantastic job. I appreciate your service. Thanks a lot.

To Clydavern, my supportive, understanding wife, thanks for being there and helping me through the struggles of these times. To Laurence and Lincoln, thanks for being the great boys you are, but more so for making me feel too guilty for the time I could not spend with you.

Delegates, brothers and sisters, thank you all and may the instructions of God be followed by all in this session.



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Philip Bowman

April 16 - 19, 2003

Brother Chairman, representatives from the Inter-American division, Caribbean union, West Indies union, sister fields and institutions, representatives from Guyanese organisations in New York, Washington & Toronto, special guests from overseas, delegates from within the Guyana constituency, other guests, ladies and gentlemen:

We started the quadrennium under review with our eyes rivited on our captain, Jesus, and a strong determination to accept the challenges of the Herculean task that confronted us.

Here are some of the challenges:

1. The completion of the new office building
2. Ordination of minisrters who had served for seven years
3. The erection of church buildings that will bring glory to God's name.
4. Workers' homes
5. Education assistance for workers on the MPM program and family life programs

6. Making our district pastors mobile
7. Establishment of Seventh-day Adventist schools
8. The Senior Citizens' Home

Some Achievements:

<b>Projects</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Evangelism	2,700	2,405	2,478	2,503
Ingathering (G\$)	7,206,845	10,000,000	8,112,000	10,000,000
Church Dedication	3	5	1	12

## **EVANGELISM**

The church is ordained of God to be an ever-flowing stream of life-giving evangelism. This dynamic evangelistic stream is to be a source of redemptive power to envelope the whole world and prepare a people for the kingdom of God. Every facet of the Adventist Church is to be recognized as a living, dynamic instrument of evangelism.

It is possible to become so involved in the administration of a church, promoting a program, raising a budget, evangelizing and organizing committees that we forget the purpose of the church. Regardless of what else a church may be doing, it is not winning souls to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, it has failed. No matter what specific area of church work we may be engaged in, or what our own particular talents may be, we can carry out mission as a church only if individual workers put first things first in our work and that means putting the emphasis on evangelism in everything we do in the cause of God.

The Guyana Conference has always been a “pace setter” in evangelism over the years. Over the past quadrennium our baptisms totalled 10,086.

In 1999, we saw 2,700 souls baptized, in 2000 – 2,405; In 2001 – 2,478 and in 2002 – 2,503 souls followed Christ in this sacred rite.

Our objective embraced a multi-dimensional evangelistic advance and we are happy to know that these baptisms came from five sources:

- Guest Evangelism
- Pastoral Evangelism
- Lay Evangelism
- Amerindian Evangelism
- East Indian Evangelism

Two evangelistic highlights of the period were: the Maranatha Crusade with Roosevelt Daniels. This was Guyana's largest single crusade. Then we had the Signs of the Times Crusade with Antiguan born Lay Preacher – Eugene Benjamin. The Maranatha Crusade yielded 1,120 souls. That was the largest number of souls baptized in a single programme. Eugene Benjamin was used by God to bring 236 souls to the foot of the cross.

In addition to these exploits, our front line generals were not asleep on the battlefield. Most of them donned their evangelistic armour and attempted great exploits for God.

Consequently, Brother Chairman, during the period under review we witnessed, emerging from this warfare, pastors who scored fifty, some century, while others scored double century. These are:

- Stanton Adams
- Exton Clarke
- Eon George (no longer with this conference)
- Dennis Hamilton
- Enoch Hamilton
- Casey Hastings
- Hubert Jack
- Winston James
- Clement Henry (on study leave)
- Malcolm LaFleur
- Elton Lindie
- David McKenzie
- Preston Patterson

The laity, whose commitment is second to none in the Caribbean union made a significant contribution to the evangelistic onslaught in the Guyana conference. The Personal Ministries Director will give details in his report.

### **CHURCH DEDICATIONS**

The church, THE PLACE WHERE WE WORSHIP God, must look better than my house. This has always been my philosophy when in regular pastoral duties. Some of our church homes in this Conference were apologies and a dishonour to the message we teach.

The scene has now shifted from some old rundown buildings to beautiful edifices that will glorify God's name.

Guyana conference is the place where dreams come true. With the implementation of the Conference Development Plan, we have seen God at work in a miraculous way in church construction. Brother Chairman, fellow delegates, look what God hath wrought.

In 1999, three churches were dedicated; in 2000, five church dedications occurred. In 2001, due to circumstances beyond our control, only one more church was added to the list. However, the year 2002 emerged as one of the best years in the history of the Guyana Conference in terms of church dedications: Twelve churches were dedicated to the glory and honour of God. Pastor Hubert Jack will give details on the names and locations of these churches.

### **RECENT AND UPCOMING DEDICATIONS:**

Olivet, the "Marvelous Church" was dedicated just a month ago (March 16, 2003). We thank God for taking away reproach from us, in that, He has permitted us to realize such a beautiful structure.

Brother Chairman, there are still eight churches to be dedicated. These churches received strong financial support from the Conference Development Fund. There are:



- Adelphi - Berbice No. 1 District
- Agricola - East Bank Demerara
- Eversham - Corentyne East
- Stanleytown - Demerara/Essequibo
- Three Miles - Essequibo No. 2
- Orealla - Corentyne East
- Parapie - Berbice River
- Rosehall - Corentyne (re-dedication)

We thank God for giving us beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

### **NEW OFFICE BUILDING**

Brother Chairman, as I present this report tonight, I do so with a deep sense of gratitude to Pastor Hilton Garnett for his keen vision, foresight and faith in Jah who holds the world's assets in His hands.

Construction of the new office building started in September, 1993. With no savings in hand, no loans available, it was decided by the administrative team at that time, to move forward in faith.

Under the leadership of Pastor Lindon Gudge, the work on the building advanced many steps further. Immediately after Session in 1999, the administrators agreed that the time had come for this project to be completed. By mid-September of the said year, we occupied the first floor of that building and continued work on the ground floor.

During the years 2000 and 2002, we worked assiduously to make the dream come true. We are happy to report this evening that this new office building is completed and was dedicated this morning.

The edifice is second to none in the Caribbean union. This "state of the art" building will not give you a "state of your heart" when you enter. This beautiful building is debt free.

Indeed, we can say with the Apostle: “Paul sowed, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.”

### **VISIT FROM GENERAL CONFERENCE PERSONNEL**

During the period under review, we were greatly honoured to welcome to our shores two distinguished visitors from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists: Dr Phillip Follet, general conference vice-president responsible for communication, paid a historic visit during March 15 – 19, 2000 to the only English-speaking South American republic.

The following year, Pastor Jan Paulsen, president of the general conference, visited Guyana thereby creating history as the first general conference president to visit this greenland of Guyana where the church is over 200 years in existance.

Accompanying Elder Paulsen were Pastor Israeli Leito – president, Inter-American division and Pastor Jansen Trotman – President , Caribbean union. Also in Guyana for this very special occasion were the field presidents of the Caribbean union.

What was very significant also was that four presidents, in ascending order stood side by side: President, Guyana Conference; President, Caribbean Union; President, Inter-American Division; President, General Conference.

These visits will long be remembered by all.

### **DEPARTMENTAL**

From schoolrooms to boardrooms, the word “teamwork” is becoming more and more important. Organisations of all types accomplish more when people work together. The challenge for each individual – each team member is to become the kind of person who can maximize his or her contribution and push the team forward to fulfill its mission.

The reports that will be presented, coming from the various departments of the conference vividly portray the operation of team-spirit during

the period under review: family life, women's and children's ministries, personal ministries, community services, sabbath school, youth ministries, publishing and ABC, stewardship, education, communication, Maranatha Press.

Their training programs, prayer conferences, lay rallies, camporees, youth camps, green weekends, Colporteur institutes, served to energized and mobilized the membership of the Guyana conference for aggressive warfare against the hosts of the devil.

### **CHURCH UNDER ATTACK**

During the period, the church in Guyana was constantly bombarded by its Sanballats and the Tobiahs as in the days of Nehemiah. They came in the form of off-shoots, dissident groups, disenchanted individuals, all of whom resorted to the strategies of Sanballat and Tobiah. These strategies varied in approach but the end product was always the same. The result is loss of confidence, loss of certainty in our mission, loss of doctrinal cohesion, loss of purpose, loss of organizational unity.

Nehemiah's formula for dealing with Sanballat and Tobiah is still most effective for the church today: I am carrying on a great project and I cannot go down – no distraction.

Please take note of the statement in Selected Messages, vol.2 p.14. "The danger that threatened our church is that new and strange things will be brought in, things that confuse the minds of the people and give them no strength at the very time when they most need strength in spiritual things. Clear discernment is needed that things new and strange shall not be laid alongside of truth as a part of the burden of the message to be given at the time."

The church was not distracted because we were confident that God's church is in His hands and He will bring His church through all kinds of weather and cause it to triumph gloriously.

Brother Chairman, in this volcanic age, surely we need a shelter and should enter into it. The only safe shelter is a mature spiritual experience supported by our complete surrender to the power of God, a cheerful obedience to His will, confidence in the triumph of the Remnant Church and a constant trust in God to keep us steady and unshaken by the trials that will come to everyone.

## **MINISTERIAL**

### **Pastoral Ordination:**

Most of the men God used to formulate His church would never be allowed into the ministry today. It is easily verified that God does not look at the externals as men would, rather, he looks into the innermost recesses of a man's heart. When He sees it in the man's heart, that he is willing to serve Him for no other purpose than to glorify Him, the Lord will take care of the rest. He will assume the responsibility for that man's fitness. He will mould, train and equip that man for the work of the ministry. The men God sent were men of clay, beset with the frailties of humanity but under God's tutelage, wise direction and enabling grace and power, they turned in a golden performance.

With these salient points in mind, it was imperative that we look carefully at the ministry with a view of setting apart men for the sacred work of the ministry. We were fully aware that some men had served for seven years and over who did not have a clue as regards to their future in ministry.

The call to serve as a Minister of Religion in the Guyana Conference is serious and demanding. On December 4, 1999, Pastors Elton Lindie and Kirk Thomas honoured that by being ordained.

About a year later, with much prayer, fasting and wrestling with the Angel of the Covenant, Pastor Eon George, Enoch Hamilton, Winston James, Hugh Mckenzie and Dennis Mingo were ordained to the Gospel Ministry.

Two years later, Pastor Exton Clarke was set apart for the work of the

ministry by a very impressive ceremony at Olivet Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“A man can have no greater honour than to be accepted by God as an able Minister of the Gospel.” Acts of the Apostle, p.328.

### **Becoming Mobile:**

For sometime now, we looked forward to making our ministers and workers mobile. It was very difficult to wait long hours on the road with your family for public transportation. However, in the period under review, 17 loans were made available for ministers and other workers to own their own cars.

### **Education:**

In order to encourage our ministers to stay in this challenging field, out of the abundance of our poverty we were able to finance fully, seven pastors (Stanton Adams, Alfred Joseph, Dennis Mingo, Hugh McKenzie and Kirk Thomas, Winston James and Fitzroy Sealey) with education assistance in the family life program at Andrews University.

### **Workers' Homes:**

The need for workers' houses were a priority in this conference. In the execution of their duties, workers should not only drive some of the best cars but live in houses that rightly represent the cause of Jesus Christ.

Of the 19 pastoral districts, 15 have homes for pastors. It is quite clear that the annual subsidies on houses we rent from others could buy us a comfortable house anywhere in Guyana.

### **Ministerial Training:**

The following ministerial/workers leadership seminar were conducted during the quadrennium:

Pastor Philip Follet, GC vice-president conducted a leadership seminar for pastors and administrators of this conference on March 17, 18, 2002.

Pastor and Mrs Trotman from the union together with Pastor Andrew

Farrell, union ministerial secretary, conducted a family life and leadership workshop in November, 2001. Ministerial workers, directors and office workers accompanied by their spouses benefited from these sessions.

A shepherdess retreat was held at the Mainstay Lake in Essequibo on August 1-5, 2002. This program was hosted by the conference ministerial association.

Dr Fitzroy Maitland and Dr Janice Maitland conducted a family life workshop at the Conference Annexe on December 18 , 19, 2002.

Brother Chairman, in 1999, I appealed to the chairman of the nominating committee to select someone apart from the president to be ministerial secretary. For want of a budget, that request could not have been granted. I did my best as per report. However, I trust that this time around someone will be assigned to carry this responsibility and to give full attention to the urgent needs and challenges of the ministry today.

### **WORKERS' BENEFITS**

Brother Chairman, fellow delegates, the welfare of the workers has consistently engaged our attention. How to make life more comfortable for each worker was a priority of the administration.

We have made a bold attempt to improve salary and allowances. Salary increased by 71% over the last reporting period.

Workers, across the board, continue to benefit from fridge and stove loans. Forty-one loans were disbursed during the quadrennium.

Workers continue to benefit from gifts that come from individuals and churches overseas. The Northboro S.D.A. Church in Massachusetts sends US \$100 every month. This is distributed to workers on a monthly basis.

We are truly grateful for Pastor Allan Johnson and Peter Dookie, who send thousands of US dollars to be distributed around the Christmas season.

## **PROJECTIONS**

Brother Chairman, fellow delegates, quite a lot was accomplished during the quadrennium. However, there are a number of things we would have liked to do but time did not permit. I would like to suggest the following activities that should receive attention in the new quadrennium:

Construction of the senior citizens' home in Durban Backlands.

The erection of a senior citizens' home in Hopetown, Berbice. (Funding will come from a Guyanese based in New York.)

Reconstruction of Goshen Campsite: a group from the Kettering College of Medical Arts (KCMA), under the influence of Pastor Lester Parkinson, visited Guyana in 2000 and planned to return in 2001 to commence refurbishing work on Goshen Campsite. Due to 9/11, they could not have commenced the first phase of this program. We hope that work will commence later this year.

A representative from Adventist World Aviation (AWA) presented a proposal to commence a project "Wings for Humanity" in Guyana. They also prepared a plan to rebuild the Guest House and to lease the ground floor to facilitate AWA operations.

National Association for the Prevention of Starvation (NAPS), led by Dr Anthony Paul from Oakwood College, has undertaken to rebuild the Lethem Church and to take the gospel to un-entered area in the Rupununi.

The construction of a Seventh-day Adventist school in or outside of Georgetown.

The development of Loo creek campsite.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion this evening, I recall the immortal words of Teddy Roosevelt: "It is not the critic who counts, or the man who points out how a strong

man stumbled, or where the doer of the deed could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who survives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows great enthusiasms, great devotions, who spends himself in a worthy cause; who for the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who at the worst, fails at last, if he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.”

We as Christians must respect and learn from God’s activity in the past but we must not worship the historic past. Like Esther, we are called to the kingdom to be stewards of our today and our tomorrow, to live our God’s will. (Esther 4:4)

As we look back in reflection and ahead, in anticipation to this new quadrennium, remember Herbert H. Humphrey’s evaluation of reflection and anticipation shortly before his demise: “There were never that good, believe me, the good new days are today and better days are coming tomorrow. Our greatest songs are still unsung.”

Let us be up and about our Father’s business for our redemption draweth nigh.

## **GRATITUDE**

Let me take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and deep appreciation to the people of this constituency for the great confidence they have reposed in me to trust me with the leadership of this conference for the past four years.

Mere words cannot adequately express my appreciation to the Caribbean Union for the pivotal role they played in the success story. Pastor Jansen Trotman, Dr Eugene Daniel, Brother Roland Thompson and Sister Nevlyn Fridle: I am deeply grateful to you.

To all the field presidents, I say thanks for the encouragement and support I received from time to time.



Thanks is particularly due to my administrative colleagues – Pastor Charles Gittens, Pastor Hubert Jack and Sister Margaret Ramsarran. You have laboured hard and long. It was very rough at first, however. The same God who made a way for the Israelites through the Red Sea, calmed the storm that was relentless in its fury.

To the departmental directors, I must hasten to say thanks for the tremendous support I received from you, even though at sometimes you could not understand.

The front Line Fenerals – Pastors and Bible Workers: Those who laboured specifically twentyfour/seven – thanks for making things happen in the conference. Only God can adequately repay you.

To the office and Maranatha Press staff, who in no small way made a significant contribution to the building up of God’s kingdom, thanks very much.

To the organizations in New York: GAME has been very supportive; The President, Brother Lincoln Earl is present here tonight. To GUYMETRO in Washington; to GUYCONOS – Pastor Allan Johnson is present here tonight; to GAMAT in Canada – Pastor Hilton Garnett is also here tonight: thanks a million times. Also special thanks to Brother Bill De Lapara, (London-based Guyanese), who continues to make significant contributions to the work in Guyana.

Thanks to NAPS (Guyana) – Dr Paul, Sister Ann Jeffrey and their team, who made a significant contribution to the work at Rupununi over time.

Credit must also be given to GAMAS for work done in the Upper Mazaruni district. Thanks to Brother Eustace Paul and Grafton Layne, who used their God-given skills to construct the New office complex, which was dedicated today.

To my efficient, intelligent, productive, trustworthy secretary, who has

served three presidents with distinction – I say thank you, Cecile, for your invaluable contribution.

To my dear wife, Claudette; our children Tonette and Troydon – you have been very supportive. Claudette, you were there for me, you never give up on me, you have been a tower of strength for me – thanks for being so sweet.

Brethren, I have given you my total dedication – you deserved it. I have doubtless made some mistakes in the execution of my office. Remember, I am human I was never a president, you made me one. I didn't do it my way, I tried to do it God's way. In serving you, I tried to please Him. Ultimately, we will have to account to Him.

And now, "How can I say thanks for all the things you have done for me  
Things so underserved, yet you gave to prove your love for me  
The voices of a million angels cannot express my gratitude  
All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee  
To God be the glory  
To God be the glory  
For the things He hath done  
With His blood He has cleansed me  
With His power He has raised me  
To God be the glory for the things He hath done

Just let me live my life, let it be pleasing Lord to Thee  
And should I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary  
With His blood He has cleansed me  
With His power He has raised me  
To God be the glory for the things He hath done."



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Philip Bowman

May 16 – 19, 2007

### **“Demonstrating Resilience in Critical Times”**

MR CHAIRMAN, DELEGATES from the Inter-American division, Caribbean Union, West Jamaica conference, local churches, honoured guests from sister fields, institutions, overseas-based Guyanese organizations, special invitees, visitors, I greet you on behalf of the over 50,000 members of the Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at this our second quadrennial session.

During the past four years, our dear land of Guyana was plagued with robberies, kidnappings, drive-by shootings, extra-judicial killings of alleged criminals and drug runnings. This appalling situation left a large percentage of our society paralyzed with fear and foreboding. However, in spite of storm clouds that hung precariously over the Republic during the period under review, God's people demonstrated resilience as was modeled by the men of Issachar in Bible times: “They had understanding of the times and knew what Israel ought to do.”



During the quadrennium, evangelism was one of our top priorities. As such, we were able to garner a total of **7,798** souls for our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The administrators, departmental directors, pastors and the laity combined their efforts in seeking to reach the lost for Christ. For three consecutive years (2004-2006), I left the office and held evangelistic campaigns at Eden SDA Church in New Amsterdam, Berbice; Waramadong and Paruima both in the Upper Mazaruni, Essequibo. As a result, these campaigns yielded 71, 93 and 120 souls, respectively. This is a first in the Guyana conference that Amerindians were baptized on such a large scale.

Pastor Hubert Jack, conference secretary conducted evangelistic campaigns at Vreed-en-Hoop, West Bank, Demerara; and Alness in the Corentyne East district. Those efforts yielded a total of 98 baptisms.

Departmental Crusades: Two crusades were held by Pastor Kirk Thomas, personal ministries and sabbath school director, in North West (Region 1) and Madhia (Region 8), which yielded a total of 147 baptisms. Pastor Alexander Isaacs, ADRA and health ministries director, held two crusades in Kitty and Sophia where a total of 85 souls were won for Christ. Pastor Ashton Alleyne, communication and community services director, teamed up with Bro Andre Williams and baptized 38 souls at a crusade held at Orion in West Coast Berbice. Pastor Exton Clarke, youth director won 94 souls to Christ in an effort at Soesdyke, East Bank Demerara last yearend. Bro Winston James, education and stewardship director held a crusade at Silver Hill, Upper Demerara, where 27 souls were snatched from the devil's camp.

During the quadrennium, most of our pastors and Bible workers battled in evangelistic efforts that resulted in baptisms totaling over half, one and double centuries. For their unswerving efforts they are enlisted on our evangelism honours roll as follows:

- ✧ Ashton Alleyne
- ✧ Onesi La Fleur
- ✧ Philip Bowman
- ✧ Lokenauth Sukhdeo
- ✧ Andrew Chichester
- ✧ Lester Pereira
- ✧ Ian Chichester
- ✧ Malcolm La Fleur
- ✧ Inez Fiedtkou
- ✧ Kirk Thomas
- ✧ Alexander Isaacs
- ✧ Bertie Toolsieram
- ✧ Hubert Jack
- ✧ Sherwin Whyte
- ✧ Avert James
- ✧ Andre Williams
- ✧ Winston James

**GUEST EVANGELISM:**

The Guyana conference was blessed with a number of visiting evangelists during the last quadrennium.

Evangelist	Year	Baptisms
Eugene Benjamin	June 2004	385
Gordon Martinborough	September 2004	325
Claudius Morgan	Feb-April 2006	1066
Fazaduddin Hosein	August 2006	125

The personal ministries director will share more on these campaigns in detail.

**EAST INDIAN EVANGELISM**

During the quadrennium the Guyana conference was blessed by witnessing baptisms of over 150 East Indian brothers and sisters in just two efforts. During the month of August, 2006, Dr Fazaduddin Hosein, chairman of the theology department at the University of the Southern Caribbean, Trinidad, working in collaboration with the Guyana conference and with financial assistance from Sister Elizabeth Gonsalves, conducted a theological field school at Montrose Village, East Coast Demerara (a predominantly East Indian community). The primary beneficiaries of that field school were final year theology students from University of Southern Caribbean. Classes were held in the day and an evangelistic campaign at nights. After four

weeks, 125 souls were baptized of which more than 90% were East Indians. This is the first time that such a large number of East Indians were baptized at any one time in the history of the Guyana conference. As a result, a new company has been established and plans are underway to erect a new church on a site already identified in the community.

Brother Lokenauth Sukhdeo from the Parika SDA Church, under the guidance of the Holy Ghost, baptized 28 souls after conducting a three-week campaign in August, 2006. That campaign was also held in a predominantly East Indian community. Again, about 90% of the converts were East Indians.

Through combined efforts of the clergy and laity and the leading of the Holy Spirit, the SDA membership in Guyana conference passed the 50,000 mark. To God be the glory! However, we must work assiduously to retain the gains of evangelism. It is important to note that a comprehensive conservation program is in place. This program includes: indoctrination, visitation of new converts, family life emphasis, health and temperance awareness, stewardship and education.

### **Dedication of Churches**

During the reporting quadrennium, the Guyana conference witnessed the dedication of six churches and re-dedication of one: In 2003, the Olivet Church in Durban Backlands, Georgetown; in 2004, the Parapie Church in Berbice River District. In 2005, we witnessed dedication of four more churches: Kamwatta and Port Kaituma in North West; Kopenaam in Region 8; and Phillipai in Upper Mazaruni. The Perseverance church was re-dedicated in 2006.

### **Large Districts**

We salute the faithful field marshals who have been giving strong leadership in large districts with eleven, thirteen or even sixteen churches; districts like Upper Mazaruni, Essequibo #1 North and South, Berbice #1, Upper Demerara East and West, Demerara-Berbice, Demerara-Essequibo, East Bank Demerara, and North West. More than a year ago, a committee was set up to facilitate the re-structuring of these districts to make them more

manageable. It will require man-power and finance to make this a reality. During the period under consideration, we were delighted to welcome ministerial workers to our ranks. Pastors Avert James, Onesie La Fleur, Sherwin Whyte, Noel Schultz, Kerwin Mitchell and Ryan St Hill came as ministerial graduates from the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC). Also joining the work force in December of 2006, was Pastor Bernell McPherson, a senior pastor who decided to return home from the United States of America to offer his services in the Guyana conference. Pastor Mc Pherson served in Guyana for many years before migrating to the USA. We were also happy to welcome some lay workers during the quadrennium:

They are:

- Andre Williams – lay pastor
- Andrew Chichester – Bible worker
- Lokenauth Sukhdeo – Bible worker

At the time of writing, Dr Hilton Garnett indicated his desire to return home in 2007. Dr Hilton Garnett served the Guyana conference for many years before leaving to serve in the Ontario conference. And from USC, Pastor Jamoul Sancho indicated his willingness to join the Guyana conference sometime in 2007.

In a small way, this will help to alleviate some of the problems we face in Guyana as regards to manning some of the large districts.

### **Ordination of Ministers**

On September 24, 2005, seven pastors including four lay pastors were ordained to the gospel ministry. The pastors ordained were Alexander Isaacs, David Mc Kenzie and Malcolm La Fleur. Those comprising the list of lay pastors are Ian Chichester, Casey Hastings, Lester Pereira and Flynn Rockcliffe. The service was conducted at the Olivet Seventh-day Adventist Church in Georgetown. Union President, Dr Eugene Daniel and Pastor Andrew Farrell, union family life and ministerial director, were among the seniors that officiated in the ceremony. This is the highest number of ministerial workers to be ordained in a single service in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist work in Guyana.



## **Marriage Officers**

For sometime now, we have been plagued with the problem of having a large constituency with few marriage officers. Due to this scarcity, the few officers were in demand all over the Republic. However, after frequent visits to the Ministry of Home Affairs, we now have seven new marriage officers.

Here are the names:

- Ian Chichester
- Exton Clarke
- Casey Hastings
- Alexander Isaacs
- Malcolm La Fleur
- Lester Pereira
- Flynn Rockcliffe

We are grateful to God for this breakthrough, which will significantly enhance the work in our conference.

## **Professional Development of Workers**

Three of our pastors – Hugh Mc Kenzie, Kirk Thomas and Dennis Mingo completed the Master of Arts in pastoral ministry at the University of the Southern Caribbean. Three other pastors are currently on the program: Exton Clarke, Elton Lindie and Enoch Hamilton.

Our lay pastors benefited from a series of training programs during the summer months.

Three of our office workers completed degree and diploma programs at the University of Guyana during the quadrennium: Cecile Lake – Post Graduate Diploma; Martha Roberts – Degree, and Ansel Hawker – Diploma.

## **The Departments**

The departmental directors and fellow administrators will give a detailed account of what was accomplished during the period under review. They will highlight the following:

- i. The flood response in Guyana
- ii. ADRA's Role
- iii. Our response to Hurricane Ivan in Grenada
- iv. Christian education in Guyana / U.S.C. Extension Campus
- v. Education assistance
- vi. ABC's projection for a branch in Rosehall, Corentyne
- vii. Acquisition of properties
- viii. Benefits for workers
- ix. The giving pattern
- x. Exploits of the laity
- xi. Youths on the march

### **Reflections:**

After more than twenty-five years of ministry in this conference, I have many things to thank God for as I reflect on the way God has blessed my ministry. I feel a deep sense of gratitude.

It is with satisfaction that I thank God for giving me the opportunity of baptizing three young men during my early years of ministry: Exton Clarke, Sherwin White and Avert James. These servants of God are currently pastors in this conference and are actively involved in the work here. To God be the glory.

### **Projections**

The word of God says that in the last days: "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions." (Joel 2:28). It was Harry Kemp who said: "The poor man is not he who is without a cent, but he who is without a dream."

I have a dream that a senior citizens home will be completed before the next quadrennium, so that our elderly folk can benefit from such a facility. I have a dream ....

I have a dream that in the not too distant future, the modernization of the Goshen campsite in the Essequibo River will be completed. I have a dream....

I have a dream that many new church buildings at varying stages of completion conference-wide, which adequately portray the SDA church image, will be completed and dedicated to the glory of God in the near future. I have a dream....

I have a dream of seeing this constituency achieve a membership in excess of 60,000 by the end of the next quadrennium. I have a dream ....

I have a dream of the current pastoral districts being reorganized into smaller districts so that more attention can be given to the needs of the membership. I have a dream ....

I have a dream that the Publishing Department/Adventist Book Centre will have branches in all three counties of Guyana to serve God's people and a large army of colporteurs to scatter the printed pages like the leaves of autumn. I have a dream ....

I have a dream that during this new quadrennium hundreds of East Indian and Amerindian brothers and sisters will embrace the Advent Message and will go forward in aggressive warfare against the power of darkness in Guyana. I have a dream ....

I have a dream that the courageous, committed, consecrated, army of youths in the Guyana conference will experience a revival of primitive godliness and will go forward with Latter Rain Power and liberate thousands from the bondage of sin. I have a dream ....

### **Conclusion**

Although we did not accomplish all that we wanted to, we are encouraged with the words of Benjamin E Mays: "It must be borne in mind that the

tragedy in life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach. It isn't a calamity to die with unfulfilled dreams, but it is a calamity not to dream. It is not a disaster to be unable to capture your ideal but it is a disaster to have no ideal to capture. It is not a disgrace not to reach the stars but it is a disgrace to have no stars to reach for. Not failure but low aim is sin."

### **Gratitude**

I humbly wish to say thanks to this constituency for affording me the opportunity to lead God's people in this mighty land of ours.

To the higher organizations – the union, division and general conference: thanks for your consistent support and prayers.

To our sister fields and missions: thanks for your support and prayers.

To my fellow administrators, departmental directors, district pastors, Bible workers, office and Maranatha Press staff: you were integral in every aspect of the accomplishments during the quadrennium, thanks for your cooperation and prayers.

To all overseas-based Guyanese supporting organizations such as, GAME, GUYMETRO, GAMAT, GUYCONOS, GAMAS, NAPS, GUYPRO: thanks for your consistent support to the work in Guyana.

To Pastor Gordon Martinborough for his innovative and effective family life evangelistic seminars: thank you.

To my efficient, brilliant and thorough Administrative Assistant, Cecile Lake: thanks for your hard work and support.

To my dear wife, Claudette, and my four children – Tonette, Troydon, Coletta and Grace: thanks for your love patience and understanding. Thanks be to God for roses rare, for skies of blue and sunshine fair. For every gift I raise a prayer. Thanks be to God!



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Hilton E Garnett  
May 25 – 28, 2011

President of the Caribbean Union Conference, Dr. Eugene Daniel, delegates from the Inter-American Division – Miami headquarters; other delegates from the Caribbean Union – Trinidad headquarters, delegates from sister conferences and missions in the Caribbean and Suriname, and from University of Southern Caribbean, Community Hospital and Davis Memorial Hospital; delegates from supporting Guyanese organizations in the Caribbean region, North America and England: delegates from this fair land called the Eldorado, distinguished and honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

We are convening this third quadrennial session at an historical moment for our nation. The Republic of Guyana celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> independence anniversary tomorrow. It is a time for reflection, introspection and projection for the people of this republic in a year designated election year. It is more than coincidence that the church should be gathered together at this time for reflection, evaluation and projection.

We are more than 300 delegates from over 170 church groups in the three counties of Guyana. We have come from across the sprawling, undulating alluvial plains where most of us are domiciled, from the rolling sand hills of the midlands, from the sprawling mineral rich savannahs, from the majestic Pakaraima mountains, the homestead of our indigenous believers, and from the gigantic Essequibo, Demerara and Berbice rivers that flow endlessly into the murky Atlantic.

We will tarry here for the next four days to listen to reports, and to formulate new plans for a more aggressive encounter with the forces of evil in these challenging times. It is my sincere prayer that the underpinning of all our deliberations will be a deep consciousness of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. So enjoy this session, make new friends, have sweet christian fellowship and return to your respective places with impressions indelibly etched in your minds.

Let me firstly report on the recommendations of the plans committee of the last session. There were thirteen recommendations; five of them were either not practically possible or could not be clearly understood.

- a. Loo Creek: A wilderness camp has been established there and ten-acre plots are being leased to interested persons.
- b. In the Northwest area: a boat and engine were made available to the pastor. They worked well for some time, but the boat was stolen. Plans are afoot to replace it.
- c. The seniors' home: We are about to commission the 14-bed ground floor of the southern wing. We are deeply indebted to Bro Ebenezer Gibbons and the late Pas Randolph Thompson for contributions of 8 and 12 million dollars respectively.
- d. We have two television programs and are about to move one of them to channel 11 for wider coverage.

- e. On membership conservation: We have developed a three - month conservation program for all new converts.
- f. On regional conventions: We have conducted training conventions in every district except Bartica and Berbice River.
- g. Reducing district size: All the large districts have been divided except Upper Mazuruni.
- h. On tents: We have acquired several new tents and hundreds of new chairs for crusades.

Brother Chairman, fellow delegates, when we began the quadrennium, we decided on a new philosophical approach to ministry. This paradigm shift was premised on the Master's own example as recorded in Ministry of Healing p143: 'Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me."'

We felt strongly, that the church belonged to the community, that the church should be intentional about planning for the needs of the community where it is located. For over 50 years we have collected millions of dollars from the community for ingathering but we do not have a welfare center, no shelters, no indigent homes, no orphanages. We felt that the time had come for a change of direction. We immediately embarked on a number of strategic objectives. We bought a mobile health unit and Pastor and Sister Quashie returned to Guyana to operate the unit as self-supporting missionaries. Then we embarked on the Touch of Love feeding program downtown, feeding a hundred plus indigent persons three times each week at a cost of over eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) per week. Sister Desiree Babb and a faithful contingent of women from several churches have served as volunteers for the last three years. We are so deeply grateful to these women. In addition, we have renovated the large building at

Beterverwagting to be used as a shelter for battered women. We are about to commission the ground floor of the southern wing of the seniors' home which will provide 14 rooms. We have one regret; that is, we have not been able to begin construction on the youth centre.

## **EVANGELISM**

Evangelism is our raison d'être: we evangelize or we will fossilize. Our clergy and laity are committed to evangelism. Pastor Richard Avert James, our personal ministries director and chairman of the evangelism committee, will give you the details of our exploits in evangelism by both clergy and laity. Pastor James came to the office after the sudden departure of Pastor Kirk Thomas and he has done a phenomenal job. But permit me to make mention of Pastor Preston Patterson for being the first local pastor/evangelist to have baptized over 300 persons in one campaign.

## **EAST INDIAN EVANGELISM**

East Indian evangelism has always engaged our attention because the largest portion of our population is East Indian. More than a year ago, the general conference, through the division, made 45 million dollars available for East Indian evangelism. Consequently, Bro Naresh Lionel has been appointed to coordinate the East Indian work. He is advised by a committee. Already several bridge-building teams in different parts of the country are at work.

## **THE AMERINDIAN WORK**

Evangelism among the indigenous people has gained momentum in recent years. Pastor Andrew Farrell, union ministerial secretary has exhibited a passion for the indigenous people. He has advertised this need in the other conferences, conducted annual field schools to train Amerindians to work for their people, and the union has invested heavily in this project. GAMAS also has invested large sums in this project, training Amerindians at their school in Bethany and providing monthly stipends for those who go out to work for their people. We applaud the spirit that has motivated these missionary endeavours.



## **NEW CHURCHES AND CHURCH DEDICATIONS**

Brother Chairman, delegates, in juxtaposition with evangelism is the emergence of new groups and the dedication of new church homes. Two new churches are to be accepted into the sisterhood of churches at this session, several new church groups have been raised and eleven churches have been dedicated to God's glory. Two of these churches have been renovated and rededicated

## **SMALLER DISTRICTS AND MID-TERM SESSION**

One of the major structural changes in the conference this quadrennium was the dividing of the large districts: West Berbice, East Bank Demerara, West Demerara, Essequibo North and Georgetown. Making these districts smaller necessitated an increase in staff, but it is our hope that the members would have greater attention and a better quality of service from their pastors.

For the first time in this conference, the administrators and departmental directors were on the road in all three of the counties to present a mid-term report to the constituency. These were interactive sessions and we gained much valuable insight from the constituents.

## **WORKERS, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

My fellow delegates, a major disadvantage we face in this field is the migration of talented workers and lay leaders. To compensate for this migration we organized conference training conventions in which we exposed entire districts to specific leadership skills. However, to compensate for the constant departure of maturing pastors, we have had to employ talented laymen to work as pastors. We started this experiment since my first term as president in the 90s. Today eight districts are being served by lay pastors. There is an urgent need to upgrade these pastors. I would like to devote myself to that task come January 2012.

Guyana conference is not fortunate to have many senior pastors, but we thank God for the valiant young people who elect to return to Guyana to

serve their people. These young men and women have exhibited a courage and commitment worthy of our admiration and praise. Others have sought apparently greener pastures.

In order to keep our pastors and elders on the cutting edge of leadership skills, every yearend workers meeting for the past four years, we have brought in some of our best scholars and experienced ministers, many of whom are our own former Guyanese workers, to equip our pastors and elders with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. This annual exercise has been well appreciated.

### **DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS**

Brother Chairman, in a matter of four months after the last session two of the major offices became vacant with the departure of Pastors Kirk Thomas and Exton Clarke. Many among us became nervous about the future of these departments, but Jesus never fails us; this is His church. Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, it is the only object upon which He bestows His supreme regard. Young, energetic and visionary, Onesi Lafleur, and the perceptive, inciteful and spirit-filled Richard James came on board and what a fantastic ministry these two have developed. Debbie Henry left us quite recently to join her husband who is now serving as union treasurer. Debbie's work in the children and women's ministries department impacted the conference greatly; and Donna White with her expertise in computer skills is adding a new dimension to that department. We lost our health director, Alexander Isaacs, to Davis Memorial Hospital recently. Pas Isaacs had brought great leadership skills and unique administrative training to the conference. He added new dimensions to the work of ADRA. We were sorry to see him go, but for the first time a medical doctor has been appointed to that department; and Dr Wesley Torrington is revolutionizing the department. In response to the great influx of young people coming to the church, we added an assistant youth director in the person of Brother Branford Burke. Bro Burke has brought specialized skills to the youth work. And recently, we employed on a par-time basis, Mrs Gem Vogt to promote music. Directors Winston James, Barbara Savory, Debra Daniels and Philip Bowman have made significant contributions in their respective areas.

In the ABC and publishing work, Brother Gavin Huston and Floyd Fraser have collaborated to keep the literature work alive and progressing. Bro Huston succeeded Nigel Lake and built upon the dynamic work done by Bro Lake. Pas. Lindon George has transformed the Press. Mrs Mingo gave long and dedicated service but something different has come to the press. Pastor Adams has been blessed with unique skills in family life and he has impacted greatly. Pastor Ramsarram, our first commissioned pastor, has handled the conference funds with great skill and ability. She is perhaps the longest serving treasurer in the union.

### **EDUCATION**

We have not been in a position to take over Jos - El but we have made financial and other input into the school. Two other schools are also operating in the conference and we had hoped to be more involved financially. But this conference spends over 10 million dollars each year on education as would be detailed later in the education report.

### **OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST**

We are pleased to establish satellite dishes at the conference office, Central church and, with overseas help, at several other churches in the conference.

Youth congresses, especially the one in Berbice, were highwater marks in the lives of the youths. The youth forums also were inciteful.

### **CONFERENCE OFFICE**

We are pleased to note that in the period under review, we have upgraded the conference office with DSL internet access, air-conditioned the boardroom, installed cubicles for each secretary and provided several other conveniences to make the work environment more pleasant.

### **OVERSEAS ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS**

Our brethren overseas, Bro chairman, have been our financial strength over the years. The organizations have worked tirelessly to raise funds to support projects in this conference. Individual members, pastors' kids, persons in New York, California, and Canada, have consistently blessed us with monthly contributions and some at yearend with large contributions.

Pastor Allan Johnson's yearend financial contributions, which he gleans from Guyanese in the New York and Maryland areas, have been a welcome windfall for all workers. Several have sent barrels, and laptop computers for our directors.

### **GAMAS, WINGS FOR HUMANITY, SISTER CONFERENCES IN THE CARIBBEAN UNION**

Brother Chairman, we would not fail to mention how blessed we have been in this conference with help that has come to our conference from GAMAS, Wings for Humanity and NAPS. These are independent missionary organizations that have assisted both the church and the government in the interior regions. Several missionaries have been sponsored by the Grenada conference as well. We are indebted to Pastor Andrew Farrell, ministerial secretary of the union, for his outstanding initiative in the annual field schools training program. These field schools were financed by the Caribbean union.

### **THOSE DECEASED**

We lost in death several loved ones, church leaders and members, and several workers, the most recent being Pastor Ashton Alleyne. We must mention Dr Timothy Greaves who, with his wife, Thelda, have been consistent with their annual financial support to this conference. We look forward to the GREAT GETTING UP MORNING when we shall see them again.

### **CONCLUSION**

Brother Chairman, permit me to express my deep gratitude to the president of our union, other administrators and union departmental directors for inciteful counsel, financial input and their presence in this conference from time to time.

At the end of June, I would be completing 43 years of unbroken ministry in three different conferences. Twenty-five of those years have been spent in the office. This is the time for a break and for retirement.

But firstly, all praise, glory, thanksgiving and honour be ascribed to our

Heavenly Father for using this earthen vessel to touch thousands of souls, producing 12 gospel ministers and other professionals in the process, and over two thousand members. I must mention Dr. Colin Dunbar and Dr. Joseph Fortune as significant jewels of my labour, that the glory might be His.

Secondly, thanks to my wife, Pearl; my children: Pretha Garnett-Radlien – her music has greatly enhance my ministry; Karen Garnett-Gibson – she also is a song-bird; and our son, Dr Theodore Garnett, a microbiologist. They, along with their respective families, have been the ‘wind beneath my wings’.

Thirdly, the constituents here in Guyana and in the other conferences where I have served: oh, how blessed I have been to be loved, admired, supported, prayed for, and encouraged by these dear ones.

Then there are the pastors with whom I have worked and from whom I have learnt, beginning with Pastor Gordon Martinborough. I began ministry under his mentorship. And there have been so many others over the years.

The persons in the offices where I have worked, other administrators, directors, office staff and my secretaries: recently, Martha Roberts, the faithful; and the one that exceeded them all, Cecile Lake.

And, finally, two women both deceased – Clarice Daniels a faithful colporteur who was used by God to bring me to the Truth, and Sister Winifred Hinds-Giles, the angel, who introduced me to CUC and who gave me a vision for higher education: I wish they were alive today that I might present them with a monument of thanksgiving.

## Epilogue

It was my distinct pleasure and privilege to be associated as Treasurer with three (3) of the most recent presidents of this vast Conference.

I strongly believe that for every era of God's Church He hand-picks leaders with whom He can work to accomplish His purpose for His cause and His people.

Pastor Gudge was a builder. He was tasked with the responsibility of completing the office building and rebuilding the financial position of this Conference. His cool, calm, collective personality, his conservative and hands-on management style, set the stage for the growth and development of our Conference. He brought two C's with his administrative style: before any major decision could be had it was necessary to have consultation and consensus.

Pastor Bowman had an eye for ambiance. He took a personal interest in the care of the palm plants and Queen of Flowers. He ensured there was proper Chinaware in which meals could be served.

Pastor Bowman took on the challenge of completing the construction of Olivet Church which had been in the making for years. Mobilizing and encouraging the brethren, he ensured the construction was brought to completion in record time. As a matter of fact, during his term in office about twenty-two (22) churches were dedicated.

His love for evangelism compelled him to conduct a crusade almost every year. Upper Mazaruni was one of the beneficiary districts.

"The Church must be relevant to the community in which it exists." This was Pastor Garnett's driving force as president. As a result we now have a Seniors Residence, a Mobile Health Unit and a Downtown Feeding Program for the indigent.

Another point of emphasis for Pastor Garnett was that he believed the laity is the foundation upon which the superstructure of the church is established, and as such the laity must be cared for adequately. To make this a reality many, of the large districts were divided to enable the Pastors to give quality care to the brethren. In addition, to empower the laity to serve the church, a new concept of training conventions was introduced which afforded all members an opportunity to be trained for leadership.

Each of these presidents has played his role in the growth of the Conference. We too must now find our niche and act our part faithfully like those who have walked this way before us.

## Notable dates in the History of Guyana Conference

- 1883 The Sabbath Message comes to Guyana by a sea captain on the request of W.J.Boynton of International Tract and Missionary Society.
- 1887 The first church is established in Georgetown with a membership of forty through the efforts of first official missionaries to the country, Elders G.G. Rupert and George A. King.
- 1891 Philip Giddings accepts the Advent message. He will become the first Guyanese Adventist to study at Battle Creek in the USA and return to serve in his homeland.
- 1893 Warren G. Kneeland, along with his wife, comes to Guyana as the first resident Minister.
- 1895 Bootooba church in the Upper Demerara River is organized by Warren G. Kneeland.
- 1903 East Caribbean Conference is organized by the General Conference with headquarters in Trinidad. British Guiana becomes part of this administrative block.
- 1906 The Guiana Conference is formed consisting of British, Dutch, and French Guiana. There are twelve churches and three hundred and fifty (350) members. The first President is Judson B. Beckner.
- 1911 Elder Ovid E. Davis, an American Missionary, goes to Roraima and works among the Aracunas and Akawaio. He is later struck with malaria, dies and is buried at the foot of Mount Roraima.
- 1924 British, Dutch and French Guiana become one mission with Elder



D.C. Budcock as Superintendent.

- 1927 The Mount Roraima Indian Mission is organized.  
East Caribbean Training School (now USC) is opened. Ten (10) Guyanese are among the first students.
- 1938 The Mount Roraima Indian Mission had been absorbed into the Guiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is reopened.
- 1945 The Caribbean Union Conference accepts the recommendation of the General Conference to have its status reverted from "Conference to Mission". Thus Guiana becomes an independent mission - the British Guiana Mission.
- 1954 Under the leadership of Dr. E. Duerksen, the head office for the medical work in British Guiana along with an out-patient is opened at 222 Peter Rose and Almond Streets, Queenstown, Georgetown. The facility is named in memory of Ovid E. Davis.
- 1966 British Guiana achieves political independence from Britain. The name 'Guiana' is changed to 'Guyana'.
- 1967 Davis Memorial Hospital opens for business at 121 Durban Backlands on April 16.
- 1972 Dr. W. Benn becomes the first Guyanese to be elected as president of Caribbean Union College.
- 1973 The Executive Committee of the Guyana Mission requests a return to conference status.
- 1974 Guyana Conference achieved a membership of ten thousand (10,000).
- 1975 Elder Wallace W. Weithers becomes the first Guyanese to be elected president of the Caribbean Union.

- 1976 Guyana Mission gains Conference status on January 13, with Elder Roy McGarrell becoming the first President.
- Denominational Schools (eleven primary and one secondary) are nationalized by the Government.
- 1982 Elder Don Crowder conducts a tent crusade in Georgetown resulting in the largest number of persons to be baptized as a result of a single tent crusade (up to that time) - 586 persons.
- 1984 Elder Justin Sher Singh from India baptizes 46 persons in La Bonne Intention (LBI), East Coast Demerara and a new church is organized at LBI.
- 1985 Church membership reaches over twenty thousand (20,000).
- 1986 Belvedere Hampshire church is established through an effort by Elder J. Singh which yielded 52 souls.
- 1987 The Maranatha Press begins operation.
- 1993 The old Conference office is demolished and construction of a new office complex begins.
- A groundbreaking ceremony for Millicent Greaves Senior Citizens home is conducted.
- 1995 Bootooba church celebrates one hundred (100) years of Adventism in the Upper Demerara River.
- Local Seventh-day Adventist membership goes past thirty thousand (30,000).
- 1997 Guyana Adventist Medical Aviation Services (GAMAS) officially begins operation on July 12, coordinated by David Gates.
- 1998 The first Davis Indian, Lloyd Henrito, is ordained as a Seventh-day Adventist minister.

- Davis Indians Industrial College opens in Paruima, Upper Mazaruni.
- 2000 There is a reenactment of the 1883 International Tract and Missionary Society package delivery of Adventist literature at the Georgetown wharf. Over one million (1,000,000) tracts are distributed across Guyana on January 1.
- 2001 General Conference President, Jan Paulsen, visits Guyana and addresses the membership at the Sophia Exhibition Centre.
- Evangelist Roosevelt Daniels records a historic baptism of one thousand and four (1004) persons at the Mandela Avenue Crusade.
- 2003 The Guyana Conference conducts its first Quadrennial Session.
- 2004 The fiftieth (50) anniversary of Health Work by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Guyana is celebrated.
- 2006 Evangelist Claudius Morgan baptizes one thousand and fifty four (1054) persons in the Campbellville Crusade.
- Guyana Conference achieved a membership of fifty thousand (50,000).
- 2007 Hilton G. Garnett elected for a third term as Guyana Conference President making him the first native of Guyana to serve more than two terms.
- 2008-09 Guyana Conference began operating a Mobile Feeding Program in Georgetown.
- Guyana Conference acquired and began operating a Mobile Health Unit, the first for the Caribbean Union territory.









