

INGATHERING

SOUTH LEEWARD CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS | 2022

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA | MONTSERRAT | ST. KITTS & NEVIS



Reaching **Families**
Changing Communities





The President

“we invite members of the community to join us in this venture...”

Dear Friends,

The Seventh-day Adventist community across the South Leeward Conference territories is grateful for your consistent support of our humanitarian endeavours as we seek to bring relief to the many vulnerable persons in our societies. The past year has been particularly challenging as the world over is impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. To date, over 5,000,000 persons have died as a result of COVID-19 infection and the impact on the various economies and individual families in financial terms is inestimable. In all of this, the Seventh-day Adventist community has been faithfully supporting our fellowmen via various means. We have partnered with governments, worked through our Community Services department to provide food baskets and relief supplies, worked to provide financial aid to jobless families and engaged our extensive network of counselling services to provide emotional support to those who have been thus affected. In addition to the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have also responded to other disasters such as the volcanic eruption in St Vincent and the earthquake in Haiti.

The funding to sustain such extensive humanitarian outreach is largely as a result of the regular giving of our members and the Church's budget. In our effort to continue providing meaningful relief to the less fortunate, we, once a year, invite members of the community to join us in this venture by making a financial contribution. January 22 to March 05, 2022, is designated as the time when we invite our community members to partner with us in what we term the annual Ingathering Campaign. Your faithful support in the past has been greatly appreciated and we look forward to your sacrificial contribution in this and future endeavours. As a result of your partnership with us, countless individuals have been helped. Parents have been able to clothed their children, homeless families have been given shelter and the hungry have been given food.

Like you, we long to see the end of this pandemic and a return to some level of normalcy. We are, however, that in this world of sin, we will continue to see natural disasters and other humanitarian catastrophes. Because of this awareness, the Seventh-day Adventist Church continues to take proactive approaches to helping the plight

of humanity. Thanks again for your support. We long for the day when all disasters and sorrows will end. Until such time, we encourage you to continue to partner with us, as we seek to bring relief and healing to those in need.

Dr. Carson L. Greene
President, South Leeward Conference



Community Services Director

“The campaign will run from Jan 22 - March 5, 2022...”

Dear Friends,

The Seventh-day Adventist Church remains committed to its humanitarian aid and response to crises activities of bringing relief to hurting families. The rise in COVID-19 cases with the emergence of variants has affected thousands, including families within the South Leeward Conference territory.

As depicted in this magazine, the Seventh-day Adventist community adequately responded to the felt needs of families on the islands of Antigua, Barbuda, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat. The South Leeward Conference collected from the Ingathering Campaign in 2021, EC \$218,421.29. While it is evident, that economic collapse because of a global pandemic adversely affected the Ingathering results, the monies collected through the campaign made it possible for the local Adventist Community Services to provide tangible relief.

The theme for Ingathering 2022 is “Reaching Families: Changing Communities.” The campaign will run from January 22 - March 5, 2022. This is an opportune time to thank the members of the public for the financial support given in the past, as we anticipate future partnerships. The ultimate aim of the Adventist Community Services department is alleviating the suffering of humanity during this difficult time in Earth's history.

Pastor Kay White
ADRA/ Adventist Community Services Director

INGATHERING MESSAGE FROM ANTIGUA...

Dear Friends,

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of us in different ways. Many of you who have been faithful throughout the years with your generous giving are now severely challenged, mentally, socially, economically and spiritually. Some of you have lost your jobs, have been bereaved of loved ones, have been affected physically by the corona virus, are suffering from undue stress, and might have lost hope spiritually and emotionally. We want you to know that we have been touched by your pain and are praying for healing and restoration. We trust that you find hope in a God who never fails and who sympathizes and empathizes with you in your pain.

As we seek to provide humanitarian assistance in these critical times, wherever possible, we solicit your financial help as we join hands across the globe. Thank you for your assistance in the past, and for what you will give. God bless you!

Pastor Cindie Simmons-Lee | Coordinator, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Antigua



But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:15



He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.

1 Timothy 3:4

Crab Hole Liquors
Galley Boutique

COPPER & LUMBER STORE HOTEL
Admirals Inn

INGATHERING MESSAGE FROM BARBUDA

Dear Friends,

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is pushing through in 2022 with our annual 'Ingathering Campaign'! Despite the uncertainty that has been brought on by the effects of COVID-19, the community was positively impacted by various initiatives of the Barbuda Seventh-day Adventist Church. Some areas in which we have assisted the community include food package distribution for scores of households, hurricane supply distributions, financial contributions for medical assistance of three community members, mathematics classes for the primary and secondary schools, and our annual financial contribution to the valedictorian of the Holy Trinity Primary School.

While we make significant contributions to the community on a year-round basis, a special time is reserved in the year to give you the opportunity to partner with us in community relief efforts. We therefore encourage you to give generous contributions. Let us join hands and do our parts in helping others through this difficult time, knowing that you will be blessed, "for the Lord loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:17)!"

Pastor Davin Scarborough | Coordinator, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Barbuda



God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 1:28

MEET *the* BROWNE'S

Anthony, Islyn, Amare, Antoine, and Leanna

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you as a family?

[Anthony] I think it has impacted us in a positive way. For example, it has allowed us to spend more time together as a family. During the period of time, one of the things we did a lot is go on drives. It was actually the first time that I [Anthony] visited Devil's Bridge in my life. Devil's Bridge has now become one of our favorite places to visit whenever we get an opportunity to go and observe nature. We also do other family activities like playing games and we have instituted a regular movie night.

[Islyn] The pandemic has also changed and family's routine and daily schedules. As a result, much more communication takes places. Online school has impacted our communication significantly. There is a lot of effort that goes into ensuring that the children are up and alert and ready to attend their online classes. There was also the challenge of having to go off to work and hoping that they would participate in their class sessions as they should. One of the things I did to ensure that that happened was to engage them after I got home from work on how their day at school went.

What are your thoughts on the way the COVID-19 pandemic has affected fellowship among families within the church?

[Anthony] From my personal observation, the way the COVID-19 pandemic has affected families has its drawbacks and its benefits. Because of fear of contracting the disease, I found families were not as close to one another, in terms of fellowship with other families. Persons are now reluctant to go to someone's home. Before you used to hug and shake a hand now it just the touch of an elbow, and I personally miss the close contact with people. You see I am from a big family and it was a tradition to gather together on Sabbaths. We are not able to do that anymore. Even so, one of the benefits I observed is that because of the COVID restrictions families had to sit together in church, whereas before one family member would sit over here while another sits over there. I believe sitting together caused families to be drawn closer together.

How has COVID-19 affected your children personally and academically?

[Anthony] The children complained that they didn't get to see their friends like before, and our children are very sociable. So, that was a drawback for them. Otherwise than that, personally, I think that this allowed our three children to spend more time with each other. Something that they probably didn't do enough of before. So, I count that as a blessing. All three of them actually caught the virus. During their illness, we had to encourage them to get out into the sunlight and stay active as well. Also, we encouraged them to stay positive even when they were feeling down or reluctant to do anything. It was a little scary at first, but they managed it well and they are now in very good health. To God be the glory for that.

From an academic standpoint, I can tell you that COVID happened at a very unfortunate time for the twins, Amare and Antoine, because they were just getting ready to sit the CXC examinations. As a result, that caused the exams to be pushed back. It also caused them to have to rush to do a lot of things like School Based Assessments that were not done in a timely manner because they were not in school. It put a lot of pressure them to work within a short time frame. At the end of the day, I believe the Lord blessed them tremendously and both of them passed all of their 10 subjects, and we want to give God thanks for that. Our daughter, Leanna, has remained a good student. She has been on the Principal's List since she has started school, and despite the pandemic she has managed to maintain that.

How has the pandemic affected you as a couple?

[Islyn] I think it has enhanced the communication within our relationship. We have date nights now as well as movie nights.



Something we used to do before, but that has become much more frequent since the pandemic. We also now go on walks together and engage in a lot of other activities. We continue to maintain these activities even as the country is opening back up. The connectedness forced by the pandemic has allowed us to build memories and really enhance the quality of our relationship especially as it relates to communication and intimacy.

[Anthony] We actually spend more time together because of the pandemic. It reminds us of how it used to be in the early days when we were inseparable. Life interrupted that togetherness, and as a result we neglected to spend a lot of time with each other. COVID has allowed us to slowdown and spend a lot more time together. So, I am greatly appreciative of that.

In your estimation, what does the future of families look like relative to the pandemic?

[Anthony] I think families will continue to be challenged by the pandemic. There are so many different variables that the pandemic has brought. There is now the issue with the vaccine, there is issue with work, there is issue with camaraderie. So, there are challenges, but I think if families look at it as an opportunity to draw closer to one another that it can actually be a blessing in disguise.

[Islyn] In respect to the future of families, families are resilient and are capable of surviving anything. History has shown that in spite of many previous diseases and challenges families have survived the test of time and even more so Christian families are ordained and blessed by God so we have hope.

What message would you like to share with families directly affected by COVID-19?

[Anthony] I would like to say to families that God is in the midst of everything. I know that COVID has made life very difficult for some families. But I don't think that COVID is here by accident. I believe that God has allowed the pandemic to come by to help us to recognize that the things of this world are only for a time and that we need to take our focus off this world and turn our attentions to heaven. The pandemic offers us an opportunity to recognize that the coming of Jesus is very near. It is time for us to help our families to be prepared for the second coming.

COVID-19

Coronavirus

World and Regional facts and figures...

WORLD

CASES TO DATE:

308,232,917

DEATHS:

5,507,721

ACTIVE CASES:

42,990,714

RECOVERED:

259,734,482

Antigua & Barbuda

Cases to date:

5,058

Deaths:

120

Active cases:

820

Recovered:

4,118



Montserrat

Cases to date:

114

Deaths:

1

Active cases:

62

Recovered:

51



St. Kitts & Nevis

Cases to date:

4,145

Deaths:

28

Active cases:

1,049

Recovered:

3,068



Please note that all figures listed above are accurate up to January 10, 2022. Current figures can be accessed online at www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/

KEEPING SAFE

Adhering to the following health and safety protocols will help to keep you and your family safe from the COVID-19 virus.



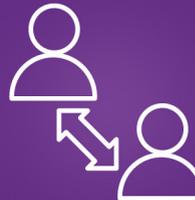
Frequently disinfect high usage areas.



Check your temperature if feeling unwell.



Always wear your mask when going out.



Practice maintaining physical distancing.



Wash hands regularly for at least 20 seconds.



Use alcohol based hand sanitizer.

INGATHERING MESSAGE FROM ST. KITTS

Dear Friends,

To our trusted friends and partners on island of St. Kitts, I extend heartfelt Christian greetings. Amidst this dark pandemic that has gripped the world with fear, anxiety, death and uncertainty, I pray for God's protection and continued health and blessings upon you and your family.

Notwithstanding, the Seventh-day Adventist Church continues to show care, compassion and hospitality to members of the various communities on the island of St. Kitts. Our response as a church was in the form of care packages, psychological first aid and counseling. Currently, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is positioning itself to provide much more needed mental health and psychosocial support to individuals and families.

We express our profound gratitude for your financial contributions over the years. We anticipate your usual kind response once again in helping the less fortunate and needy in our communities. Remember, we can't lose our equilibrium by doing too many good turns. God's richest blessings,

Pastor Stanton Adams | Coordinator, Seventh-day Adventist Church, St. Kitts

SAINT KITTS

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These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:6,7

INGATHERING MESSAGE FROM NEVIS

Dear Friends,

Over the past year, we have witnessed the unprecedented wave of the coronavirus. Amid this pandemic, families have been impacted economically. People are still struggling with the fallout of a downed economy. Our sister Caribbean island of St. Vincent has also been battling with their volcanic crisis. In these pressing times, your friends, the Seventh-day Adventists, have been there to support and provide relief. Your generous donations in the past have helped us to realize several initiatives: back to school care packages, financial donations to two of our schools, St. Vincent relief, and other individual donations.

As we seek to continue our humanitarian efforts, we invite you in the Spirit of Christ to once again partner with us. Proceeds will go to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) that responds to disaster worldwide on a large scale; and a substantial portion will be used to address needs here in our local community through our Community Services Federation. All this and more is made possible by your gracious generosity. Thank you for partnering with us!

Pastor Delroy K. Josiah | Coordinator, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Nevis



Adventist Community Services minister to the communities we serve by focusing on their physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being.

INGATHERING MESSAGE FROM MONTSERRAT

Dear Friends,

What would Jesus do? This is the question asked by many persons who are face with difficult choices in unusual and unprecedented times. One of the basic principles that governed the life and practice of Jesus, is that He loved all unconditionally with the same degree and intensity no matter the circumstances. An attribute of love is that it gives in spite of times of plenty or scarcity. Therefore, in this time of uncertainty and shortage, we as the followers of Jesus in Montserrat did what Jesus would have done under difficult times: we delivered food baskets, help financially the Golden Years senior citizen home, provided medical assistance, provided Bibles to students of the Lookout Primary School, and provided a facelift to the house of a senior citizen in St. Johns. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Montserrat pledges, by God's grace, to continually do what Jesus would do.

Pastor Nixon Louis | Coordinator, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Montserrat



Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:13





TIPS FOR **SURVIVING & THRIVING DURING COVID-19**

Here are a few tips to help in managing your family and maintaining peace in the home.

By: **Mark L. Braithwaite** | Family Ministries Director

For many families, the COVID-19 pandemic has created quite a bit of stress and anxiety. Things have changed with a of myriad Zoom meetings, trying to homeschool while working remotely, and making several adjustments. We're sure many families are feeling like they are in the spinning cups of the "Mad Tea Party" ride at Disney World.

So, in order to assist you, here are a few tips to help you manage during this pandemic while maintaining peace in the home.

1

Be Intentional

about healthy and safe communication; affirm and validate emotions that come from anxiety from the pandemic, practice the fruit of the spirit especially patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control

2

Nurture Couple Time

Set aside time just to connect as a couple, commit to working together as a team during this time, take the time to talk together as friends.

3

Reach Out

to single and widowed relatives and friends who live alone.

4

Watch family-friendly shows

such as Marriage Encounter on Second Advent Radio or on the SLC Adventist YouTube Channel for helpful advice on marriage and parenting issues.

5

Practice making emotional deposits

into one another's emotional bank account. Go to family.adventist.org for ideas.

The over-arching objective of Adventist Family Ministries is to strengthen the family as a discipling center. The family was established by divine creation as the fundamental human institution. It is the primary setting in which values are learned and the capacity for close relationships with God and with other human beings are developed.

During these difficult times, let us continue to support one another in the family unit. Remember, family was established by God, for the high and noble purposes of nurture, love, support and the passing on of solid values to future generations.



Are you interested in making a contribution?

You can now do so online by visiting our website www.slcadventist.org then clicking on the "Online Giving" link.

Tune in to any of our regularly scheduled programs and be blessed:

Let's Talk About Him Evangelistic Services

Sunday - 7 p.m. - SLC YouTube Channel

Making Disciples

Tuesday - 9:30 a.m. - Second Advent Radio, SLC YouTube Channel

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting

Wednesday - 7 p.m. - SLC YouTube Channel, All Platforms

Marriage Encounter

Thursday - 9:30 a.m. Second Advent Radio, SLC YouTube Channel

Let's Talk with Dr. Greene

Saturday - 3 p.m. - SLC YouTube Channel

South Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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