



'REFLECTIONS'
1977 - 83

MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH



The Somerset Church Family



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

On this momentous occasion, the opening and dedication of our church home, my family and I take this opportunity along with our beloved and faithful members to publicly thank our Father in heaven for the privilege He has bestowed on us to be of service in the construction of this sanctuary; this sanctuary that will house His presence and proclaim His everlasting love and truth to all generations.

When God commanded Ancient Israel to build a sanctuary that He may dwell among them, Exodus 25:8, it was His purpose to show Israel by His very presence the magnitude and depth of His love, and covenant relationship with them. At the sanctuary they would obtain forgiveness of sin, be reconciled to God and be energized to walk in the path of righteousness.

God's plan for Ancient Israel was but a model of His plan for humanity, His children created in His image. But wherein ancient Israel limited the full and continual unfolding of God's plan for themselves, Modern Israel through the grace and adoption of Jesus has accepted the challenge and has covenanted through His grace to be His redemptive community and His people of service.

It was the desire of this congregation to have a permanent house of worship, where the preaching of God's word, christian fellowship and redemptive love could be experienced without interruptions. With a mind to work and faith in the heart, this project was born. God rewarded our efforts, He multiplied our funds, he accepted our sacrifices and Today we stand in awe, out of gratitude for what has been accomplished. Like the Psalmist David we exclaim, "Glory and honor are in His presence; strength and gladness are in His place." I Chro. 16:27.

To all the members and friends who diligently worked, prayed, sacrificed and gave us words of encouragement, Thank you.

We thank God for condescending to tabernacle with us; we thank God for placing a vision in our heads and motivation in our hearts; we thank God for rewarding the faithfulness of His people. May this accomplishment encourage us to live even more faithfully until Jesus comes and together we will live in His presence, never to part.

God bless you,

Pastor Simmons and family.



“WHAT HAS GOD WROUGHT”!

The word Church, *Eklesia* means “the called out ones”. It consists of individuals who have been called out, from the world, to live for Christ and make Him known. The ambition of these individuals is to reveal the likeness of Christ’s character and to labor for the enlargement of His kingdom.

The Somerset Church — “The called out ones”, have labored for the development of Christ’s character and especially for the enlargement of His kingdom through the building of a sanctuary and following the biblical encouragement found in Exodus 25:2,8, “... Bring me an offering, give it willingly with your heart: And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.”

The theme “The Caring Church” which has become the mission of the Somerset Church family has all the essential ingredients of church growth, — the Word, worship, fellowship and service. It is an attitude, a way of life, a redemptive community. It stops talking to people and listen to them. It starts with what they think they need. It makes convincing them secondary to loving them.

People change because the proposed action promises to offer them something personal in the form of more effective living. Modern behavioral science has helped us to see that people are motivated to do that which will bring needed satisfaction. All of us are created with intrinsic needs. The need to feel safe, the need to love and be loved, the need for self-esteem and the esteem of others, the need to do something significant with our lives is a part of each of us.

How does God meet these needs for us? Often through the Church. We become God’s co-workers to supply the deep, heartfelt needs of our fellowman. This is what the Caring Church (Somerset Church) is all about. “My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:19.

Congratulations! Paster Carlyle Simmons and the Somerset Church family.

A.R. Goulbourne, President

+

Seventh-day Adventist Church

Telegrams: "ADVENTIST"
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41 Lawley Road, Suburbs, Bulawayo

Zambesi Union

P.O. Box 573
Bulawayo
Zimbabwe

25 February, 1981

Brothers and Sisters in Christ
Somerset Seventh-day Adventist Church
P. O. Box 299
Mangrove Bay
Somerset, Bermuda



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What a thrill it was to receive your letter informing me of the completion of your new church home on Beacon Hill Road in Somerset. This took my mind back to 1970, when we began planning to organize a church at Somerset. What courage, what vision, what enthusiasm you people had! And, by God's grace you now have a lovely new church home.

How well I remember the day so many of you came out to help us in cleaning up and renovating that old Town Hall that was used as our church in the early days of its history. I am tremendously proud of each one of you who have had a part in bringing this church along to where it is today. What a thrill it would be for me if I could just join you on that joyous occasion, but distance will make it impossible.

Sister Currie joins me in wishing each one of you heaven's richest blessing, as the church at Somerset continues to fill the high calling to which God has given to you. My heart is truly filled with joy over this tremendous accomplishment of yours. I am proud of you and thank God that He gave me just a little part in working with you and organizing of our Somerset Church. May God bless you each one, that you might continue to fill the place that God has for you in the finishing of His work, not only in Bermuda, but around the world.

Most sincerely your brother in Christ,

H. Carl Currie
President

HCC/fi

P. S. The check enclosed is to purchase some little thing that you may need for the church. God bless.



“To God be the glory, and to you our gratitude for this privilege and pleasure of extending to your church family our sincere congratulations on the achievement of this milestone in your history. May God’s richest blessings attend you as you continue to enlarge His kingdom in the Somerset District.

Sincerely,

Paster and Sis. R.A. James and Terry”



A Sage has said:

“Great Trees from little acorns grow”.

In this light we at Somerset S.D.A. church consider ourselves of all people to be abundantly blessed. When we think of our Acorn beginning in terms of our statue, we can sincerely say “How great Thou art”, and “Praise God from whom all blessing flow.” Our hearts are extremely thankful to a loving heavenly Father for His Guidance in allowing the Holy Spirit to direct and enable us to attain such heights, in increased membership and in spiritual and financial growth.

We thank the Atlantic Union Conference for their understanding and financial aid, The Bermuda Mission Presidents for their support, Our Pastor for his outstanding leadership and all around ability, the unity of the Church board, the superior knowledge and cooperation of our building superintendent, the faithfulness of our builders and workers in the construction of this our beautiful church home. Yes from little acorns Great trees grow. To God be the glory. In closing I will quote the pen of inspiration, “We have nothing to fear for the future unless we forget the way God has lead us in the past.”

Cockburn Rayner
Building Committee Chairman

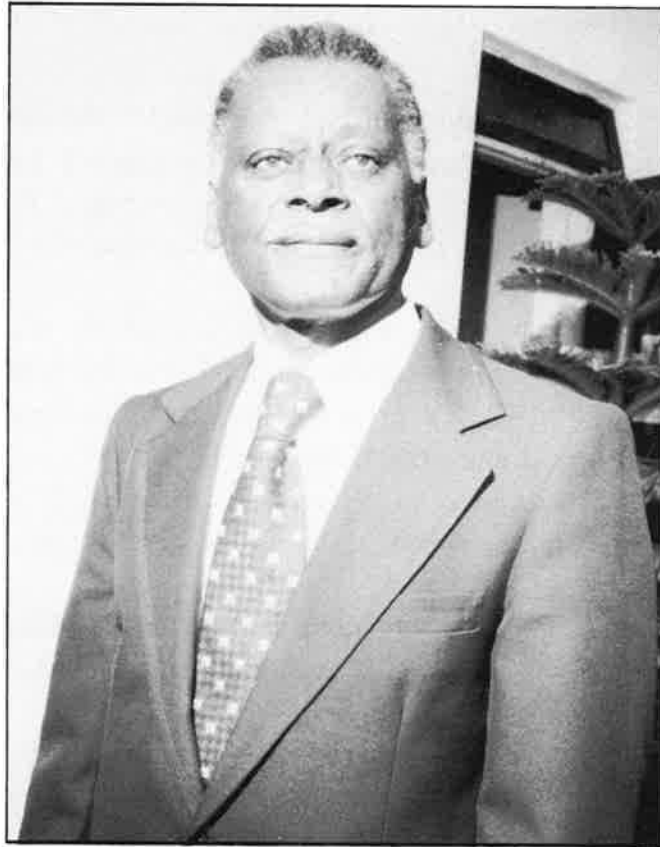


Congratulations and best wishes.

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick: But when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.” Prov. 13:12.

May the glory of God rest in this long-desired temple, and may all its courts be filled with His praise.

Bro. James Pearman
Construction foreman.



Congratulations to the Pastor, officers and members of the Somerset S.D.A. Church. It is my firm belief that the Lord has led in a tremendous way, even from the point of reserving the property for us, helping with the purchase of it, and then assisting in a very marked way in the building of a beautiful church building. The members are to be commended, and this includes our ladies, for the many hours of labour they have put in during the construction of this building.

May the Lord's blessings continue to fall as we labour in Somerset to lead souls to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ with the aid of the Holy Spirit.

Bro. Maxwell Thompson
Committee member.

HISTORY

When the first Christian church was formed in the days that followed pentecost, the brethren witnessed a mighty rushing wind that filled the house wherein they were assembled. And they, according to Paul were filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the spirit moved them.

People were overwhelmed and transformed by the message the apostles proclaimed. They witnessed the actualizing of the commission given to the disciples by the MASTER prior to His ascension. That commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel."

Later the first Christian church was formed. It expanded and flourished, despite Satan's sordid attempts to snuff it out, through the persecution of the Christian church.

Even now almost two thousand years later the promise of a soon coming Lord is still being proclaimed and many still heed the call and look for that blessed hope.

The growth and development of the Somerset S.D.A. Church therefore is not a unique experience in the Christian witness. It is only another step in fulfilling that gospel commission.

The first official meeting of the Somerset Company, later to become the Somerset Church, was held on December 12, 1970, at the Sandy's Secondary School Assembly area. After two sessions there, the meeting place was moved to a more permanent base at the Masonic Lodge in Mangrove Bay.

The moving notice in the Bulletin of December 19, 1970, stated "This will be our regular meeting place henceforth." It shouldn't be thought for one moment that whoever saw fit to print this statement was limiting or underestimating the growth and expansion or even the conceivable idea of a church home, after all, the Masonic Lodge was a positive forward step.

The challenge given to the company of believers who committed themselves to establishing, with the help of God, a church in Somerset, came in a seed thought taken from *Selected Messages* Vol. II p. 381, 382 and presented by Elder Carl Currie, the then president of the Bermuda Mission. *Every soul united to Christ will be a living missionary to all around him. He will labour for those near and those afar off... All will work with interest to make every branch strong. There will be no self love, no selfish interest.* That seed of thought was sown deeply in the hearts and minds of the com-

pany and through their conscious and persistent effort was later to bring forth fruit.



As told by Sis. Margaret Marshall, now deceased.

The first positive seed of Adventism was sown in Bermuda just before the turn of the century by a reknown business man and former adventist pastor Elder Marshall Enoch.

Marshall Enoch owned and operated a variety store on Reid Street in Hamilton where the Music Box is presently located. His speciality was the manufacturing of peanut butter. Enoch used his store as a means of contact with the people in the community and neglected no opportunity to invite them to worship with him from time to time in his home. He soon generated such an interest that he was forced to branch out from his home to the upper level of the old police station on Parliament Street in Hamilton. At that time there were approximately six families meeting at that location. The Pires, the Leets, the Does, the Simons, the Hills and the Munroes.

Pastor J.W. Bartlett came in 1901 to organise these families into an official company of believers. Later in 1903 this small company witnessed the arrival of the first licensed credentialed pastor sent by the Atlantic Union to lead the constituents in Bermuda.

The meeting place was relocated at Middle Town in Pembroke, after building the first permanent structure to Adventism there.

Mrs. Murrow was the niece of Elder Marshall Enoch and it was thought that it was probably through this connection that the Murrows were sent by Atlantic Union to Bermuda.

While Elder Murrow lead out in Pastoral administration, Mrs. Murrow started and operated the first Adventist Church school here. The late Mrs. Margaret Marshall along with her sister Mrs. De Costa, the late Helen Gomez Kelly, Mr. Byron Hill and several others made up the first group of students of the original church school. This was yet another passage of evangelism.

The members used every avenue and every opportunity to evangelise

and witness in the Bermuda community. Contacts were made through Harvest Ingathering, through the Colporteur ministry and seeds were planted, some to remain dormant until the time was right for a harvest, germinated and sprang forth. In 1926 the second church home began at Jews Bay in Southampton after a chapel and the property were donated to the church by one of the original members, Profirio Gomez.

Virgin soil was tested in the Somerset area but there were no encouraging returns. To establish an adventist company in this area was premature.

Meanwhile, the membership in Hamilton quickly expanded and the congregation realized that a new church home in the city was necessary. The property where the present church in Hamilton is located, on King Street, was purchased and after dedicated efforts on the part of the members they were able to move into the structure in 1934.

One year later in 1935 a third Church began in St. George's. The members met in rented quarters until 1954 when they bought the historic Cooper estate on York Street. They dedicated it free of debt in 1957.



Information given by Mrs. Ella Rose Simmons.

Believing that “to everything there is a season” and that nothing that ‘man’ could do would speed the evangelism process in the western end of the island, the members waited patiently for a sign from the Lord that would give them some indication to enter.

In the late thirties, early forties, the Oddfellows Hall on Portland Square became the general meeting place for the Somerset Community. Many public orators used the stage to expound on every topic from politics to medicine. This became the point in history where Adventism finally found its roots, in the Somerset community.

The outcome of a series of meetings held by laymen from Hamilton



Mrs. Elsa Jones one of the first Sabbath School teachers in the Somerset area.

brought the first fruits of many years of prayers and effort on the part of the members. June 20th, 1943 witnessed the baptism of some of the first people from the community of Somerset. Mrs. Rosadora Smith Wilson, Mrs. Elsa Jones and Mrs. Ella Rose Simmons, were baptised by Pastor J.F. Knipschild.

For a year after their baptism Mrs. Simmons and family of seven children along with three other families, those of Ms. Jones, Mrs. Emily Philpot and Mrs. Smith-Wilson, met in Somerset every Sabbath where they conducted a branch Sabbath school in the Samaritan's Hall at West Side. The following year the branch Sabbath School disbanded and so for the first time the families officially joined the Southampton Church at Jews Bay.

According to Sis Ella Rose Simmons, the first major evangelistic series was held in Somerset in the 1950's. Pastor Appleyard, an American evangelist conducted a crusade. His theme being "More, More about Jesus." Mrs. Simmons was the crusade pianist. Although there were no immediate returns from the effort, once again the seeds that had been sown so many years earlier were being nourished.

During the autumn of 1970 Byron S. Spears was invited to run a crusade in Bermuda that yielded quite a few souls. At the end of his series in Hamilton he was asked by the President to continue the meetings at Sandy's Secondary School in Somerset, out of which a Company, that was to become the church in Somerset, was born.

Mr. William Browne, a former principal of Bermuda Institute and his wife continued to give the Company the motivation they needed to go forward. Eventually Pastor R.A. James, then the pastor of the Southampton church was assigned to the Somerset area and had to divide his time equally between the two churches. Several members from the Southampton Church were also asked to be charter members. This list included:

Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell Scott
Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Cockburn Rayner
Mrs. Veace Vickers
Ms. Marlene Carmichael
Mrs. Susan Thompson Hassell
Mr. Glenn Scott
Mr. Glen Curtis
Mrs. Ismay Barker
Mr. Fred Anderson

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Simmons
Mr. Edward Durrah (deceased)
Ms. Elizabeth Thompson
Ms. Edith Durrah
Mr. Dan Van Lowe
Ms. Elsa Jones
Mrs. Patricia Darrell Robinson
Mr. Willard Robinson
Mrs. Patience Godfrey
Mr. Gladstone Simmons



Charter Members of the Church

Pictured from left to right:

Front row: Mr. Frederick Anderson, Mrs. Mary Scott, Mrs. Margaret Marshall (deceased), Mrs. Ismay Barker, Mrs. Joyce Jones, Ms. Margaret Rawlins, Mrs. Muriel Rayner, Mr. Cockburne Rayner.

Back row: Mr. Maxwell Scott, Mr. Edward Durrah (deceased), Mr. Daniel Van Lowe, Mrs. Piece Vickers, Mrs. Patience Godfrey, Mr. Ernest Simmons, Ms. Elizabeth Thompson.

Between 1973 and 1974, toward the end of the leadership of Pastor R. James, Somerset laymen Brothers Maxwell Thompson and Cockburn Rayner began negotiating for a piece of property on Beacon Hill road, which belonged to the late John Fowle. Pastor James was transferred before the negotiations were confirmed. So, it was with the assistance of the President of Bermuda Mission and the newly assigned Pastor to the area Carlyle Simmons, that the negotiations for the purchase of the property was completed. Shortly thereafter, on August 20th, 1977, a ground breaking ceremony was performed and thus commenced the construction of a fine edifice to the honor and glory of God.

There is much that has gone unsaid. There is much that goes without saying. Now seven years later with a church membership of one hundred and forty-one we have finally realized a goal which some would not have dared to dream.

The mountain that had in 1970 seemed unconquerable or insurmountable is now but a grain of sand under foot. The territory that reaped no souls in the 1930s is now wide open to receive the message. The same Master who almost 2,000 years ago commanded the apostles to go forward and preach, has also spoken to us here in Somerset. Like the apostles we have accepted the challenge and armed with Faith and the Spirit, we have no movements but forward ones. Our prayer daily is that the Father provide us the experiences and the strength necessary to go on. We thank you Lord.

Rosemary Tyrrell.

Groundbreaking Ceremony



... The initial step to faith...



Moving into action...



a demonstration of faith.

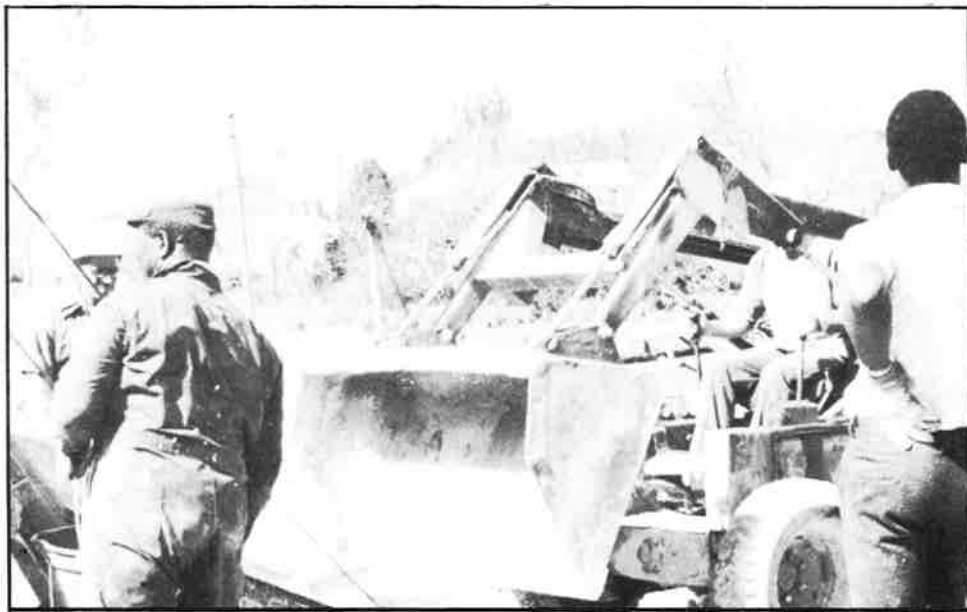




the joy of serving the Lord.



An exciting start.





You think he missed the point?

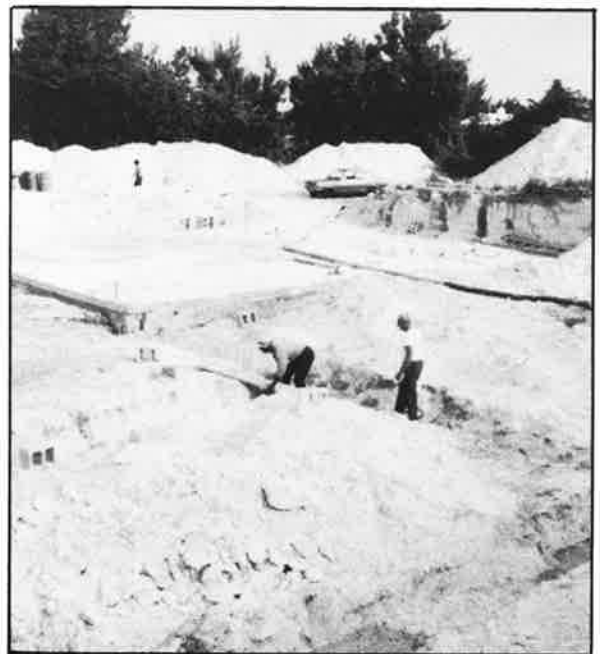


Merry hearts.

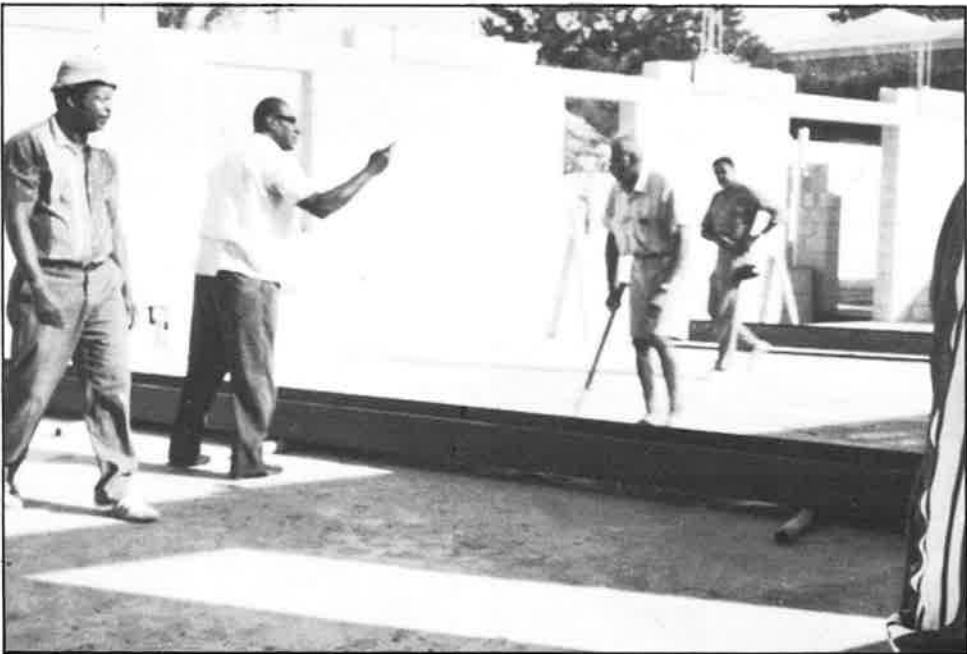




Where do we go from here?



Many hands make light work







Crew from Swan Brothers.



Help from all the churches.



Could this be the president?

Everyone pitches in.





Woman's lib?



Well... not for everyone.





“... that looks about right.”



Self-appointed supervisors.



A moment to ponder...

Completion of Second Floor.



Prayer and Praise after the completion of the 1st floor.



I think he's learning.



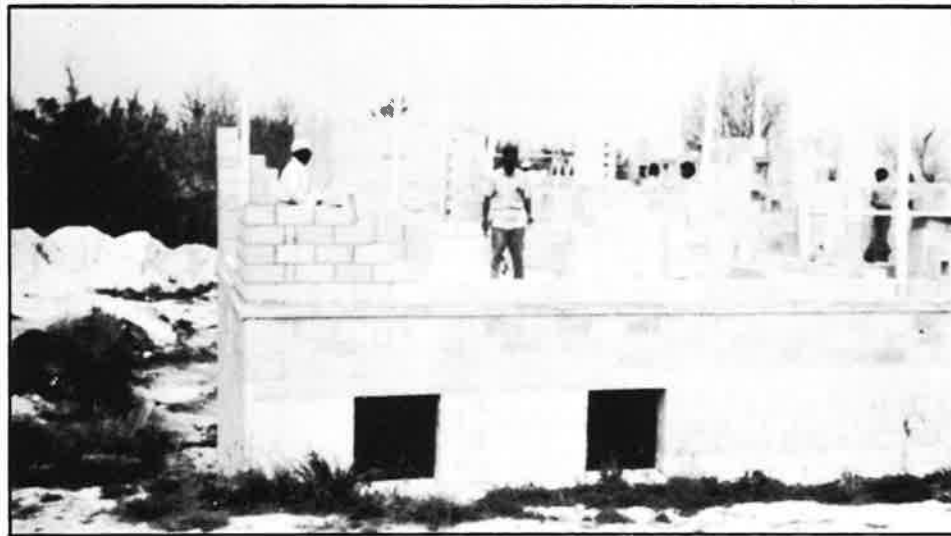
Not bad.

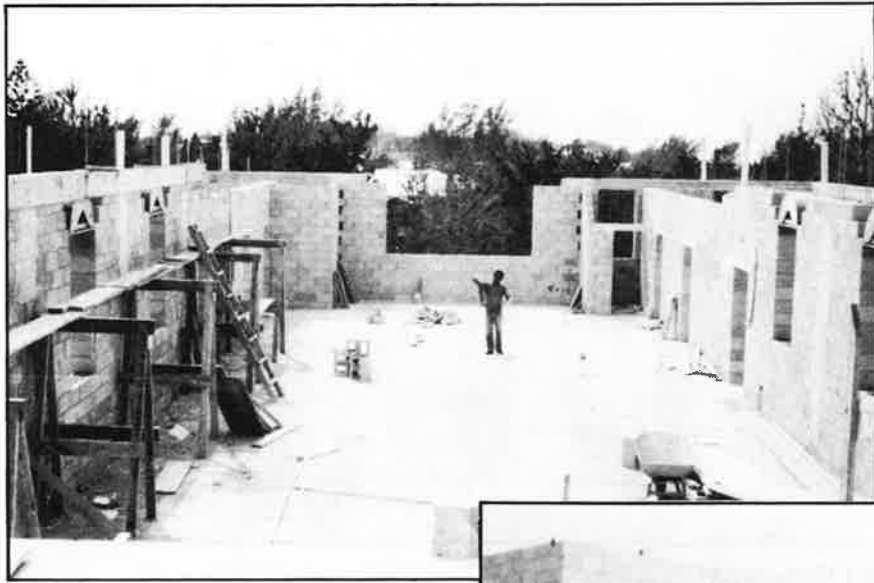


A Meeting of the Minds.



Two heads are better than one.





It's taking shape.





Not bad at all.



Departmental Officers

Members of the Somerset S.D.A. Church Board



Front row left to right:

Pastor C. Simmos, Mrs. Marilyn Simmons, Mrs. Ella Rose Simmons, Mrs. Ismay Barker, Mrs Muriel Rayner, Ms. Rosemary Tyrrell.

Back row:

Mr. Clyde Richardson, Mr. Trescot Wilson, Mrs. Annette Lynch, Mrs. Sylvia Ellis, Mr. Cockburn Rayner, Mrs. Mary Scott, Mr. Maxwell Scott.



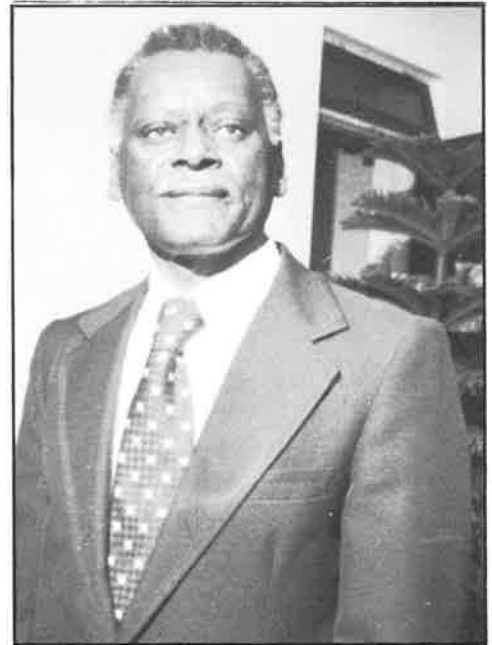
First Elder and family Trescot Wilson



Sabbath School Superintendent and wife Bro. & Sis. Maxwell Scott



Head Deacon and wife Bro. & Sis. Clyde Richardson



**Senior Sabbath School Division Leader
Bro. Maxwell Thompson**



The Pathfinder Club



**Rosemary Tyrrell — Educational Secretary
Chirleen Williams — Home and School Leader**



The Hostess Committee



The Treasury Department



Deaconesses



Deacons



The Church clerk and her assistant



Personal Ministries



Sabbath School Council



Community Services



Pastors Aids

To these our overseas friends we express our gratitude for your hospitality and the valued technical assistance while purchasing our building supplies.



**Bro. and Sis Philip Mills and Sons
Florida**

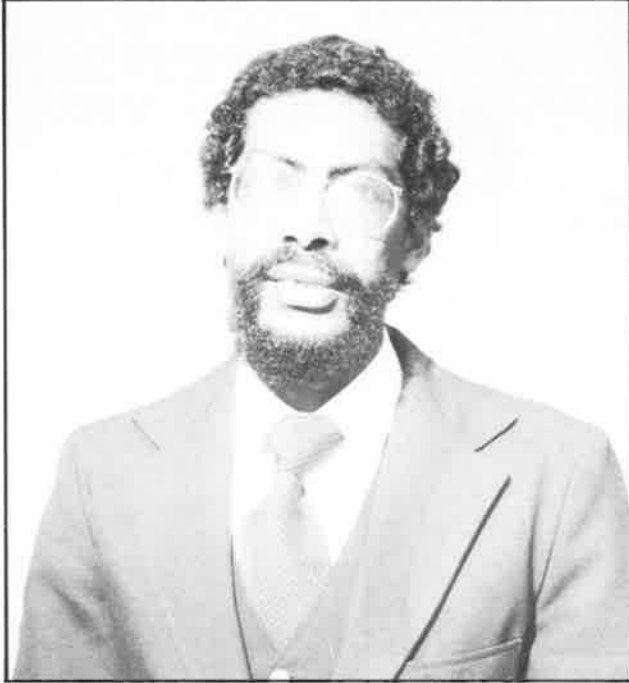


**Bro. & Sis. James Cider
Florida**



**Bro. & Sis. Oliver Harris
Georgia**

Special recognition to Brothers Leon Bean, Calson Simmons, Gary Cann, Aristodies Pires and (Stanfield Fubler) for their diligence and dedication during the erection of our church building.



Gary Cann



Calson Simmons



Bro. and Sis. Leon Bean

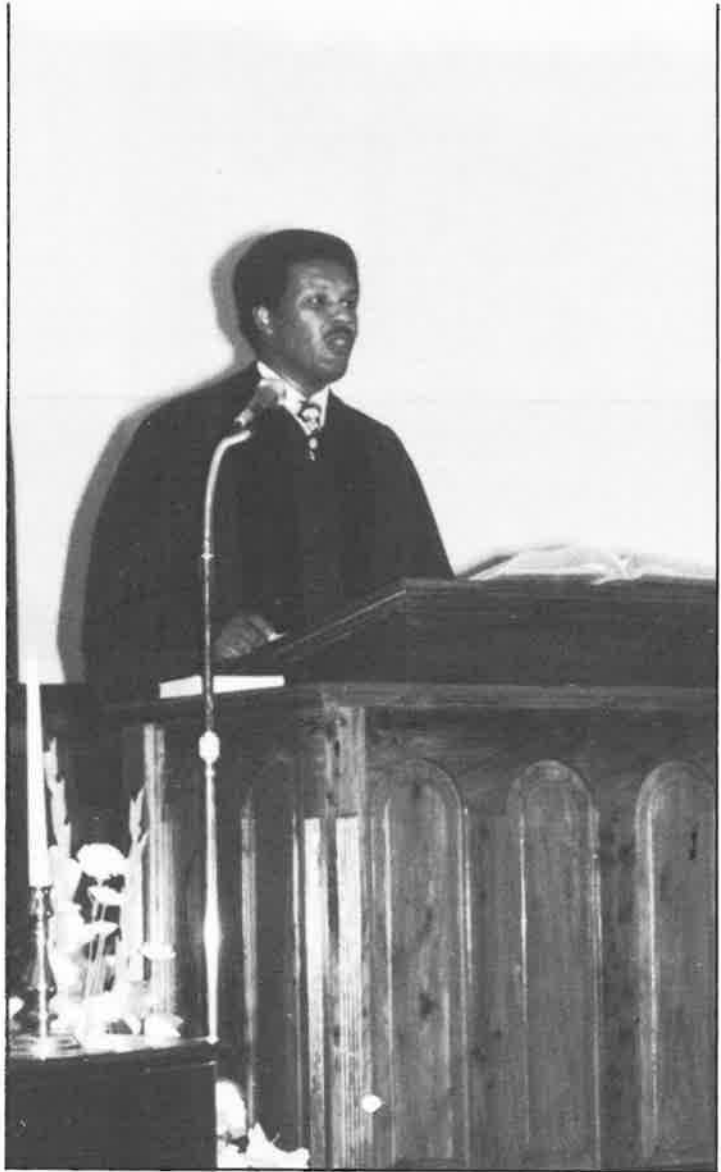


Mr. & Mrs. Aristodies Pires



“Home at Last”

Communion Service...
anticipating the opening.





Chartered members conduct Sabbath School — Opening morning.



Platform members left to right: Daniel Van Lowe, Maxwell Scott, Joyce Jones, Margaret Rawling



A special time for the pastor and family... the dedication of Julian and Michael



Grand entry on dedication day.



Premier — Hon. John W. Swan



Opposition Leader — Lois Browne-Evans



The History Committee



Sis. Mary Linda — our guest artist for the opening from Virginia.

Elder Edmundson



President of Atlantic Union

Elder A.G. Gouldbourne



President of Bermuda Mission



General Conference representative Elder Banfield



“The Warrenaires” an inspirational group

The beginning and end of something wonderful



and where from here?



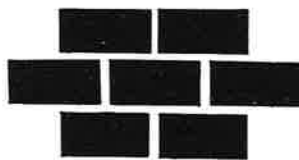
The message to all the world in this generation.



To the Somerset
Seventh-Day
Adventist Church:

Congratulations
on the opening
of your new sanctuary
on Beacon Hill Road

We wish
you all success
in the future



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on the completion of your fine
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May God continue to bless you.



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build this magnificent Church.
May all who worship within
find peace and happiness.**

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*Best Wishes and
much success to the
congregation of the
Somerset S.D.A.
Church.*

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to the
Seventh-Day
Adventist Church**

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**Congratulations!
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on the completion of their
new church building.
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their electrical fixtures.
“May God Bless this building and its
congregation!”**

Warwick S.D.A. Church

**Best Wishes to the
Pastor and members of
the Somerset S.D.A.
Church on the
completion of your
Church.
May God richly bless
your efforts.**

Southampton S.D.A. Church

**Congratulations to the
Pastor and members of
the Somerset S.D.A.
Church on the
completion of your
Church.
*God bless***

**Congratulations
to the
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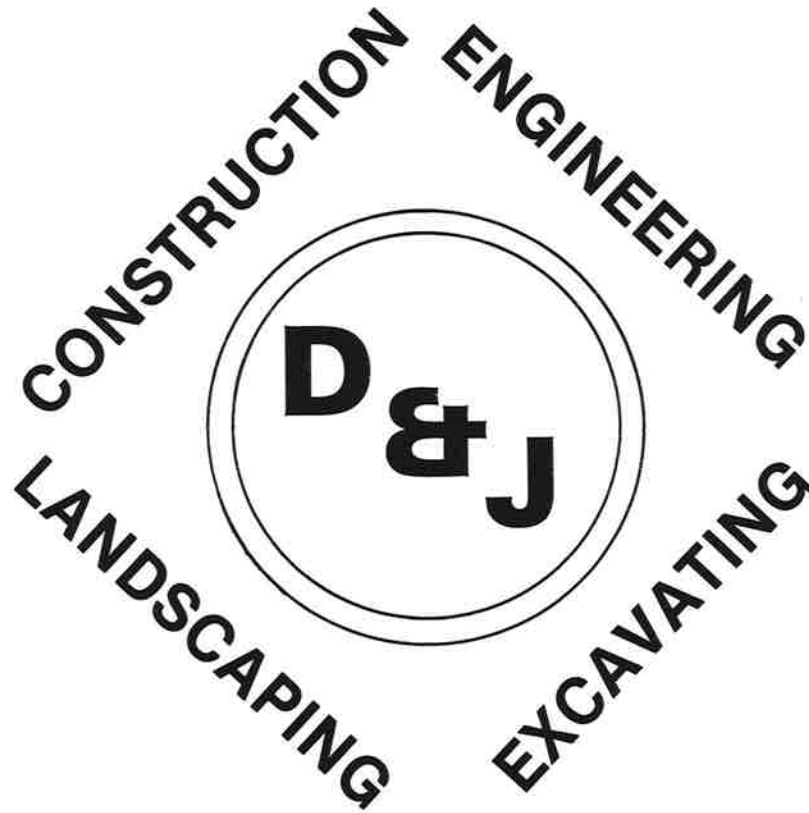
P.O. Box 461 Hamilton 5 Bermuda

Colin Pearman Funeral Homes

**Best Wishes to the
Pastor and members of
the Somerset S.D.A.
Church on the
completion of your
Church.**

Fisher Brothers

**Congratulations to the Pastor
and members of the Somerset
S.D.A. Church on the
completion of your Church.
May God richly bless
your efforts.**



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Congratulations

Devonshire S.D.A. Church

**Best Wishes and much
success to the
congregation of the
Somerset S.D.A. Church**

