

Streams of Light

Official Newsletter of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

September 2021



From the President - January to August 2021

YEAR-END SERVICE

During this COVID-19 season, the church has had to pivot in its approach and do much of its ministry through technology. Covid restrictions have prevented large in-person gatherings. We, therefore, had to celebrate our Annual Year-End Service by creating a production which was aired at sunset on December 31, 2020, through our very own ATV station, thanks to our ATV staff, Barry Richardson and Steve Ingham. We solemnly viewed the necrology of 64 of our dear church members who passed away in 2020,



own Stephen Manders.

At sunset, we shared the President's welcome, listened to the testimonies of those who were baptized in 2019, and were ushered into the New Year of 2021. Our sermonic spotlight this year was on Esther 3 as our Executive Secretary, Pastor DeJaun Tull,

reminded us that we have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.

OFFICERS' TRAINING

Due to Covid restrictions, our annual officers' training was held through Zoom technology

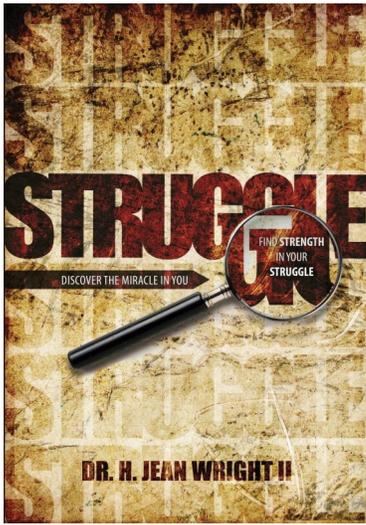


with Dr. Jamie Domm. While working for the North American Division, Dr. Domm served

as the digital strategist for social media and big data, connecting members and mission through technology. She specialized in training the church to develop new digital ministries and helping church members to become digital disciples by using social media in friendship evangelism. In her workshop with our members, she showed us how we can use online initiatives to show our interest in others and to serve their needs; that social media allows us to share our faith and to engage with our community; that we don't have a message problem, but a distribution problem, of that message. This workshop was just what the church needed to assist us in finding additional creative ways to reach and win souls for the Kingdom of God.

WORKERS' MEETING 2021

Last year was a stressful year for our Bermuda Institute staff and students due to the pandemic and the many restrictions imposed on them. The school was thrust into a mode of remote learning which became a new normal. Our teachers had to alter their lesson plans and teach our students using Zoom technology. These changes created more stress in an already stressful year. We, therefore, thought it wise to ask an Adventist psychologist, Dr. H.



Jean Wright II, the author of the book *Find Strength in your Struggle*, to walk us through the principles of his book, a tool that has guided so many institutions and people. Dr. Wright, the son of an Adventist administrator, knows all about the stress that our workers

endure. He is a transformational, highly experienced, and professionally trained clinical and forensic psychologist with over 20 years of experience in behavioral health. He has a proven success record of leading people of secular and religious institutions, governments, schools, and private practices into the disciplines of a healthy approach in dealing with problems. As a behavioral health consultant, facilitator, and trainer, Dr. Wright utilizes his ground-breaking approach, The Wright Method, to solve problems that adversely impact individuals, organizations, and communities. We did no policy updates or HR matters at this workers meeting, we simply asked our facilitator to minister to our people and to pour into them so that they might be informed and inspired to face and cope in these stressful times

and to have more strength for their struggles. Bringing this workshop to our workers was our way of letting each of them know how much we value and appreciate them and their commitment to the Lord's work.

TEACHERS APPRECIATION WEEK

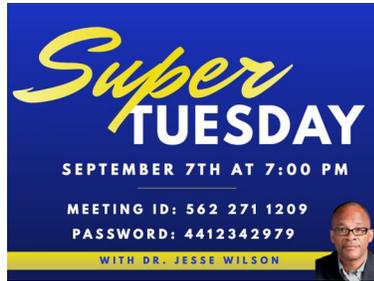
Each year, the North American Division acknowledges teachers and shows appreciation for their sacrificial service for Christian Education. Many times, teachers are overworked and underappreciated. We can never pay our teachers what they are truly worth, but we can give them tangible tokens of love and gratitude for their commitment and service. This year, as Board Chair I asked our pastors to help me to provide a homemade dinner for our colleagues at BI. Some of us cooked and served, while others provided the goods to be served. The teachers expressed their thanks to us for giving them an appreciation dinner.



ONLINE EVANGELISM

The Lord has blessed me to raise funds for evangelism which I can use to birth a few online Zoom seed-sowing preaching initiatives. Each initiative has helped to garner Bible study interest.

One initiative is Super Tuesday. Thanks to Michael Simmons, our media technician and Juliet Pearman,



music co-host for Super Tuesday, each Tuesday night since July of 2020 renowned guest preachers have encouraged church members from across the Island with powerful messages. Pastor Damon Hendrickson and Pastor Michelle Hill have joined with me and together our four churches worshiped on the Somerset Zoom platform and experienced an atmosphere of prayer, praise and good preaching. This initiative encouraged us at a time when in-person prayer meetings were not allowed or would have been impractical given the ebb and flow of Covid restrictions over the last 18 months. We have seen our Zoom attendance grow to as many as 120 a night, with additional viewers watching on Facebook and YouTube.

The goal of Super Tuesday is to keep the saints encouraged and inspired, to enrich and nurture our members, to keep them informed with church and conference news, announcements, but most importantly to worship God through prayer, praise, and good Biblical preaching. One main objective of Super Tuesday is to encourage members to become digital disciples even during these challenging times. From this platform, we held a seed-sowing initiative entitled No Fear: The Lord is

My Rock with Dr. Rupert Bushner. In this series, Dr. Bushner connected Biblical doctrines to our relationship



with Jesus as the Rock and Refuge of our salvation in uncertain times. Every guest (50 recipients) received a free copy of the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church entitled *We Believe*.

From that seed-sowing series came six Bible study interests, four of which were baptized this year in the follow-up series called No Fear: Prophecy Edition, where Drs. Rupert Bushner, Emil Peeler, and Gene Donaldson preached the prophetic messages of the books of Daniel and the Revelation. After this online series, the Lord blessed our efforts with nine baptisms. Each non-Adventist (50 guests) received a free copy of Mark Finley's book, *Understanding Daniel and Revelation*. More Bible studies ensue.

From funds raised, I was also able to sponsor another seed-sowing, evangelistic two-week series for the St. David's and Mid-



land Heights churches. Dr. Ron Smith, president of the Southern Union Conference and the leading soul winner in the NAD, preached prerecorded messages in this series entitled: A System for Survival. The series yielded three baptisms. Others are now taking Bible studies with Pastor Ulric Hetsberger, pastor of both congregations.

CAMP MEETING 2021



From Wednesday, June 30, until Sabbath, July 3, we held our 34th annual camp meeting, which was our first virtual camp meeting in the Bermuda Conference. Dr. G. Alex Bryant, the North American Division president, was our main speaker for the evening meetings, and our very own Atlantic Union officers, Dr. Elias Zabala, our treasurer; Dr. Pierre Omeler our executive secretary, Dr. G Earl Knight: our Union President and our Union Youth Director Dr. David McKenzie preached the Word of God for our early morning manna Zoom sessions.



Photo: Ricardo Clarke

The theme for camp meeting was “In Christ Alone.” Dr. Bryant preached Christ as our Righteousness and the three angels’ messages with an emphasis on the first angel and the everlasting gospel. It was a beautiful presentation that lifted Jesus as the central figure of our message. The Lord blessed our

camp meeting experience by allowing us to host our NAD President, who also shared his testimony and his vision for the NAD. We were blessed to have him for the extended weekend.



Photo: Ricardo Clarke

There is a list of members that I want to thank again for making our first virtual camp meeting a great success. A special thanks to our conference administrative secretary Roslyn Amory and Sherma Webbe Clarke our departmental secretary, the pastors and departmental leaders, ATV team, Owen Simons and the Inspirational Choir, Chaplain Simona Mills-Pitcher and the Levites who served on the praise team, and all participants for providing excellent service to the Lord’s work in the Adult Pavilion at Bermuda Institute. A special thanks to Reid Tacklin for his assistance with our hybrid camp meeting experience.

A special thanks to the Youth Department leaders, Pastor David Steede and Pastor Damon Hendrickson, and our Children’s Ministries department for their efforts to minister to our youth and children during our camp meeting experience. Please allow me to also thank Joelle Williams and her cast for investing their talents in service to God and our youth and young adults with a very passion-

ate stage play and production. A special thanks to Pastor Mike Faison who stepped in to assist us in adding to and providing a virtual children's ministries camp meeting program.

As an administration, we thank all of our retirees that we were pleased to honor for their many years of service. More is shared in the secretary's report.

OUR HEALTH INITIATIVE RENEWED



DEVONSHIRE SDA CHURCH
62 ROBERT'S AVENUE DEVONSHIRE, HM 15
PRESENTER: DR. LEONARD GIBBONS
**NATURE'S HEALING
REMEDIES**
Free 8 Weekly Training Sessions, Sunday Mornings
STARTS: APRIL 11TH 2021
ENDS: MAY 30TH, 2021
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Email your name and contact number to register and receive course materials
Email: dclbulletin@gmail.com
Phone: 292-1578
Zoom: ID: 4621 755 134
Password: 212988
Live Stream: <https://www.facebook.com/DCLBermuda/>
Youtube search: Devonshire SDA Church

renewed our contract with Dr. Gibbons who has agreed to facilitate online health lectures as a ministry that the Lord inspired us to birth for the people of Bermuda.

As our consultant, during this Covid period, Dr. Gibbons has provided three Zoom programs using the Southampton, Devonshire, and Somerset church platforms. Hundreds have taken advantage of these services. At our most recent program, I welcomed 64 non-Adventists to our platform at the Somerset church for eight consecutive Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 10:30 am to engage in the NEWSTART Solution to 8 Challenging Health

Conditions. Each participant of the program received a certificate of completion and Adventist literature. The drawn prize winners received a basket of fruit or vegetables for their participation. We hope that we will build a relationship with these interests and encourage them to experience a lifestyle change, possibly leading them to a better quality of life. We hope they might ultimately experience the abundant life found in Christ.

VISIT TO THE GOVERNOR OF BERMUDA



I felt impressed to make a courtesy call to the Governor of Bermuda, Her Excellency Rena Lalgie, who was sworn into office in December 2020. Her appointment was historical as she is the first female and the first person of color to hold this office.

She brings with her 20 years of experience working in a range of positions in the UK Government. As a spiritual leader, I wanted to welcome her and let her know that her friends, the Seventh-day Adventist church, the fourth largest and the fastest growing denomination on the Island, would be honored by her presence at our next camp meeting in 2022. I shared with her that our footprint of community service in the Island is appreciat-

ed by the Bermuda Foundation and other charitable entities who collaborate with us to help relieve some of the hardships that many of our people have experienced because of this pandemic. She shared with me that she has developed a garden on Government property that has enabled her to provide vegetables for the same cause. I gifted her with a set of the *Conflict of the Ages* series and *Steps to Christ* (books that will strengthen her spiritual walk). She shared with me that she has Adventist relatives and is looking forward to honoring my 2022 camp meeting invitation. We had prayer together, that the Lord would bless her time here with success, to both her and our island home.



FALL EVANGELISM 2021

Please pray for the virtual evangelistic meetings that will be held September 18 to October 9 with Dr. Carlton Byrd, Pastor Orville Brissett, and Dr. Abraham Jules. The series is entitled “I Survived”. Our theme text is

Revelation 12:17. The remnant church has been through the apostasy of the Dark Ages, the removal of the Word of God, and persecution; yet, she emerged from that ordeal and has survived because God promised the gates of hell will not prevail against His church. God’s true church has been through much, but she has survived!



From the Executive Secretary . . . DeJaun Tull



At our annual Camp meeting, we honored seven retirees

Deborah Lowe
STUDENT ACCOUNTS
15 years

Janet Smith
SCHOOL SECRETARY
30.5 years



Eardley Richardson
CUSTODIAN
17 years

David Jarrett
MAINTENANCE
26 years



Kevin Santucci
BIBLE INSTRUCTOR & PRISON
MINISTRIES DIRECTOR
18 years

Cynthia Tucker
P.E. TEACHER
27.5 years



Eloise Symonds
BIBLE INSTRUCTOR & PERSONAL
MINISTRIES DIRECTOR
34 years

We, as a conference and school, have benefitted from their wisdom and leadership and we wish them all the best as they enjoy their well deserved retirement!

APPOINTMENTS VOTED ITEMS BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

NAME	NEW APPOINTMENT
Pastor Damon Hendrickson	Retention & Reclamation director
Dr. Carlyle Simmons	Sabbath School director
W. Aaron M. Spencer	Stewardship director
Pastor David Steede II	Adventist Youth Ministries director
Pastor DeJaun Tull	Ministerial director NAD representative for Bermuda Conference (Pastor)
Pastor Ulric Hetsberger	St. David's SDA Church (shared pastorate) Personal Ministries director
Michelle Smith	School Board representative for St. George's
Tanya Warner	Treasury Departments of Bermuda Conference and Bermuda Institute have been consolidated at the Conference office
Dora Baker	NAD representative for Bermuda Conference (Layperson)

On behalf of the administration of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, we would like to express thanks to Joy Tyrrell for her sacrificial service as our NAD representative on the executive committee. The time, energy, talents, and commitment manifested for the cause of God's work will always be remembered and appreciated.

2021 Statistical Report...To end of 2nd Qtr.

	Total Start	Baptisms	P.O.F.	Trans In	Adjust	Trans Out	Death	Drop	Missing	Adjust	Total End
DEVONSHIRE	437			5	1		2	1			440
HAMILTON	911	7	1	1		1	8			2	909
MID. HEIGHTS	354	2		1	2	2	1			2	354
PEMBROKE	257	5				2	2				258
REST. MIN.	228										228
ROCKAWAY	90	1			1	1					91
SOMERSET	375	4			1	1	5				374
SOUTHAMPTON	592	2		2	2	3	3	1			591
ST. DAVID'S	89	1					1			1	88
ST. GEORGE'S	294			1	1	3	2		4		287
WARWICK	292	2				2	2	1		1	288
CMH	39					1					38
TOTALS	3,958	24	1	10	8	16	26	3	4	6	3,946



From the Treasurer . . . W. Aaron M. Spencer

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history” - EGW Life Sketches pg. 196

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. The Lord of hosts is with us”Ps. 46: 1 & 7

Treasurer’s Update

Bermuda Conference continues to be very blessed even with challenges of the pandemic. We have in this midst of the pandemic for over eighteen months and even though we have felt trepidation the text above are still true “We have nothing to fear because he is with us now and we can be assured because He has shown us in the past protection, deliverance and His power that He, God, is our refuge and strength! “The Lord of hosts is with us...”

We will discuss, in this report, where the Conference stands financially, but let us remember His goodness and the importance of being faithful stewards in all that He has entrusted us with, to the very end. Our island has faced, and will be facing, challenging times

There are two staffing changes that have impacted the Treasury area:

Photo: Ricardo Clarke



We congratulate Bisengi Gatare, who is now the Treasurer of the Maritime Conference in the Canadian Union. In July 2021 Mr. Gatare moved to Canada to take on this role and we pray God will bless Bisengi’s efforts in this role. We also pray for a smooth transition for his family as they join him in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.

We very much appreciate Bisengi’s contribution to Bermuda Conference during the last 7 years where he served effectively as the ABC manager making tremendous strides to turn around years of deficit operations for some 5 years and most recently we appreciate his efforts as the Conference assistant treasurer.

We are currently working to fill the assistant treasurer position and have advertised in our churches.

We are also pleased to have Tanya Warner, Business Manager of Bermuda Institute located at the Bermuda Conference office following an executive committee decision to consolidate treasury functions within Bermuda. We will work together to improve the reliability of financial information consistent with our following objectives.

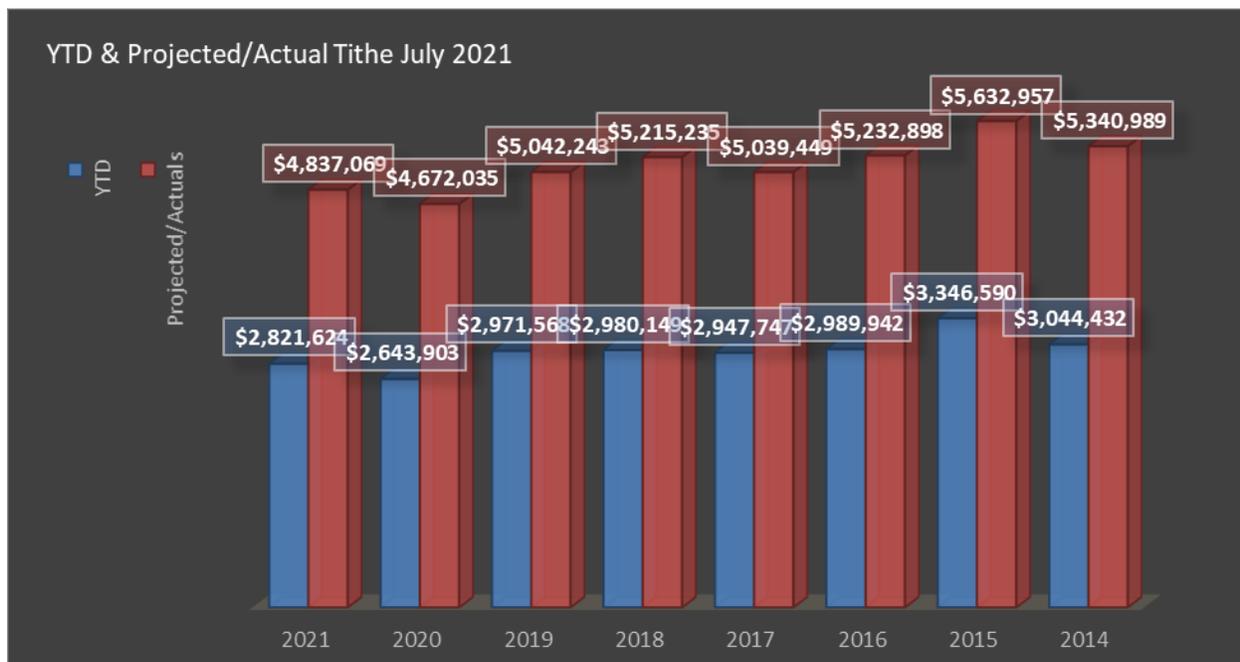


The objectives of the Treasury are:

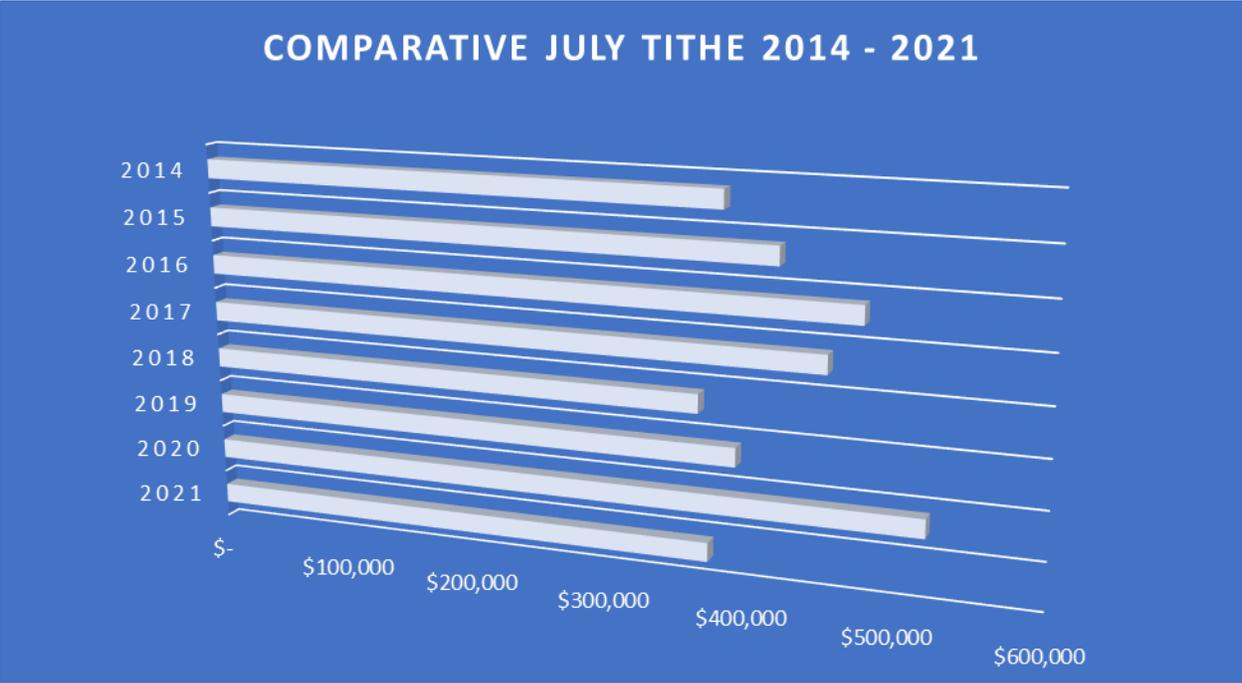
- Open, clear and timely communication to stakeholders (local committees, members, & Union.);
- Ensure that the assets of the Conference are effectively managed and identify opportunities to be more efficient ensuring value for dollars spent;
- Identify risk and implement mitigating strategies to reduce/manage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

Below are a few charts summarizing where the Conference and churches are from a tithe perspective. The first chart shows year-to-date (YTD) tithe and projected tithe for 2021.

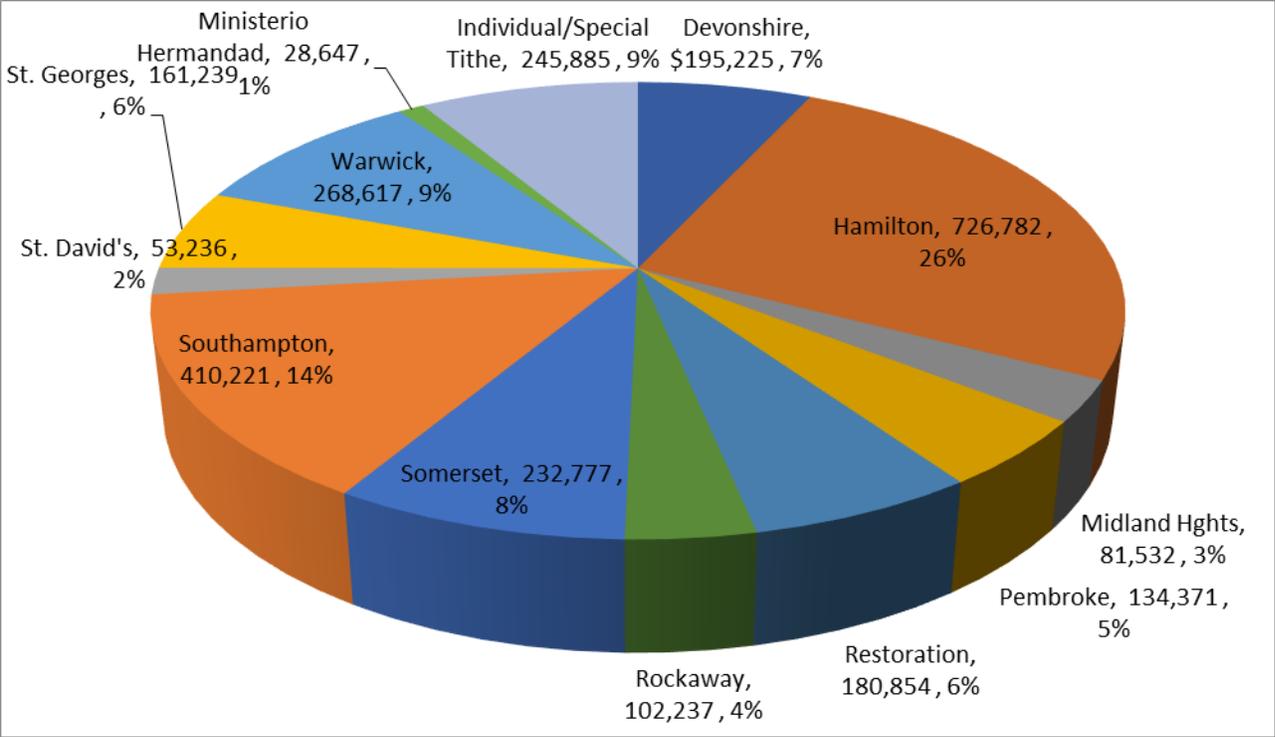
Tithe to July '21 was \$2,822k vs \$2,644k in 2020 up \$178k or 6%. Note: YTD July 21 had one more Sabbath than for the same period in 2020. Our tithe during the last 7 years is overall trending downward, but prayerfully the 2021 tithe will be at 2019 level of \$5M.



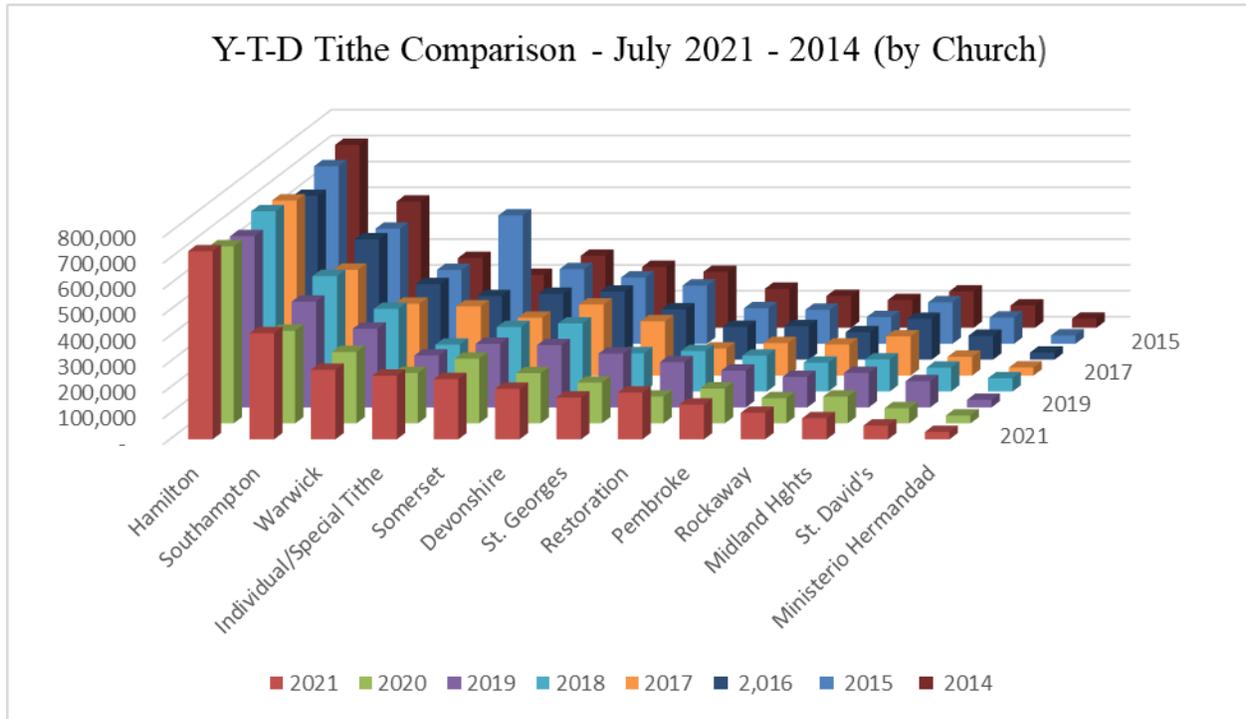
The following slide shows the month of July in comparison to other Julys over the last 7 years. Except for 2018, July 2021 was the lowest over the period. July 2021 tithe was \$375.6k and -\$148k or -37.6% below 2020 tithe of \$523.9k. The considerable change is very slightly mitigated by a church that did report and another church that omitted the final week from the report.



The chart below shows each churches contribution to the overall tithe. Hamilton contribution to Bermuda Conference tithe has increased by 2% since the last report in December 2020.

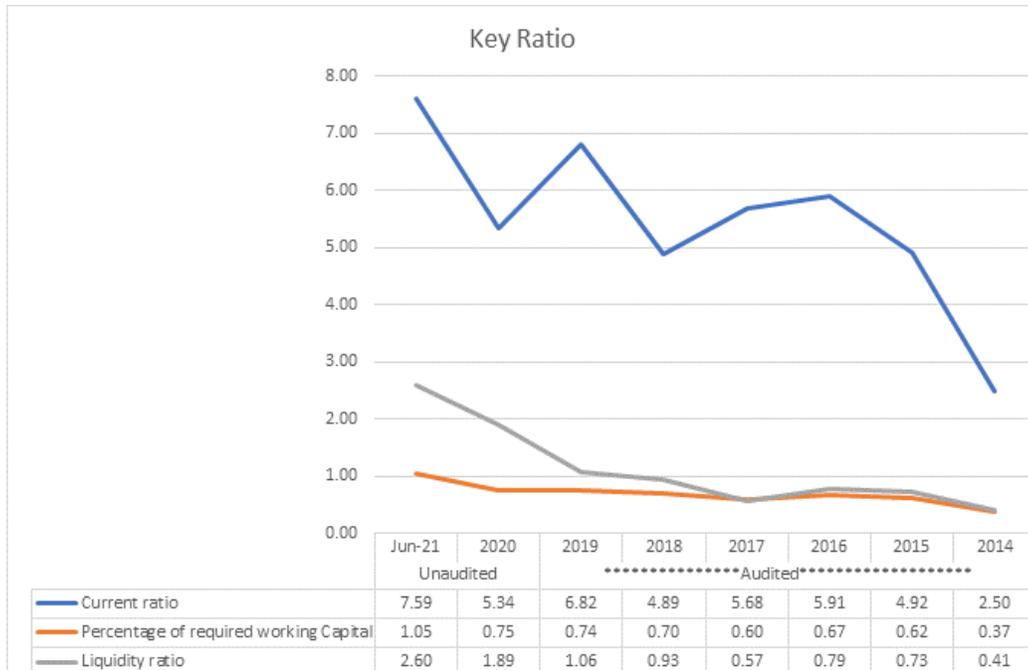


The chart below shows the trending of tithe by church of the last 7 years.



FINANCIAL POSITION

Whilst there have been numerous challenges in the last 18 months with income (tithe and offerings), COVID-19 has also resulted in less spending; therefore, the overall financial position is somewhat stronger than before the pandemic. There are improvements in current, liquidity and working capital ratios.



TREASURY PROJECTS

ABC ledger has been setup on AASI and is up-to-date. This will allow us to decommission Quickbooks and provide consistency as to how accounting is done.

We are behind on training and conversion of Churches to NAD church accounting system (CTS). We will work on this project in the 4th quarter 2021.

GCAS AUDIT

The General Conference Audit Services (GCAS) completed the 2019 audit since the last reporting. The opinion given was unqualified (clean). There were no audit adjustments but as always there are areas to be improved.

The field (onsite) work for the 2020 audit was also completed and we expect to have the audit finalized shortly. Initial indications from the auditors were that there were no audit adjustments to the 2020 numbers.

TRUSTEE

All properties except Sousa Estate are rented. Red Slipper lower apartment was rented during the period after the electrical system was updated. Plans are currently being completed, to be approved by the Government Planning Department, to build a retaining wall at Sousa Estate property. The wall will be built on our boundary and correct an issue that has been outstanding for several years.

Thank you also must be extended to the church treasurers and their teams for the tremendous efforts in ensuring the effective management of church finances.

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

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

We are stewards – holdings assets for God!

- Time
- Talents
- Treasures
- Influence

THREE KINDS OF GIVERS: Someone has said, there are three kinds of givers—the flint, the sponge and the honeycomb. To get anything out of a flint you must hammer it. And then you get only chips and sparks. To get water out of a sponge you must squeeze it, and the more you use pressure, the more you will get. But the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness. Which kind of giver are you? (<http://www.kluth.org/church/illustrations.htm>)

Let us be the honeycomb giver who gives just because of the love we have for God and recognize He is pouring out blessings that there isn't room enough and our desire is to follow His command. If you love me (Christ), keep my commandments! *John 14:15*

Thank you all who have been faithful and may all who continue to strive to be faithful by His spirit!

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 1 Cor. 2:9



From the Education Supt . . . Cyril Millett III

George Barna, who specializes in research for Christian ministries, wrote a book entitled “Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions.” In it he stresses the importance of guiding our children in their choice of inviting Jesus into their hearts at a young age. His findings show the following:

The probability of someone embracing Jesus as their Saviour between the ages of 5-12 is 32%. This drops to 4% for ages 13 to 18 and only 6% for those 19 and older. He also points out that the spiritual moorings of children are in place by age 9.

These statistics tells me that it is important to provide our children with the opportunity at a young age to accept Jesus. Bermuda Institute is here to provide such opportunities every day. By joining hands with the home and church, Bermuda Institute is an active agent in guiding our children into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Some may argue that it is the parents’ and not the church that should be responsible for the spiritual development of their children. This is true in many ways, and Seventh-day Adventist Christian education is a vital supporting component that the Bermuda Conference of Churches is making available to our families.

Look at what Ellen White says to underscore the need for churches to assist parents in the Christian education of their children. She counseled,

“While we should put forth our earnest efforts for the masses of people around us, and push the work into foreign fields, no amount of labor in this line can excuse us for neglecting the edu-

cation of our children and youth” (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p 165).



Bermuda Institute opened the 2021-2022 school year with 269 precious lambs, our children and youth.

Thank you for entrusting these precious souls from your families and churches to us. Our aim is to encourage each of these young ones to, “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:14)

As we begin the semester, please join us in prayer in your home and in your church as our teachers and staff build relationships of influence with our children for Christ. This supremely important relational difference is at the center of our school mission statement:

Bermuda Institute is committed to **encouraging its students to develop a personal relationship with God**, challenging them to academic, physical and social excellence, thus equipping them for Heaven, service to God and their fellow men.

Seventh-day Adventist Christian education has had a place in our conference since 1943. As we continue to grow as a conference our mission remains: to see souls united with Christ! To lose that commitment to the mission of our school

that commitment to the mission of our school would destroy the future of our families and our church. As we move forward as Adventist families and as churches, Christian education through Bermuda Institute is more important now than ever before in our history.

As parents and as a church family – what will your answer be when Jesus looks into your eyes and asks you that heart-wrenching question of the prophet Jeremiah – “Where is the flock that was given to you, Your beautiful flock?”

Ask yourself this question: If I were the enemy... where would I put my energy? Any formidable enemy, when deciding to focus on destroying a people, will place their energy where it would do the most damage. When it comes to destroying the church, to slaughtering the family of God, the youth and the young will certainly be the enemy’s target population.

Don’t be fooled!

It is true that Satan has great plans for the lambs in our families and in our churches. He has made younger ones a priority. We must join as co-labourers with Christ so that we can be channels of His Spirit in our churches, *and in Bermuda Institute!*

Bermuda Institute teachers have a continuous evangelistic campaign every year, 180 days a year, with at least 1080 hours of direct contact a year – working to direct the hearts and minds of our children and youth to Jesus Christ.

Even while starting the year with a few teachers short and under the oppressive conditions of COVID -19, our staff is pressing forward to meet the needs of our children. We adapt and pivot as the Spirit guides. Our school is stepping up by God’s grace to meet the challenges that Satan is throwing in our way. Jesus, our Shepherd guide is ever before us!

We thank our administrator and teacher under-shepherds for keeping watch over our flock that none be lost. I invite you to be a prayer partner with our administrators, teachers and support staff

as they serve on the frontline in this battle for the eternal destiny of our children.

Join with the Bermuda Institute family as we support your families and churches in the mission of building relationships under the Great Shepherd to see our lambs saved in His kingdom.



2021-2022 Theme Text

We *are* hard-pressed on every side,
yet not crushed;
we are perplexed, but not in despair;
persecuted, but not forsaken;
struck down, but not destroyed.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.
For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal

2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 17-18 (NKJV)

We say farewell to our retirees—David Jarrett, Eardley Richardson, Deborah Lowe, Cynthia Tucker, Janet Smith—and wish them all the best in the future!

We welcome to the team Jane Smith (administrative assistant) and Henry Gibbons (maintenance).