

THE LOGOS



Connected: Growing in Christ

"Year of The Pastor"

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SCATTER TO GATHER



Recent studies on church growth suggest that the Christian church around the world is shrinking rather than expanding. This is especially daunting when

compared to other religions.

One of the reasons for this is the mindset of the western modern church toward the biblical imperative to go on a daily basis into the world and scatter the seeds of the gospel before the church qualifies to gather for worship.

The biblical imperative of *Scatter to Gather* is seeking an audience with the people of God to present its argument for reconsideration. A further explanation of *Scatter To Gather* is anchored in the Word of God at the beginning of the New Testament Church (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus sought out twelve disciples to send them out into the world to preach the gospel as a witness, so that the end could be at hand.

This verse outlines for us the first requirement of the church, which is to *scatter* (go) the gospel unto all the world for a witness, and that the main resource is made available to the church in order to have that accomplished.

The world often gets the impression that the church's first order of business is to gather itself to worship and to pamper itself... so much so that today the emphasis is placed on gathering as opposed to scattering. Examine with me our activities:

If you were to make a list, how many of the activities at your church would be considered scattering activities as opposed to gathering activities? May I submit for your careful reflection that the church does not have a right to gather until it has scattered. There are many illegal gathering in Christendom simply because they only check in for worship once a week and for one hour without any spiritual exercise.

The result is that the church has become obese in posture. Christians appear in church on Sabbath mornings over fed with worship, when we have not been obedient to the Creator's command to scatter for witness during the week.

I submit that one of the reasons that our churches are not overflowing on Sabbaths is because we have not planned intentionally to scatter during the week and more so, come with self-serving activities. Therefore, we reap what

has been sown. Nothing! Oh, we get excited about church elections, and making our points on boards and committees, but have we made an effort to share Christ in the marketplace this week?

Look with me for a moment at the life of Jesus. When man sinned the Godhead decided that they would have to scatter in order to gather. Yes, Jesus left the comfort of His heavenly home and the presence of family, thus entering into a war zone called earth where He had to confront the enemy, Satan. Jesus was sent and He accepted the commission. He socialized with us in the context of sin taking unto himself the form a human. Yes, growing up He found himself in the neighborhoods being about his fathers business. He sympathized with folk, served their needs, secured their confidence, saved them and then sent them out. Gathering keeps us in the confines of the sanctuary where there is a sense of entitlement, security, and safety, but that is not our primary assignment.

Scattering has to be intentional, and then gathering will be a joy. -Pastor Paul Scavella, President

STATE OF THE CONFERENCE

State of the Conference under the theme, "Connected: Scatter to Gather", will be held at the Grant's Town Seventh-day Adventist Church on January 2, 2016 at 3:45 p.m. Plan now to experience the explosive power of God! A special blessing awaits all! -Administration

RENOVATIONS AT THE GMCI

The campus of the Global Mission Centre of Influence is under mass renovation. All members are asked to proceed with caution while visiting or worshipping at the campus. The cooperation of all is appreciated. -Administration

LAY PREACHERS' INSTITUTE

The Personal Ministries Department will launch a Lay Preachers' Institute in 2016. Plan and prepare to be a part of the training. Follow the Logos for details on this exciting move in our conference. Prepare, so you can scatter to gather. -Pastor Lynden Williams, SSPM Director

BACK TO FAITH⁺

Are you burdened for a soul that needs to come back to faith? Well, get onboard the Back to Faith⁺ which will expand in January 2016. Watch The Logos for details.

ATCU PRAYER INITIATIVE

The prayer focus of the Atlantic Caribbean Union (ATCU) for December 13 - 19, 2015 is: **For the Certain Return of Christ.** -Pastor Peter Joseph, Prayer Coordinator

EDUCATING TO WIN!

-JOINT EDUCATION CONCLAVE-

Note the change of venue for January 23.

The first ever Education Conclave of the South Bahamas Conference under the theme, *Educating to Win* will be held on Friday and Saturday, January 22 and 23, 2016!

All services will be joint. See details below:

- Friday, January 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. - Hillview Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Sabbath, January 23, 2016 at 9:15 a.m. - Bahamas Academy, Marshall Road
- Sabbath, January 23, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. - Bahamas Academy, Marshall Road

Get a closer look at our 103-year old academy! Claim your stake in Seventh-day Adventist Christian education and show up for the inspirational messages by Mr. David Daniels, Senior Director of the Bainum Family Foundation based in Maryland, USA. -Mrs. Joan Scavella, Education Director

WORKERS' MEETING

The South Bahamas Conference will hold its Workers' Meeting at Bahamas Academy, Marshall Road on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. All workers are urged to be in attendance. Retirees are invited. -Administration

COMING IN 2016!

Cure for the Common Life (CFCL) provides the platform to experience reality without reproach through a transformational series of personal "intra-views", profound teachings and practical tools for releasing baggage and living unfettered. Nobody's perfect but we can help to perfect each other, through authentic connection and an atmosphere of candor and encouragement. *CFCL* sessions feature ordinary people sharing life-changing truths on surrender, sex, forgiveness, unbelief, divorce, and the Holy Spirit, among others. Sessions open to men and women. Beginning Wednesday, January 27 - through Sabbath, February 6, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at Living Faith Seventh-day Adventist Church. For more information, contact the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director, Pastor Paul Scavella at 341-4021 or Dr. Stephanie Hutcheson at cureforcommonlife@gmail.com for more information. -Dr. Stephanie Hutcheson, Psychologist

GOOD NEWS PERSONAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT TO HOST SEMINAR ON DEMONIC POSSESSION

The Personal Ministries Department of the Good News Seventh-day Adventist Church will present a seminar entitled "Demonic Possession and the Seventh-day Adventist Church" on Sabbath, December 12, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Presenters will be Pastors Danhugh Gordon and Edward St. Fleur. Come and be blessed! -Elder Kevin Sterling, Personal Ministries Secretary; Good News Seventh-day Adventist Church

BEREA'S CHAM DEPARTMENT TO HOST CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

The Children and Adolescent Ministries of the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church will be hosting a Christmas Musical under the theme "Shepherds, Sheep & a Saviour" at their church on Bailou Hill Road on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. God chose shepherds to be the first ones to see the Savior! This is their story - what they heard and what they saw that marvelous night when God came to dwell with men. For more information, email us at bercastorytime@gmail.com. Visit our website at www.bereasdachurch.com. -Elder Eugene Greene, Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church

MONTHLY JOINT SBC WALK

Join us on December 13, 2015 at 6:00 a.m. for overall rejuvenation. Starting from Goodman's Bay to Sandyport and back. If you cannot walk the entire route, come and do what you can. Your body will thank you for it! -Mrs. Nathelyn LaCroix, Health Ministries Director

EMOTIONAL WELLNESS SUMMIT

All persons interested in travelling to Orlando, Florida to attend an Emotional Wellness Summit on January 13 - 17, 2016, may contact Nathelyn LaCroix at telephone 323-0610 or email Lifestylecounsellor64@gmail.com for information on registration, living accommodations, air and ground transportation. Check this link to choose the presentations you would like to attend and register <http://www.emotionalwellnesssummit.com>. Confirm your desire to travel with the SBC group by December 6, 2015. -Health Ministries

ADVENTIST HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (AHPA)

YEAR-END GET TOGETHER

All health directors, assistants Adventist Health Professionals and persons with a passion for health are invited to attend a year-end get together at Market Place, Royal Towers, Atlantis. A cost is involved. Please call 323 0610 for additional information. -Mrs. Nathelyn LaCroix, Health Ministries Director

HILLVIEW YOUTH CHOIR PRESENTS "WE HAVE OUR SAVIOUR"

The Youth Choir of the Hillview Seventh-day Adventist Church presents, "We Have Our Saviour" on Friday, December 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. This event will take place at the Hillview Seventh-day Adventist Church on Tonique Williams-Darling Highway. Come and be blessed. -Mrs. Dale McPhee, Youth Choir Director

HILLVIEW CHAM CHOIR PRESENTS CANTATA

The Hillview Children and Adolescents Choir presents the cantata "The Light Has Come", on Sabbath, December 19, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. Come and be blessed. -Mrs. Jacqueline Brown, CHAM Choir Director; Hillview SDA Church

ADVENTIST BOOK AND NUTRITION CENTRE

1. Sabbath School Quarterlies for 1st Quarter 2016, will be ready for pick up beginning Monday, December 14, 2015. All church treasurers are kindly asked to have their outstanding accounts cleared on or before that date!
2. The ABC will be closed on TUESDAY, December 15, 2015, due to SBC Annual Workers' Party.
3. Storewide *Book Sale* will be on December 1 to December 31, 2015.
4. STOREWIDE SALE December 22, & 23, 2015. -Mrs. Cherry Blackmore, Manager

PRAYER MINISTRIES UPDATES

Our 1st monthly scheduled Prayer Session for 2016 will be in the form of an All Night Prayer Meeting to be held on Saturday, January 2, 2016 at 9:00 p.m. to Sunday, January 3, 2016 at 6:00 a.m. The location will be announced later. We apologize for any inconvenience you may experience due to this change.

Remember our weekly Prayer Session at SBC Office every Wednesday at 12 noon. Please feel free to join us there for a time of prayer for the church, the South Bahamas Conference officers and the entire workforce.

Let us continue to prayer for one another, for our Conference and the nation at large. If there are any questions, please feel free to call Elder David Knowles at 425-1191, or Sister Ali McIntosh at 423-2709. Blessings on you! -Sister Ali McIntosh, Lay Prayer Administrative Coordinator

BETHANY'S YEAR-END EVENT

The Bethany Seventh-day Adventist Church under the theme, *Celebrating Love, Joy and Peace* will have their year-end event at the New Providence Community Centre, Blake Road on Sunday, December 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Get your ticket before December 21. For more information, contact Ms. Dawne Forbes at 341 4021. -Ms. Dawne Forbes, Bethany Seventh-day Adventist Church.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES FINAL CARE PACKAGE DISTRIBUTION FOR 2015

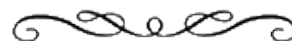
The last distribution of Care Packages for 2015 will be done on Sabbath, December 19 at the *Willamae Pratt Home for Girls*. As the Bible says, "a little child shall lead them", so will our younger ladies in this instance, as our GEMS will take the lead in this last initiative. In keeping with our "pretty purse" idea, we are attempting to fill or stuff any un-used purse(s) that we have and take them to the girls at the home. Please identify a pretty purse, stuff it with girly items and a spiritual book or tract and give to your local leader for the give-a-way.

Some churches indicated that they have adopted other charities. If you have a particular entity to which you wish to direct your give-a-way, by all means do so as we spread God's love in a tangible way this season.

Thanks for your willingness to be used in this initiative. -Mrs. Jacqueline Gibson, Women's Ministries Director

HEALTH AND SOCIAL TALKS

A health and social event sponsored by the Burning Flames will be held at the Flamingo Gardens Park (adjacent to the Gerald Cash Primary School) on Sunday, December 13, 2015 starting at 11:00 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. Be a part of this outreach programme as we seek to win souls for Christ through various activities for both children and adults. Call 544 4157 for additional information. -Elder Torri Knowles, Burning Flames Ministry



YOUTH TIDBITS

Pathfinder Band in Concert

The South Bahamas Conference Pathfinder Band will be in concert at the H.D. Colburn Gymnasium located at the Global Centre of Influence on Wulff Road on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Contact your local youth leader for information on admission.

Youth Award Banquet

The Youth Ministries Department announces its Award Banquet under the distinguished patronage of Pastor and Mrs. Paul Scavella at the Melia Resort, Nassau Beach on Sunday, December 20, 2015. Red carpet opens at 5:00 p.m. with dinner and awards at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the conference office.

Bible Study

Bible Study will be held at the Hillview Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Volleyball Practice

Volleyball games/practice will be held on the Hillview Seventh-day Adventist Church grounds on Mondays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. See Pastor Green for more information.

Volleyball Tournament

Volleyball Tournament is underway at the GMCI. Take the family out tonight (Saturday, December 12, 2015) at 7:00 p.m. -Pastor Larry Green, Youth Ministries Director

SUN SETS NEXT SABBATH DECEMBER 19, 2015 AT 5:23 P.M.

Website:

<http://southbahamasconference.org>

Have a Blessed and Wonderful Sabbath!

