

THE LOGOS



Connected: Scatter to Gather

“Lord Transform Me”

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BAHAMAS INDEPENDENCE: RECALIBRATE THEN CELEBRATE



“Independence

morning, is like a baby borning....” These words will be forever etched in the minds of Bahamian *baby boomers* in particular, as a moment in our

history that was punctuated by this and other song releases coinciding with the 1973 event.

My parents, brother, and I after completing an academic year in Riverside, California returned to The Bahamas three weeks after independence. The sweet aroma of independence was likened that of a baby freshly scented with Johnson's baby powder. To me it was a country without prejudice and just perfect in every way. Yes, the innocence of childhood!

A reality check came eight years after a pastoral assignment to the Island of Abaco, a beautiful and gorgeous island.

Then came the shock of my life! For the first time I encountered the reality of churches that catered only to Bahamians of a different hue than myself; churches where every member had a personal key to enter, and none of them looked like me.

Certainly this was not reflective of the entire country for the most part, however I am not sure that we don't today see forms of *classism* popping up its ugly head in the modern society, especially from an economic point of view. Most of our people are suffering economically today, the rich are getting richer, and the poor getting poorer.

Governance could encourage funding to spread to all in this nation sufficiently to help bring back the Johnson Baby's smell of freshness again. I can recall in Grand Bahama in the early seventies, that having two and three jobs was common. Now, we cannot find one.

It was the inequality of the majority within the country that gave rise to the struggle for majority rule.

My fear is that we tend to make the same mistakes over and over.

How can we as a people avoid making the same mistakes?

1. As a nation, we have to acknowledge our shortcomings, one of which is that God is no longer our priority.

2. Christian family values have gone out the window. We need to re-establish biblical family values within our society. Our crime problem is a family problem. The family is the

foundation of the society. Once that is disrupted then society is disrupted.

3. Nation builders have to be just that. But they must ask the question what are we building? What material are we using to build, and who are the contractors?

This country, while communicating with our mouths a heavy bend toward the things of God, has in recent times demonstrated a desire for materialism within the heart of the people. Faith has been exchanged for fabulous fantasies, and material abundance; comforts have replaced faith and Christ. Filthy lucre has caused our gaze to fall away from the cross of Calvary. Drugs, guns, and abuse daily riddle our headlines. Politicians and sometimes preachers babble over whom to blame while lives are being snuffed out every day. The country is still struggling with the residual effects of cocaine airstrips of the 80's.

May I challenge every Bahamian, and resident of these fair isles to let us recalibrate and go back to our first love, God, and then all other things will be added.

The wise man declares in Proverbs 5:3, “In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy path.” Fellow Bahamians, citizens, and residents, as we celebrate this our 43rd Independence let us look to the hills from whence cometh our help which really comes from the Maker of the hills, who is God.

Consider this question, Do we have a country that will attract our overseas-educated sons and daughters to return to with a sense of pride and serve? Further still, “Can we say to them that we have the capacity to absorb the bright minds that we have trained? What is the perception of those whom we seek to invite to do business here, and do they have a preferred destination? Recent news now places the Bahamas as the fifth tourism destination in the region. Others traditionally behind us have surpassed us in this regard. Would you say the baby powder is losing its sweetness?

Parents, we are allowing our children to feed on TV diets, filled with violence, doctored for ratings at the expense of distorting our children's minds, from which the actors never die in real life, get up and walk away from there fake deaths, but the viewers are left with indelible stains on their minds. Unable to separate fiction from reality the fiction becomes the reality for many today who spend up to eight hours per day watching violence. The scripture says that by beholding we become changed.

So Bahamas, I employ us all to consider simply returning to the two commandments Jesus gave us in Matthew 22:37-40: *Love to God and Love to our fellowmen*. While being a Bahamian for me is a precious gift, being a child of God is far weightier and important. What a combination, godly-Bahamians!

As we celebrate let us avoid false pride, rather, seek God in humility and return to the values of God's eternal law. Seek first the Kingdom of Heaven and all other things will be added unto us.

Before we celebrate let us recalibrate, and declare that God is the Lord of all, otherwise He is not Lord at all.

Happy independence! -Pastor Paul Scavella, President

VBS GOES TO INAGUA

A vibrant team headed by Elder Winston Ash will conduct VBS in Inagua! You are invited to join them as they coordinate VBS from August 7-14, 2016 in Inagua. For more information call Elder Ash at 424 4498. -Inagua VBS Team

PUBLISHING MINISTRY

The Publishing Ministry Department of the South Bahamas Conference will conduct a training seminar at the Atlantic Caribbean Union Office on Gladstone Road on Sunday, July 10, 2016 at 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. All ministerial interns, high school and college students are invited to become a part of the great work of literature evangelism! Encourage the youth to attend. If you have not filled in your application form as yet, you may do so at the meeting. -Pastor Nikita Thompson, Publishing Director

EDUCATION SECRETARIES

-Adventist Education Promotion Day- As our Education Secretaries promote Adventist Education in our churches today (Sabbath, July 9, 2016), let us pray for the far-reaching influence of Seventh-day Adventist education on our hearts and minds. -Office of Education, South Bahamas Conference

YOUTH VEGAN COOK OFF

The Health Ministries Department sponsors the first Youth Cook Off on July 24, at 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Bahamas Academy. All interested 10-17 year olds are asked see their local health or CHAM director. -Sister N. LaCroix, Health Ministries Director

HOPE TV

Hope TV has moved from Channel 53 to 658. Cable Bahamas made adjustments that affect other channels as well. For additional information, please refer to the conference website. -Pastor Barrington Brennen, Associate Communication Director

**WINNING YOUR HEALTH
GOSPEL CAMPAIGN**

A joint Health Campaign will be held on August 20 - Sept 10, 2016 at the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church. The speakers will be Pastor Dudley Hosin and Dr. Alpheus Allick. Schedule of joint rallies for upcoming campaign:

Date	Place	Time
June 29	Berea	7:15 p.m.
July 13	Hillview	7:15 p.m.
July 27	New Providence	7:15 p.m.
August 10	Berea	7:15 p.m.
August 17	Berea	7:15 p.m.

Let us prepare ourselves for this in/outreach campaign by praying and asking for the infilling of the Holy Spirit so that God can truly use us for the saving of souls. -Mrs. Nathelyn LaCroix, Health Ministries Director

CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

-Art Exhibition-

The long awaited CHAM Art Exhibition will be held at Bahamas Academy on Marshall Road on September 12 -15 and 18, 2016. Exhibition room will be opened at the following times:

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 - 8:40 a.m., 1:50 - 1:50 p.m. and 3:15 - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The exhibition will be closed on Friday and Saturday, September 16, and 17.

Get your child's application form from your local CHAM leader or assistant leader.

-Leadership Certification-

On Sunday, July 10, and July 17, at 8:00 a.m. our leadership Certification continues at the South Bahamas Conference. We urge all leaders and assistants to take advantage of this training. -Sister Joan Scavella, CHAM Director

ADVENTIST BOOK CENTRE

Visit your ABC and take advantage of the materials that are sure to enhance your ministry and your life! Store hours: Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and on Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. -Mrs. Cherry Blackmore, ABC Manager

ATCU WOMEN'S RETREAT

All women are reminded to pay their registration fee for the ATCU retreat that will be held in the Cayman Islands on September 30 - October 2, 2016 to Mr. Dwight Brown at the conference office. -Mrs. Jacqueline Gibson

ATCU PRAYER INITIATIVE

The prayer focus of our union, the Atlantic Caribbean Union (ATCU) for July 10 - 16, 2016 is: *Breath of Life and Redemption Churches in the South Bahamas Conference.* Join the entire union in prayer. -Pastor Peter Joseph, Prayer Coordinator

DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING

The Prayer Ministry of the Hillview Seventh-day Adventist Church invites you to join them for a day of prayer and fasting on Sabbath, July 23, 2016. Bring your prayer requests and come expecting a miracle. -Sister Donna Moss, Hill view Seventh-day Adventist Church Prayer Ministry

DIABETIC TRAINING

Are you interested in becoming a Certified Diabetic Educator, or a Lay Diabetic Educator? If so, please contact Nathelyn LaCroix at 323-0610 or 341-4021 for further details. -Mrs. N. LaCroix, Health Ministries Director

SBC MONTHLY WALK

Join us on Sunday, July 10 at 6:00 a.m. for overall rejuvenation from Goodman's Bay to Sandyport and back or part thereof. Let's keep moving! -Mrs. N. LaCroix

EDUCATION SECRETARIES

-Submit Contact Information-

The Education Director is appealing to all education secretaries to call in their contact information to the South Bahamas Conference. Please give information to Ms. Shante LaCroix, by July 13, 2016. We need to establish a database. -Mrs. Joan Scavella, Office of Education

ADVENTIST MEN CHOIR REHEARSAL

The bi-weekly Adventist Men Choir rehearsal will be held on Sunday, July 10, 2016 at Berea S.D.A. Church beginning at 8:00 a.m. All members are urged to attend. Pastor Nikita Thompson would like to meet all Adventist men immediately following the rehearsal (at 9:00 a.m.) at the same venue. -Reginald Forbes, Adventist Men Choir Director

VBS 2016 IN EXUMA

The week June 27 to July 2 was an action packed week at the Moss Town Church. The church was creatively decorated to reflect the theme "Cave Quest – Following Jesus the Light of the World." Each day Bible stories punctuated the fact that Jesus gives Light, Hope Direction, Love and Power. Thematic embellishments such as crafts, sports and personal stories helped to drive home the theme. Each day a powerful opening captured the 'spelunkers' attention that was kept until the closing song was sung. The 60 youngsters were happy to receive their certificates of participation amidst applause from their parents/guardians/well-wishers in a graduation ceremony on Sabbath, July 2. The children look forward to next year's VBS. Congratulations to the Moss Town Church Team! -Sister Terryann Rolle, VBS Coordinator

SBC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Third Quarter (July –Sept.)

"WE" (Women Empowerment) – at a glance:

July 2016

8-11: San Salvador Women's Ministries Weekend

23: Women's Ministries Chat and Chew

TBA: GEMS Presents – Purity of Body - Stay tuned for time and venue.

August 2016

EnditNow Emphasis Month

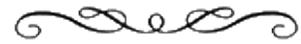
25 EnditNow Emphasis Day (all local Churches)

25 EnditNow – Empowerment Forum – Venue and time to be announced.

September 2016

Zone 3 Community Out-Reach- Details to be announced.

Cayman Islands Women's Ministries Retreat -Sister Jacqueline Gibson, Women's Ministries Director



YOUTH TIDBITS

July:

-Public Campus Ministry Meeting-

All students of COB, SC, BTVI, Omega College, UWI, BBC and AUC are asked to attend a planning meeting at the La Senda Seventh-day Adventist Church (Old Bahamas Academy on Wulff Road) on Sabbath, July 16, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. to plan for the Public Campus Convention. -Pastor Jamal Franklyn, Coordinator

-Basketball League-

Basketball League continues tonight, Saturday, July 9, at the HD Colburn Gym at 8:15p.m. -Daran Clarke, Coordinator

-Sports Day 2016-

The SBC Family Fun and Sports Day will be held at the Bahamas Youth Camp on Sunday, July 31, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Admission will be at a nominal cost. Food and Drink will be on sale.

Sports Day will feature an international soccer tournament. We are kindly requesting all members and prospects from our churches who are interested in playing for the Bahamian, Haitian, Jamaican or Hispanic soccer teams to contact Obed Datus at 468-0450.

-Meeting Re: Sports Day-

All youth leaders from churches participating in Sports Day activities are kindly asked to attend a general meeting at the Grant's Town Seventh-day Adventist Church on Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. -Elder Obed Datus, Coordinator

August:

-Pathfinder Camp-

Camp "Transform Me" will be held August 7-14, 2016 at Camp Bamivoca. Registration forms are available at the Conference Office and from pathfinder directors. Exciting field trips and more are planned. -Bro. Patrick Wilson, Jnr.; Coordinator

-Y10-

In 2016, our youth are fascinated with Superheroes to make sense of and, save us from all the confusion in our minds and lives. But really, can "We Believe In" them?



-Pastor Larry Green, Youth Director

**SUN SETS NEXT SABBATH
JULY 16, 2016 AT 8:02 P.M.**

Conference website:

<http://southbahamasconference.org>

Email: logos@sbcadventist.com

Have a blessed Sabbath!

