

# THE LOGOS



Connected: Growing in Christ

"Year of The Pastor"

A Weekly Publication of the South Bahamas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Editor: Joan M. Scavella Sunsets: 7:21 p.m. |Volume 20, Number 12 | March 21, 2015

## OUR FAITH AND THE STATE



As free moral beings, God has created all of us with the capacity to choose. This underscores the inalienable right of people everywhere, of every faith and nation to worship conscientiously and to practice their religion without fear, interference or undue influence. Such a right attaches to the individual a duty to uphold the dignity of others notwithstanding their individual beliefs. Where religious freedom and respect for all are allowed, progress and goodwill generally prevail throughout civil society, including the church. Thus, religious liberty is a God-given blessing, which every believer should enable, cherish, and preserve.

A vital part of religious liberty involves our duty to civil authorities. Even Jesus underscored this while here on earth. When asked a difficult question about government and the Christian, Jesus invited all to 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's' (*Matthew 22:21*). Thus, our Lord showed that we have a duty as believers to civil authorities. However, when civil authorities diminish or deny religious freedom, we should, like Peter and John, affirm that God must be obeyed rather than man. Thankfully, *Chapter III, Article 22* of the Constitution of the Bahamas allows each person, if he or she chooses, to change religion or belief and to practice such, including teaching and observance of the same.

Jesus is the best exemplar for persons seeking to properly honor and discharge their civil and religious duties; His example was always one of humility, never seeking to champion His own rights but to uphold those of others. Even though He was and is God, He never stood on pomp and ceremony or tries to obtain civil support to prove His divinity. Rather, He took the role of a suffering servant, humbling Himself and ultimately dying on

the cross for each of us (*Philippians 2:6-8*). In other words, even though we should expect fairness, justice and respect from civil and legislative powers, when these are not obtained, we should not be disappointed or revolt to promote religious beliefs. Jesus said, 'If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you. You do not belong to the world but understand that I have chosen you out of the world.' (*John 15:18-20*).

On the other hand, earthly powers, though defective, are ordained by God and should be respected (*Romans 13:3*). Inspiration states that, 'The people of God will recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment and will teach obedience to it as a sacred duty within its legitimate sphere' (*Testimonies to the Church, vol. 6, p. 402*). Accordingly, governments are necessary. Without proper regard for the rule of law, good order would suffer and there would inevitably be anarchy. No earthly government is perfect, nor indeed could it be in a world of sin and rebellion. However, order is the first law of heaven as opposed to chaos and lawlessness; and so it is God who permits civil powers to enforce earthly laws. Therefore, I urge you, in this divinely ordered, religiously unfettered environment, to seize every opportunity to promote and proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ with the understanding that such privileges, currently enshrined in the Constitution, will in time be withdrawn.

Indeed, our freedoms of worship and association constitute a sacred duty enabling believers everywhere to spread the gospel with enthusiasm, like the leaves of autumn, before the door of probation slams shut to reopen no more. Let's embrace every moment allowed us by God as another excellent opportunity to exploit more fully the wonderful gift of religious liberty! -Dr. M. D. Toote, Pastor

### MEETING OF DIRECTORS, ASSOC. ASSISTANTS, AND COORDINATORS

All directors, associates, assistants, and coordinators of the South Bahamas Conference are urged to attend a most urgent *Strategic Planning* meeting at the conference office on Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. -Pastor Paul Scavella, President

### ORDER MY STEPS REVIVAL

The *Order My Steps Revival* hosted by the Living Faith Seventh-day Adventist Church, will conclude on March 28, 2015. Evangelist Mark Ewen is the speaker. Meeting times are: Sabbath morning - 9:15 a.m.; Saturday night - 7:15 p.m.; Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday - 7:15 p.m. -Pastor Mark Ewen, *Living Faith*

### CONFERENCE POETRY FEST

The Poetry Fest of the Children and Adolescent Ministries (CHAM) Department is open to children ages 5 - 14 in the South Bahamas Conference. **Details:** The theme of each poem should be *Connected and Growing in Christ*. Each entrant must write his/her own poem.

**All entries must be submitted to the local church CHAM leaders by April 4, 2015.**

There will be a semi-final held at each church/church district. **The semi-final at each church/church district should be completed by April 18, 2015.** From the semi-final, one person from each category will advance to the finals that will be held on May 2, 2015.

**The name of the semi-final winner from each category along with the poem should be submitted to the conference director by April 23, 2015.**

#### Categories

Category A - Ages 5-7

Category B - Ages 8-10

Category C - Ages 11-14

#### Guidelines

All pieces **must** be original.

Children ages 5-7 should write a *Limerick*.

Children ages 8-10 should write *Free Verse* (not more than 10 lines).

Children and adolescents ages 11-14 should write a *Sonnet*. Get a sample from your CHAM leader. -Mrs. Joan M. Scavella, CHAM Director

### FAMILY MINISTRIES

All Family Ministries leaders of our churches are asked to attend a very important meeting on Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the conference office. It is crucial that we meet to prepare for the upcoming events:

- Gifted & Single's Weekend
- Marriage Enhancement Week

-Pastor Peter Joseph, Family Ministries Director

### BENEFIT CONCERT

A concert to aid with the medical expenses of Stephen Brown of the Agape Seventh-day Adventist Church will be held at the Bahamas Faith Ministries Church (BFM) on Sunday, March 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. You are kindly urged to attend and support this most worthy cause. Tickets are available at the South Bahamas Conference. -Mrs. Allison Rolle, Coordinator

## READING IN THE PARK

The Children and Adolescent Ministries Department (CHAM) will host an outreach programme, *Reading in the Park* at the Pinewood Gardens Park on Sabbath, March 28, 2015 at 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Support the children and adolescents of our conference as they seek



to reach the hearts of other children by sharing God's love. The department is getting t-shirts for all our children and adolescents. For additional information and to place your t-shirt order, please see your local CHAM leader. -Mrs. Joan Scavella, CHAM Director

## ADVENTIST BOOK AND NUTRITION CENTER

The Adventist Book and Nutrition Centre (ABC) will have a storewide sale on Thursday, March 26, 2015. Get your Easter specials before the rush. -Mrs. Cherry Blackmore, Manager

## TUNE IN FOR WEEKLY UPDATES

ATV 53 is providing the weekly News Update or News Page on the conference's website at [www.southbahamasconference.org](http://www.southbahamasconference.org) and also on the South Bahamas Conference Facebook page. We keep you informed with conference news. -Mrs. Lavern Sturruv, SBC Media Department

## HEALTH MINISTRIES

### Life Enrichment Series- Health and Wellness Seminar

Join us at the McKinney Scavella Leadership Institute (GMCI-Old Bahamas Academy) on March 21 and every Sabbath morning at 9:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. for a life-changing program. Topics include, diabetes, lifestyle change, herbs and their uses and much more. This programme runs for 16 weeks.

### Free Public Health Lecture

Do you know that medications do not have to be taken for life? Join us for our first Public Health lecture with Dr. Alphaeus Allick on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at the GMCI on Wulff Road at 6:30 p.m. Topic: Prevention of Non-communicable Diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol.

### Backyard Gardening

Attend the free *Backyard Gardening Seminar* with Bahamian author, Cynthia Ferguson Fowler at the Centreville Church on Wednesday, March 25 at 6:00 p.m. She will have copies of her book, *Backyard Gardening in The Bahamas* available.

## I Want to Live Healthy

*Train the trainer* will be held at the Berea Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sunday, April 12 from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon. Call 323-0610 to confirm attendance.

### SBC Monthly Fun Run Walk

This monthly event will be held on Easter Monday, April 6 at 6:30 - 8:00 a.m. The route is Goodman's Bay to Sandypoint and back. Breakfast goodies will be available at a nominal fee.

### Health Ministries Calendar of Events

March 22 - 29 Conference Wide  
Plant-based Diet  
26 Public Health Lecture  
-Mrs. Nathelyn LaCroix, Health Ministries Director

## BAHAMAS ACADEMY PTA

The Bahamas Academy Parent/Teacher Association will host a Fun Walk and Souse Out on Sunday, March 22. The event starts at the Blue Hill Road Shopping Plaza to Marshall Road (BA). Treats of all sorts will be on sale at the school. Order your PTA shirt now and plan to participate in the march. It is not mandatory that you have the shirt to walk. -Mrs. Victoria Forbes, PTA President

## CAT ISLAND SDA ADVANCEMENT SOCIETY

Persons wishing to travel to Cat Island on April 3-6, 2015 (Easter Weekend) with the Cat Island SDA Advancement Society are asked to contact Elder Norman Seymour at 457-0067. Tickets should be purchased no later than mid-March. Sky Bahamas is the carrier. -Elder Norman Seymour, Coordinator

## PRAYER FOR PASTORS

Pastors Paul Scavella and Peter Joseph will travel to St. Croix, Grenada, and Trinidad where they will participate in the division-wide Vision One Million programme from March 21 - April 4. They will join other pastors from the Atlantic Caribbean Union (ATCU), the Jamaica Union (JAMU) and the Caribbean Union in evangelist efforts. It is our prayer that the efforts will enhance the kingdom of God through the conversion of souls. Let us pray for our leaders as they proclaim the Word of God. -Editor

## PRaise REUNION IS BACK!

Join *Praise Reunion* in concert at the Evangelistic Temple, Collins Avenue on Sunday, April 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. The proceeds from the concert will go to Bahamas Academy and the Mary Ingraham Home. Get your tickets from the conference office, Logos Bookstore, or Bahamas Academy (Old Trail and Marshall Roads). -Mr. Nelson Dorsett, Coordinator; Praise Reunion

## BROTHERS' LOVE GOSPEL BAND BOAT CRUISE

The Brothers' Love Gospel Band Boat Cruise will leave the Prince George Wharf on Saturday, March 28 at 7:45 p.m. Join this happy band of ministering men for an evening of live music and wholesome family fun. Tickets are available from band members. Proceeds in aid of the band's music ministry. -Dr. Floyd Carter, Music Minister; Brothers' Love

## ATCU PRAYER INITIATIVE

The prayer focus of the Atlantic Caribbean Union (ATCU) for March 22 - 28, 2015 is: **For a Closer Relationship with God.** -Pastor Peter Joseph, Prayer Coordinator

## ADVENTIST LAYMEN'S SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

You are invited to a meeting for all business professionals and supporting personnel at the GMCI on Sunday, March 22 at 6:00 p.m. Guest speaker, Tyrone Neely will teach you to how to file your VAT return and he will answer your burning questions! For additional information, call 357-9410. -Elder Dave Williams, Interim President; ASI

## COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY AT LIVING FAITH

Join the band of Community Service personnel of the Living Faith Church for their Community Service Day on the church grounds on Sunday, April 5, 2015 from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. -Community Services Dept.

**BREATH OF LIFE**  
**SOUP DAY**  
Community Event



**FREE**  
**HOT SOUP**

Saturday, March 21, 2015  
10am - 12noon  
AT  
**BREATH OF LIFE SEVENTH-DAY**  
**ADVENTIST CHURCH**  
Marshall Road, next to the new Bahamas Academy  
Secondary School



## YOUTH TIDBITS MASTER GUIDE TRAINING

Master Guide training continues each Sunday at 6:00 a.m. at the Hillview Church.

## GLOBAL YOUTH DAY

Global Youth Day is today (Sabbath, March 21, 2015)! A joint AY will be held at Rawson Square starting at 3:30 p.m. Social follows at Clifford Park at 7:00 p.m. -Pastor Larry Green, Youth Ministries Director

## SUN SETS NEXT SABBATH MARCH 28, 2015 AT 7:24 P.M.

### Website:

<http://southbahamasconference.org>  
Have a Blessed and Wonderful Sabbath!

