

Friday, June 5, 2026

# THE WEST WEEKLY

## #19

**ST. JAMES  
ADVENTURER  
WALKS WITH JESUS  
INTO BAPTISM  
ON WORLD  
ADVENTURER DAY**

### PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

*Children Ministries Department of the West Jamaica Conference hosted their Children Evangelism Week across the Conference Pg7.*



## **GROUNDING IN MISSION: WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE HONORS 12 SHEPHERDESSES FOR DECADES OF FAITHFUL MINISTRY**

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica — Twelve exceptional shepherdesses were the center of celebration on Sunday, May 24, 2026, as the West Jamaica Chapter of the Ministerial Spouses Association honored their decades of unwavering dedication to team ministry. The landmark recognition ceremony was the crowning highlight of the inaugural Ministerial, Spiritual Enrichment and Recognition Banquet, held at the Seventh-day Adventist Conference Center.



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# ST. JAMES ADVENTURER WALKS WITH JESUS INTO BAPTISM ON WORLD ADVENTURER DAY



Some members of the Dendrobium Adventurer Club at the Kings Seventh-day Adventist Church lift praise to God during their World Adventurer Day program held on May 19, 2026.

**S**T. JAMES, Jamaica — While thousands of Adventurer Clubs worldwide celebrated World Adventurer Day on May 16, 2026, a truly historic milestone unfolded at the Kings Seventh-day Adventist Church in St. James. For the 14-member Dendrobium Adventurer Club, the global celebration became an unforgettable “high day” as one of their own young members, 9-year-old Kalifornia Mitchell, chose to be baptized.



Baptized that Sabbath, nine-year-old Kalifornia Mitchell stands at the pulpit to preach for the Divine service during World Adventure Day celebrations on May 19, 2026.

The sacred ceremony served as the ultimate fulfillment of this year’s global theme, “Walking with Jesus,” which focuses on teaching the church’s youngest members to rely on God’s guidance and openly declare their faith.”

Naidia Hibbert, Adventurer Director for the Kings

Seventh-day Adventist Church, expressed that while Kalifornia’s parents are not members of the faith, they have been completely supportive of her spiritual milestones and commitment to the club. “Her parents are not Seventh-day Adventist, but she comes to church every week,” Hibbert shared. “She normally stays with me at church until her mother picks her up after club meetings. Her mom fully supports her being involved in church activities. She has never missed a special program or practice.”

Kalifornia personally requested her former pastor, Pastor Jonathan Myrie, to conduct her baptism. Pastor Myrie, who now serves as the Communication and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) Director of the Jamaica Union, expressed immense joy at returning for the special occasion.

“We are excited for the Adventurers at the Kings Church,” Pastor Myrie said. “The baptism service is one of the highest services you could ever have in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

When I got the call to be here for this special occasion it was difficult for me to say no. I had to adjust my schedule just to make sure that I could be here.”

The baptism capped off an extraordinary day

where the children entirely ran the worship services. Stepping boldly into leadership roles, the Adventurers led the congregation by singing hymns, reading scripture, and preaching the Word. Director Hibbert noted that the club used creative visual object lessons during the day to help the young minds fully grasp the 2026 theme. "Our theme for the day was "Walking with Jesus as the Light of the World." During the program, the children were placed in a dark tent with flashlights" Hibbert shared. "We explained to them that the tent represented the darkness of this world that we are living in. As each child emerged from the tent, they turned on their flashlight, which represented Jesus, the Light of the World."

The club featured two main youth speakers for the Divine Service: Kalifornia Mitchell, who was baptized, spoke on the vital importance of walking with Jesus, and Eric Bernard, who delivered a message focused on Jesus being our ultimate best friend.

The celebrations continued into the afternoon. During the evening program, each Adventurer received a special gift bag and a certificate of participation to honor their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Special awards were also presented to outstanding Adventurers who excelled in categories of Morning Watch and Perseverance.

Ultimately, the Dendrobium Club's celebration underscored the vital role local church ministries play in nurturing early faith, heavily sustained by the unwavering support of local club directors, staff, parents, and the wider church family. By closing the day with a public baptism, the small club from St. James gave the global community a powerful, real-world example of what it truly looks like when a child answers the call to walk with Jesus.

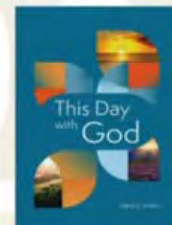
by Shantel Neal | West Jamaica Conference

## 2026 DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

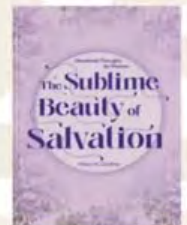
Adults



Evening



Women



Youth



Children (5-9)

Preschoolers



Reserve yours now!



## WEST WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

*Do you want to keep up with what is happening in our church? If you want to receive our weekly newsletter that features news, inspirational stories, videos, and more, sign up today.*



# GROUNDED IN MISSION: WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE HONORS 12 SHEPHERDESSES FOR DECADES OF FAITHFUL MINISTRY



Some Shepherdesses from the Ministerial Spouses Association West Jamaica Conference Chapter gather for a group photo at the Ministerial, Spiritual Enrichment and Recognition

**M**ONTEGO BAY, Jamaica — Twelve exceptional shepherdesses were the center of celebration on Sunday, May 24, 2026, as the West Jamaica Chapter of the Ministerial Spouses Association honored their decades of unwavering dedication to team ministry. The landmark recognition ceremony was the crowning highlight of the inaugural Ministerial, Spiritual Enrichment and Recognition Banquet, held at the Seventh-day Adventist Conference Center.

Gathered under the theme, “Grounded in the Bible, Focused on the Mission, Restoring Hope,” pastoral families from across the conference came together for an evening dedicated to elegance, empowerment, and deep gratitude for the women who anchor local church ministries.

## Celebrating Decades of Faithful Service

The heart of the evening focused on a special ceremony acknowledging the deep spiritual and community impact made by the honorees over the course of their lives. Milestone awards were presented across two prestigious categories:

### 25–34 Years of Team Ministry

Jasmine Hill (34 years)  
Yvonne Smith (33 years)  
Antoinette Bygrave (33 years)  
Marcia Williams (28 years)

Karen Sonlin (27 years)  
Millicent Page (26 years)

### 35–45 Years of Team Ministry

Cislyn Samuels (45 years)  
Winsome Bowers (43 years)  
Faith Sterling (42 years)  
Iris Durcella Allie-Samuels (38 years)  
Veronica Grant (38 years)  
Annette Thompson (35 years)

Among those recognized for lifetime service was Mrs. Winsome Bowers, who has served alongside her husband, Pastor Astor Bowers, former President of the West Jamaica Conference. Mrs. Bowers shared how deeply elated and grateful she was to receive the honor, noting the immense joy of looking back at decades of milestones shared in service to God and His church.

“This recognition is a beautiful reminder of a lifetime spent in the master’s vineyard,” Mrs. Bowers remarked. “When my husband and I started this journey years ago, our only desire was to be used by God. To look back now at the milestones we’ve shared and the lives impacted is truly overwhelming. I give God all the glory for allowing us to serve His church for so long.”

In addition to the milestone awards, the association paused to honor three of its prominent leaders who are transitioning from the local conference to take on

new responsibilities at the Jamaica Union alongside their husbands. Recognized for their foundational leadership within the West Jamaica Conference Ministerial Spouses Association were:

- Mrs. Iris Durcella Allie-Samuels, an honoree and wife of Pastor Glen Samuels (former President of the West Jamaica Conference)
- Mrs. Shorna Newsome-Myrie, wife of Pastor Jonathan Myrie (former Communication Director of the West Jamaica Conference)
- Mrs. Nicola Drummond, wife of Pastor Stephen Drummond (former Education Director of the West Jamaica Conference)

“These recognitions spoke volumes about the vital role shepherdesses play in the mission of the church,” said Mrs. Marcia Williams, President of the West Jamaica Conference Ministerial Spouses Association (who was also among the night’s honorees). “Their ministry extends beyond the church through mentorship, encouragement, hospitality, prayer, and unwavering support for pastoral ministry. These women continue to make lasting contributions to the spiritual growth and the strengthening of our churches and communities.”

### A Call to the Eternal Banquet

The significance of the shepherdesses’ work was further amplified by keynote speaker Dr. Jardines Spaulding-O’Hara, President of the Central Jamaica Conference Ministerial Spouses Association. Speaking on the topic, “Will you accept the banquet invitation?”, Dr. Spaulding-O’Hara reminded attendees that the true calling of ministry is a wholehearted commitment to Christ that looks past earthly distractions or excuses.

Challenging the Shepherdesses to keep executing their duties with all their might—regardless of how large or small the task appears—she emphasized that their quiet, tireless service has a grander finish line. Beyond earthly recognition, she noted, the ultimate reward for these faithful women will be hearing the King welcome them to the eternal banquet with the words: “Come, for all things are now ready.”

Reflecting on the success of the inaugural event, Mrs. Williams noted that celebrating these women sets a powerful precedent for the future of the church. “We are grateful for their faithfulness,” Williams concluded, “and pray that their examples will inspire younger women to serve wholeheartedly in ministry—especially in these last days.”



*Pastor Glen Samuels President of the Jamaica Union, presents his wife, Mrs. Iris Durcella Allie-Samuels, President, Ministerial Spouses Association, Jamaica Union with a plaque honoring her 38 years of dedicated service in team ministry during the inaugural Ministerial, Spiritual Enrichment and Recognition Banquet.*

by Shantel Neal | West Jamaica Conference

## WEST WEEKLY NEWSLETTER





# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

Children Ministries Department of the West Jamaica Conference hosted Their Children Evangelism Week across the Conference





*Erton Köhler, president of the General Conference, encourages delegates to embrace Bible-centered mission across cultures and unreached communities.*

## NEWS FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

# Adventist President Urges Mission Leaders to Advance with Boldness

May 29, 2026 | Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago | Libna Stevens, Inter-American Division News

**P**astor Erton Köhler, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, challenged church leaders, pastors, missionaries, and lay members across the Inter-American Division (IAD) to move forward “with boldness” in fulfilling God’s mission during a devotional message on May 29, at the University of Southern Caribbean, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Speaking during a devotional segment at the Intercultural Mission Church Planting Summit, Köhler praised the IAD’s long-standing commitment to evangelism and church growth while encouraging the more than 300 delegates to deepen their focus on intercultural and global mission.



Pastor Erton Köhler, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, speaks during the Intercultural Mission Church Planting Summit on May 29, 2026, at the University of Southern Caribbean in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, challenging leaders to move forward with boldness in mission. [Photo: Curtis Henry/IAD]

“Inter-American Division is known as a division that is very focused on evangelism,” Köhler said.

“But now, I’m glad to see growing among the leaders and members a stronger commitment to multicultural mission and the need to reach all the world.”

Köhler thanked summit organizers and university leaders for hosting the event and reaffirmed the General Conference’s commitment to supporting the Inter-American Division in preparing missionaries and leaders for cross-cultural mission outreach.

The visit marked Köhler’s first trip to Trinidad and Tobago as president of the General Conference.

“We are here to serve you,” he said. “We are here to support you and work together with you to help prepare the church to reach the world,” he said.



Summit delegates follow along in their Bibles during Pastor Erton Köhler’s devotional message from Revelation 14 on May 29, 2026. [Photo: Curtis Henry/IAD]

Throughout his message, Köhler emphasized that Seventh-day Adventists are “people of the Book,” called not only to read and preach Scripture, but also to live it. He centered his devotional on Revelation 14 and the Three Angels’ Messages, describing them as the final message entrusted to the church to prepare the world for Christ’s return.

“This is not a message of condemnation,” Köhler said. “This is a message of opportunity—the message that can prepare the world for the Second Coming of Jesus.”

Referring to the repeated expression “with a loud voice” found throughout Revelation 14 and 18, Köhler explained that the phrase represents the spirit of boldness the church must embrace in mission today.

“The Three Angels’ Messages are a call for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be bold in preparing this world for the Second Coming of Jesus,” he said.



Pastor Erton Köhler, president of the General Conference, encourages delegates during his devotional message to trust that God can open doors for mission in every culture and territory. [Photo: Curtis Henry/IAD]

Köhler outlined four areas where the church must demonstrate boldness: faith, courage, investment, and mission initiatives.

“The Lord is calling us to be bold in faith,” Köhler said. “What is impossible for us, the Lord can do through us.”

He also challenged delegates not to fear difficult mission territories, secular societies, or cultural barriers.

“The Lord is calling us to make big plans for mission,” he said. “Don’t be afraid to face mission challenges because the Lord goes with you.”



An interpreter translates GC President Erton Köhler’s devotional message on May 29, 2026, at the University of Southern Caribbean. [Photo: Curtis Henry/IAD]

Addressing church treasurers and administrators present at the summit, Köhler emphasized that the church must continue investing heavily in mission, trusting that God will provide needed resources.

“In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, money follows the mission—not the mission following the money,” Köhler said. “Let us be bold in investing for God’s cause.”

Köhler also highlighted major initiatives currently shaping the world church and the Inter-American Division, including OneVoice27, the coordinated evangelistic communication movement leading into 2027, and the IAD’s multiplication initiative encouraging every church to plant a new church within the next five years.

[Please click to view more](#)

# CALENDAR OF MISSION 2026

*June*

- 1 - 30 CELEBRATIONS - Emphasis on Rest
- 1 - 30 Stewardship - Emphasis on Temple
- 1 - 30 Youth Mentorship Month
- 6 Health Festival/ Health Ministries Day
- 6 Lay Preachers & Bible Workers' Federation Rally - Westmoreland
- 6 Sabbath School R.E.A.C.H. - Reconnecting with Every Absent, Community or Homebound Member
- 7 Online Deacons & Deaconesses Workshop
- 7 5k Health Walk - St. Elizabeth
- 7 Communion with God - Hour of Prayer
- 8 Launch of EYES Mentee Behaviour Mastery Pilot Programme - Camp I Am
- 8 - 13 Women's Empowerment Week
- 9 Executive Committee Meeting
- 13 Women's Ministries Emphasis Day/ Women's Convention
- 13 Youth Mentorship Day & Pinning Ceremony
- 14 5K Health Walk - St. James
- 20 UNASSIGNED WJC Calendar of Mission 2026
- 21 5k Health Walk - Westmoreland
- 25 Graduation - Savanna-la-Mar Preparatory School
- 27 World Public Campus Ministries Day
- 27 Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) Emphasis Day
- 28 5K Health Walk - Hanover
- 28 Graduation - Savanna-la-Mar High School
- 30 Pastor's Quarterly General Meeting
- 30 Graduation - Darliston Preparatory School
- 30 Graduation - Wellesley Gunter Preparatory School

# PERSONAL MINISTRIES

JUNE



WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE  
Personal Ministries Department

WESTMORELAND

## LAY PREACHERS & BIBLE WORKERS' FEDERATION RALLY

& the Launch of **Proclamation of Hope Series**

THEME: **GROUNDING IN THE BIBLE,  
FOCUSING ON THE MISSION, RESTORING HOPE**

**JUNE 6, 2026**

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH  
FOOTPRINTS

Savanna-la-Mar, Westmoreland,  
Jamaica

.....  
Guest Presenters



**DIVINE WORSHIP**  
Pr. Jemaine Johnson  
President,  
North Jamaica Conference



**SABBATH SCHOOL**  
Pr. Barrington Mclean,  
Sabbath School Director  
JAMU



**AFTERNOON SPEAKER**  
Dr. Joseph Smith  
Vice President / Ministerial Secretary  
JAMU

### EXPECTED ATTENDEES:

Lay Preachers, Bible Workers, Personal Ministries Leaders  
and Secretaries, and all other Personal Ministries Personnel

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

MAY



WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE  
Women's Ministries Department

Invites you to

# Women's & GEMS' Convention

Theme: **Mission Driven:  
Rooted in the word**

**June 13, 2026**

Starting: @ **9:15am**

VENUE:

**WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTER**  
MT. SALEM, MONTEGO BAY



**Elder Carol James**  
Women & Children Ministries Director  
West Jamaica Conference

Presenters



**DIVINE SERVICE SPEAKER**  
Elder Caudette Baker-Archer-Bailey  
Bethsalem SDA Church



**Sis Kimoya Simmonds**  
Norwood SDA Church

# COMMUNICATION EVENT

JUNE



West Jamaica Conference  
Communication Department

Presents

# ONLINE COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

**"Guarding the Message: Ethical Communication in the Age of Data Protection"**

June 13, 2026  
@ 6:30PM



Scan to Register



**MR. BRENDON COLEMAN**  
DATA PROTECTION OFFICER, JAMU



visit [westjamaica.org](https://westjamaica.org)  
to signup

# CONFERENCE EVENTS

JUNE



West Jamaica Conference  
Health Ministries Department

Invites all churches to participate in our

# 5K HEALTH WALK 2026

## SAVE *the* DATES

**ST. ELIZABETH**  
**JUNE 7 | 6AM**

**ST. JAMES**  
**JUNE 14 | 6AM**

**WESTMORELAND**  
**JUNE 21 | 6AM**

**HANOVER**  
**JUNE 28 | 6AM**



< PLEASE SCAN  
TO REGISTER

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/K85DF1KWV2RPVXV6](https://forms.gle/K85DF1KWV2RPVXV6)

**TIPS:**



WEAR COMFORTABLE WALKING GEARS

TAKE A BOTTLE OF WATER

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL HEALTH MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT.

# CONFERENCE EVENTS

JUNE



West Jamaica Conference  
Health Ministries Department

Invites all **St. Elizabeth** to participate in our

# 5K HEALTH WALK

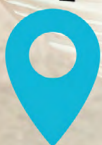
**SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026**

STARTING TIME : **6:00 A.M.**

COST: \$1,000 - ADULT | \$500 - CHILDREN UNDER 12 YRS

### OFFICIAL ROUTE:

- START FROM THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, GOSHEN AND FINISHES
- AT THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, SANTA CRUZ



< PLEASE SCAN  
TO REGISTER

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/K85DF1KWY2RPVXVNG](https://forms.gle/K85DF1KWY2RPVXVNG)

### TIPS:



WEAR COMFORTABLE WALKING GEARS



TAKE A BOTTLE OF WATER

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL HEALTH MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT.

# CONFERENCE EVENTS

JULY-AUG



West Jamaica Conference  
Youth Ministries Department

# WESCON YOUCA 2026



**CAMP BRAHAM**  
TREASURE BEACH | ST. ELIZABETH

# Save THE Date

**JUNIORS**

**JUL. 21 - JUL. 28**

**SENIORS**

**JUL. 28 - AUG. 4**

**CONTACT YOUR YOUTH LEADER FOR MORE DETAILS!**

# CONFERENCE EVENTS

JULY

## WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

### NOTICE THE SEVENTH QUADRENNIAL SESSION FOR WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE

Notice is hereby given that the **Seventh Quadrennial Session of the West Jamaica Conference of Seventh-day Adventists** will be held on **JULY 12 - 13, 2026** at the **Seventh-day Adventist Conference Centre, Mt. Salem Road, Montego Bay. St James.**

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Noel Frazer Auditorium.

This session is called to:

- ◆ Receive reports from the officers and the various departments.
- ◆ Elect Administrators and Departmental Directors to serve the ensuing term.
- ◆ Consider revisions and changes of the Conference's constitution and by-laws.
- ◆ Discuss and appropriately adopt the strategic plan to guide the activities of the Conference.
- ◆ Transact such other business as may be placed before the delegates

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Vincent Rose, President  
Donovan F. Williams, Executive Secretary  
Marion Barrett-Popkin, Treasurer



# LOCAL EVENTS

JUNE



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH  
WELCOME HALL AND LADEN MOUNT  
P R E S E N T

# GOD'S FINAL CALL

Evangelistic Series

**Starting**

16 TH MAY 2026

7:15PM NIGHTLY

9:15AM ON SABBATHS

**VENUE:** SDA CHURCH,  
LADEN MOUNT

**Rest Nights**

**Tuesdays and Fridays**

**JOIN US**

 **YouTube**  
@ LADEN MOUNT SDA

 **MEETING ID: 820 2723 7620**  
**PASSWORD: 1977**



**WITH PASTOR**

SHANE NEAL

**CO-EVANGELIST**

ELDER TREVOR HIBBERT

# LOCAL EVENTS

JUNE



## SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FLANKER

HEALTH MINISTRY'S DEPARTMENT

*In collaboration with*

**HOPE 360 MISSION INTL. GROUP**



## EVANGELISTIC SERIES

*Theme:*  
Journeying from Eden  
to Heaven

**WHEN:** May 23, 2026 to June 6, 2026

**WHERE:** Flanker SDA

**TIME:** 9:15am Sabbaths & 7pm Nightly



## COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR



**WHEN:**  
June 5 & 7, 2026

**WHERE:**  
Flanker Primary School, Flanker,  
Montego Bay, St James

**TIME:** 9am-5pm

**SERVICES OFFERED:**

- Basic Health screening checks
- Papsmear screening
- Medication dispensing
- School medical
- Dental cleaning & Extraction

**AVAILABLE DOCTORS & SPECIALISTS**

- Pediatricians
- Audiologist
- General Practitioners
- Gynecologist
- Dentists



# LOCAL EVENTS

JUNE



The Seventh-day Adventist Church  
Moreland Hill Presents



## ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY SABBATH <sup>AND</sup> MUSIC DAY

Growing in a Relationship  
with God through Music

Featuring H.U.M.B.L.E, Osanna Praise,  
Geovanni Baker, Tyrece Street, Danielle Cox and MORE



**06TH** JUNE  
2026

**9:15AM**

SPEAKER  
ELDER IAN GARDNER

# LOCAL EVENTS

JUNE



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH  
MONTEGO BAY

Presents

# ASSURANCE IN JESUS

GOSPEL CAMPAIGN

## "ALL MEN IN ACTION".

Starting SABBATH  
**JUNE 6-JULY 2**  
2026

Nightly Sun-Mon & Wed-Thur @7:00PM  
Sabbath @ 9:00 am

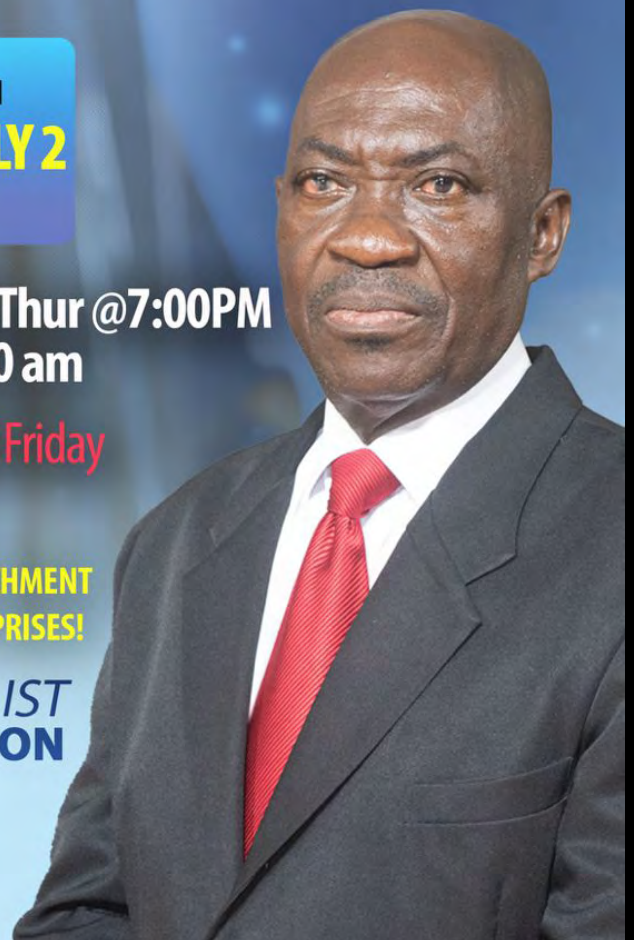
Rest on Tuesday & Friday

**FEATURING:**

**SOUL STIRRING SERMONS | SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT  
NIGHTLY QUIZ | UNLIMITED PRIZES AND SURPRISES!**

WITH *EVANGELIST*  
**NORMAN THOMPSON**

COME OUT IN YOUR NUMBERS AND EXPERIENCE FOR YOURSELF!  
YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED! SEE YOU THERE!  
A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU



# LOCAL EVENTS

JULY



NORWOOD

SAVE THE DATE

Putting  
**God** in the  
Midst of  
**HARVEST 2026**

2 Days for Harvest Celebration 2026.

*Friday Evening Online Vesper Service  
& Sabbath Celebration*

**JULY 10-11**

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

APRIL

Please click to view video content.

West Jamaica Conference

**CONSERVATION**  
*Summit*

GROUNDING IN THE BIBLE, FOCUSED ON THE MISSION, RESTORING HOPE

Conservation Summit || Sabbath Evening Service || May 30, 2026

West Jamaica Conference

**CONSERVATION**  
*Summit*

GROUNDING IN THE BIBLE, FOCUSED ON THE MISSION, RESTORING HOPE

Conservation Summit Open Service | Friday Evening Vesper Service || May 29, 2026

*The* **BIBLE STUDY** *Hour*

GROWING IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Bible Study Hour || 2nd Quarter || Lesson 10 | June 6, 2026

West Jamaica Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

**HOPE AT THE MERCY SEAT**

Wednesday Night Prayer Service

ONLINE LIVE WORSHIP

LIVE ON: WCCN f y

Hope at the Mercy Seat || Wednesday Night Prayer Service || May 22, 2026

# FROM BURDEN TO SOLUTION: WHY FOOD SAFETY IS A LIFE-OR-DEATH



## By Merlin Wilson

Nurse Practitioner & Health Ministries Director,  
Welcome Hall Seventh-day Adventist Church

World Food Safety Day is celebrated on June 7 under the theme, "From burden to solution, safe food everywhere."

We must first recognize that food is one of our essential basic needs in the hierarchy of human needs. However, for food to truly benefit us, it must be prepared, handled, and stored in a safe manner.

While food should be nutritious and beneficial to the body, proper selection is only the first step.

It must also be kept in a clean environment protected from rodents, bacteria, and viruses. You may not even be aware of the presence of rodent urine and droppings because these particles are mostly microscopic. Therefore, we must rigorously protect our food supply to ensure our bodies remain healthy. Keeping our surroundings entirely free of garbage removes the exact hidden spaces where rodents like to nest and live.

Temperature control is another critical factor in maintaining health. Food must be stored at specific temperatures; otherwise, harmful bacteria will grow and, if ingested, cause severe disease.

Furthermore, special precautions must always be taken for children and the elderly. Children's food should be prepared properly in terms of both temperature and consistency. We must also consider age-related biological changes in the elderly, which alter what is safe for them to consume. Additionally, we need to remain mindful of food items that pose a choking hazard to young children—such as sweets or peanuts—which is an aspect of food safety that is frequently neglected.

Health education is vital for everyone, as some individuals do not understand the specific disease



processes that can occur if food is improperly handled. This vigilance extends to purchasing meals outside of the home. It is crucial to know if an establishment is safe and officially licensed to prepare food for the public. Food vendors must hold a valid food handler's permit so they know the essential do's and don'ts. Buying food outside under the assumption that it is safe can easily land a person in the hospital.

Food safety also comes down to the simple things we look at in our kitchens. For instance, when a canned food item is dented, bulging, or rusted, people are often tempted to simply rinse off the container, thinking the contents are still good to consume. In reality, doing this puts your life at risk by consuming contaminated food can cause death.

Ultimately, all of us must be involved. As healthcare providers, we need to educate the public on the matter, because personal hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and proper preparation methods are all fundamentally important to the food safety chain.

Whether it is in our homes, large commercial establishments, hotels, or a small cookshop on the corner, we all need to practice rigorous food safety. When our food is safe, we will have a healthy society—and a healthy society is a happy society.



# LAY PREACHERS & BIBLE WORKERS' FEDERATION RALLY

THEME: **GROUNDING IN THE BIBLE,  
FOCUSING ON THE MISSION, RESTORING HOPE**

*For announcements on NCU FM Church Bulletin Board, email information to:*

**sales@ncumedia.com**

*Our mailing address is:*

**PO Box 176, Catherine Hall, Montego Bay, St. James, Jamaica**

**Want to change how you receive these emails?**

*Telephone:*

**1 (876) 656-7800; 1(876) 952-2727; 1 (876) 979-9026;**

**1 (876) 618-2416; 1 (876) 618-2417 and via Digicel at 1 (876) 448-8416.**

*To Give Visit:*

**give.westjamaica.org**

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**Pastor Donovan Williams**

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**Mrs. Marion Barrett-Popkin**

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*Writer*

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