

ASI GUYANA MOVING FORWARD IN 2010

The Guyana Chapter of Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) hosted its Second Convention from Friday, March 19 to Sunday, March 21, 2010 at the Olivet Seventh-day Adventist Church. The theme of the Convention was "**Engaging in the Apostolic Kerygma While Enjoying Financial Freedom.**"

Our Distinguished President

The success of this event was only made possible through faith in our heavenly Father, support of the executive and membership, and the exceptional leadership of Dr. Karen Cummings, president of the ASI Guyana Chapter.

Dr. Karen Cummings distinguished herself by meritorious service as president of the ASI Guyana Chapter from 2003 to present. During this period she guided and energized the ASI Guyana Chapter through all its efforts in "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace."

The distinctive accomplishment of Dr. Karen Cummings as president reflect credit upon herself, the ASI Guyana Chapter and the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to spread the three Angels message in Guyana.

Our Achievements

Some of the activities of the ASI Guyana Chapter over this period include members of ASI Guyana chapter attending International Conventions; the conducting of medical outreaches, affirming the gifts of professionals through music, lectures; commercial networking of products among the ASI members and the Adventist populace; the baptism of approximately 138 persons through 44 house campaigns through the use of DVDs and Manuals distributed by the North America ASI Chapter. This last venture was made possible through the collaboration and kind courtesy of the Caribbean Union and the Personal Ministries Department of the Guyana Conference.

Special Guest

ASI Guyana Chapter was privileged to have at the Convention, as special guest, Pastor Theodore Jaria, the Caribbean Union ASI Representative, and Pastor Leon Wellington, the ASI Secretary of the Inter-American Division; and also represented at the convention were members from the Barbados and North America ASI Chapters.

The Program

The program for the convention that weekend was nothing less than inspiring. The Friday evening commenced with pomp and splendor and a colourful display of flags depicting countries in the Caribbean by the pathfinders and drum core.

The president of ASI Guyana Chapter, Dr. Karen Cummings, presented her report and the Feature address was given by Elder Joseph Williams. Member of the Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church, he is attached to the CARICOM Secretariat. Elder Joseph boldly declared that Apostolic Kerygma is not in conflict with financial freedom, but must take priority; however, we must be aware of our individual context and adopt our methods remembering always that life is a dash.

He posited that attaining financial freedom requires wise planning but also TRUST in Lord as there are RISKS; we have to balance seeking financial freedom with call to Mission.

The Sabbath school was coordinated by Elder Gem Rohlehr -Vogt and Pastor Clement Henry who guided us through the lesson study.

Pastor Leon Wellington, who presented the midday message, captioned his presentation, *Just Ordinary Men*. Highlighting the work of the apostles in the early church as outlined in the opening chapters of Acts, he encouraged those present to follow their example: “God calls ordinary men and women to work for him - individuals who demonstrate by their word and testimony that their lives have been transformed by the Holy Spirit.” And commenting on the boldness of Peter (Acts 4:8-12) Pastor Wellington observed, “When you are preaching the Gospel under the Apostolic Kerygma, you have no fear. [Your preaching] is a declaration of where you stand and whose side you are on.”

In addition, the Inter-American Division representative discouraged the popular association of Christianity with poverty. He reminded the congregation that God has given us resources to manipulate; but we refuse to launch out because of fear and a lack of faith. He also encouraged the ASI members and the congregation to capitalize on the potential that ASI offers, to continue to share and communicate Christ to persons in our work sphere.

The Afternoon Session commenced with a mini-musical extravaganza featuring the Sasha Heraldiers, the Circle of Love and other groups. A panel discussion that focused on *Strategies for Workplace Witnessing* and *Entrepreneurial Skills & Opportunities for Adventist Professionals and Business Persons* concluded the day. This informative discussion between Dr Isaac Newton, Pastor Theodore Jaria, Pastor Leon Wellington and some members of the Guyana ASI Chapter was moderated by Mr. Michael Kendall.

The Way Forward

Among the goals for the ASI Guyana Chapter in 2010 are: establishing a directory of Seventh-Day Adventist business operators, supporting ministries operators and professional services providers; completing the registration of the ASI Guyana Chapter as a NGO; developing a website for ASI Guyana Chapter; continuing with the recruitment drive in the 3 counties of Guyana; and holding the elections of Office Bearers.