

Friday, January 30, 2026

THE WEST WEEKLY

#1

WJC SKILLED WORKERS PARTNERED TO RESTORE HOUSING HURRICANE MELISSA

SKILLED WORKERS. RESTORE HOUSING POST HURRICANE MELISSA

After Hurricane Melissa left many without shelter, the West Jamaica Conference partnered with skilled workers from Belize to provide housing for 15 displaced families..
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WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE REBUILDS HOME FOR DISPLACED FAMILY OF SIX

After losing their home during Hurricane Melissa, the Cheddan family has been resettled into a newly built two-bedroom house completed through a WJC-led relief. p.5



SKILLED WORKERS PARTNER TO RESTORE HOUSING POST HURRICANE MELISSA

Members of the Nehemiah Skilled Workers from the Belize Union Mission and the Gideon Rescue Company join WJC President, Pastor Glen Samuels for a moment of recognition following the completion of the rebuilding project

Photo credit: Vernal Comrie



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SKILLED WORKERS. RESTORE HOUSING POST HURRICANE MELISSA



Members of the Nehemiah Skilled Workers from the Belize Union Mission and the Gideon Rescue Company join WJC President, Pastor Glen Samuels for a moment of recognition following the completion of the rebuilding project. ::
Photo credit: Vernal Comrie

Hurricane Melissa, one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes on record, struck Jamaica in late October, resulting in widespread destruction across western Jamaica, leaving many families without adequate shelter. In response, the West Jamaica Conference recently partnered with the Nehemiah Skilled Volunteers, a 13-member team from the Belize Union Mission operating under the VividFaith network of the General Conference, to rebuild homes damaged by the hurricane. Through this collaboration, seven homes were rebuilt from the ground up and eight (8) were repaired. The effort was further supported by members of the Gideon Rescue Company, who assisted with initial cleanup activities across the territory.

A fraction of the building materials procured by the Conference was used for the project. Approximately two Million five hundred thousand (JMD \$2.5 million) in zinc sheets and over five hundred thousand dollars (JMD \$500,000) in lumber and plywood were purchased to ensure that repairs and new construction could move forward without delay.

In addition to construction, the outreach extended to practical community care, as a barber who was part of the team provided free haircuts to 60 residents while also assisting on building sites.

Motivated by a deep commitment to service, the team's leader, Pastor David Campbell, reflected on the experience and the strength that sustained their work.

"God has been good to us and has worked on our behalf," said Pastor Campbell. "We came with a mind to work and remained committed to the task. While many saw the project as a challenge, God gave us the strength to accomplish all that we did. Everything we undertook was for the glory of God."

One of the first homes to be fully restored is that of Nickeiska Bernard-Richards, a resident of Seaford Town, Westmoreland.



"I was the first person in my community to receive a home," she said. "I want to thank the team from Belize and the Conference. I am very grateful."

West Jamaica Conference President, Pastor Glen O. Samuels noted the depth of sacrifice involved in the team's work across the territory.

"They have given themselves to serving humanity, and West Jamaica has been the beneficiary of this kind of selfless sacrifice."

He added that the impact of their service extended beyond physical repairs. "The sacrifice of this team is very meaningful to us. I want to thank God for blessing you with a heart and a mind to give and to work."

As recovery efforts continue across the region, the Conference has indicated that similar partnerships will remain central to its disaster response strategy.

To learn about our giving options and how you can help support our mission of Rebuilding the West, [visit **give.westjamaica.org**](http://give.westjamaica.org).

WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE |
SHADEKA HAYE-CAMPBELL | JANUARY 08, 2026

Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

Adult
Sabbath School
Bible Study Guide
Jan | Feb | Mar 2026

UNITING
HEAVEN AND EARTH
CHRIST
IN PHILIPPIANS
AND COLOSSIANS



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.



WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE REBUILDS HOME FOR FAMILY OF SIX DISPLACED BY HURRICANE MELISSA



After losing their home during Hurricane Melissa, the Cheddan family has been resettled into a newly built two-bedroom house completed through a WJC-led relief effort.

Blackness, Westmoreland -

When Hurricane Melissa tore through western Jamaica, entire communities were destroyed. Homes crumpled, roads disappeared, and families were left grasping for whatever safety they could find. In Blackness, Westmoreland, one of the many heart-wrenching stories belong to Alicia Pennycooke-Cheddan, her husband, and their four young children. They were inside the wooden section of their home when the wind began to twist the structure. According to

Alicia, the wooden walls trembled. Acting quickly, they rushed into the adjoining concrete bathroom, and almost immediately after they entered, the rest of the house collapsed. With nowhere left to turn, the family of six ran through the storm to a neighbor's house. Moments later, the neighbor's roof collapsed as well, and they huddled in that bathroom until the worst had passed. It was a night Alicia describes as "nothing short of frightening."



In the days that followed, a photo circulated of Alicia's baby lying on a mattress beneath a coconut tree, showing the seriousness of their situation. The West Jamaica Conference (WJC) received word through Pastor Ziggario Richards of the Coote Savannah District and a plan was put in motion to rebuild Alicia's home. A two-bedroom, one-bathroom house was completed in four days through the support of WJC and volunteers from several churches across the territory. Skilled workers,



carpenters, pastors, and Master Guides joined forces to raise a home for the Cheddans.

As the project took shape, Pastor Delgado Black, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Coordinator for the West Jamaica Conference, reflected on how far things had come in such a short time. "When we got here a few days ago there was nothing. We are privileged, and we give God thanks and praise for what He has done so far. We are most grateful. I want to thank the team from Montego Bay, Sheffield, and the church for giving of themselves."

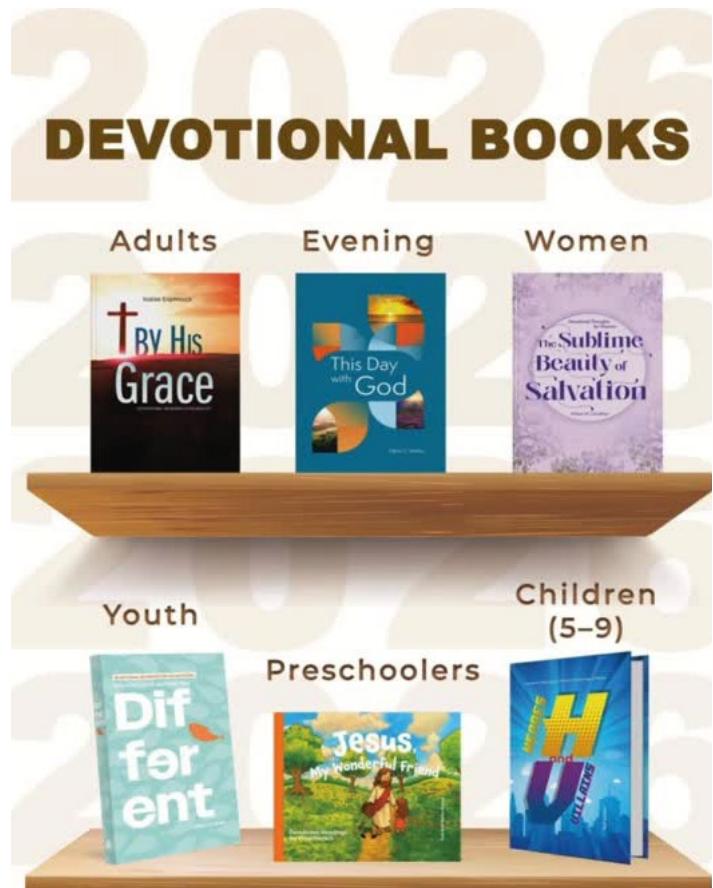
Pastor Ziggario Richards stood on the site as the final boards went up, visibly moved by how quickly the community rallied. "Thanks to WJC, I want to take this opportunity to express thanks to the administration and the team from West Jamaica. Without you this would not be possible."

For Alicia, the completed home marked the end of days filled with fear and uncertainty. Standing in front of the doorway of her new home, she spoke quietly but firmly about how much the help meant to her family. "Thanks to you all for helping us to get back a home. It is truly a blessing and I thank God because if it was not for Him none of this would be possible. My family and I are very grateful at this moment. We can be comfortable now, and we appreciate everything you have done. May God continue to bless you."

Among the volunteers was Master Guide Walton Shaw, who helped with the physical construction. For him, the work carried deep meaning. "We have to give God the glory because it is through God that we were able to bring back a smile on her face," he shared. "You could see her relief when she came to the construction site each day. It was a true joy for me in every nail that I drove in that house."

To support more rebuilding projects for families like Alicia's, visit give.westjamaica.org to see how you can help. The work continues, and every hand makes a

WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE |
SHADEKA HAYE-CAMPBELL | DECEMBER 03, 2025



Reserve yours now!

WADPA
World Adventist Devotional Publishing Association

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,



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



[Please click image to watch](#)

NEWS FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

'Ten Days of Prayer' Invites Adventists to Begin the Year Seeking God Together.

'Unleashed' emphasis highlights the role of the Holy Spirit in reviving faith, restoring purpose, and empowering believers to

As a new year begins, Seventh-day Adventists around the world will pause to listen, reflect, and pray—seeking a deeper experience with God during the Church's annual Ten Days of Prayer, set for January 2026. Centered on the theme "Unleashed," the initiative invites believers to open their hearts to the transforming presence of the Holy Spirit, echoing Jesus' promise in John 14:16–17: "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth."

Each January, the Ten Days of Prayer serves as a spiritual starting point for the year, calling members to unite in intentional prayer and dependence on God. From local churches and small groups to family living rooms and online gatherings, Adventists are encouraged

to set aside time each day to seek renewal, intercede for others, and recommit their lives to God's mission.

Through thoughtfully prepared devotionals, Bible promises, prayer guides, and outreach challenges, the "Unleashed" emphasis highlights the role of the Holy Spirit in reviving faith, restoring purpose, and empowering believers to live out Christ's mission in their communities and beyond. The Ten Days of Prayer are rooted in the biblical experience of the early church, drawing inspiration from Acts 2 and emphasizing the role of intercessory prayer in preparing believers for the work of the Holy Spirit.

According to Pastor Samuel Telemaque, director of Adventist Mission for the Inter-American

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

UNLEASHED!



JANUARY 7-17, 2026

TENDAYSOFPRAAYER.ORG



"The ten days of prayer are an act of worship designed to facilitate renewal, rebirth, and redemption in Christ."

Division (IAD) and overseer of the Back to the Altar initiative, the season of prayer creates a spiritual environment that aligns the Church with God's purpose. "Intercessory prayers establish an environment conducive to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, thereby enabling the Church to fulfill its divine mission," Telemaque said. "The Holy Spirit empowers collaborative prayers. These ten days of prayer serve to prepare our minds for the reception of the Holy Spirit."

Telemaque emphasized that prayer involves the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in both personal transformation and global mission. "It is the Holy Spirit who interprets our prayers before heaven; Jesus mediates our prayers to the Father, and the Father responds to our prayers in accordance with His divine will," he said.

The initiative is not only about mission but worship itself, Telemaque added. "The ten days of prayer are an act of worship designed to facilitate renewal, rebirth, and redemption in Christ."

"Each year, we see growing participation, especially as members share the initiative through social media and invite others to begin the year in prayer," said Abel Márquez, communication director of the Inter-American Division. "As a Division, we remain committed to developing programs, short videos, and other supportive materials that work alongside the General Conference resources, helping strengthen this spiritual emphasis throughout Inter-America and beyond."

To find this year's Ten Days of Prayer resources, [Click HERE](#)

December 18, 2025 | Miami, Florida, United States
| Libna Stevens, Inter-American Division News

JOB VACANCIES



**West Jamaica Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists**

Savanna-la-mar Preparatory School
is now accepting
applications for the post of

Accountant

Qualifications:

Bachelor's Degree in Accounting,
Business Administration or related field

Experience:

At least three (3) years professional experience in the area

Skills:

Skills: Advance proficiency in microsoft excel and
database management

Apply to: hr@westjamaica.org
Deadline for applications: February 6, 2026

CALENDAR OF MISSION 2026

FEBRUARY

1-28	CELEBRATIONS - Emphasis on Exercise	15-21	Christian Home and Marriage Week
1-28	Stewardship - Emphasis on Man as Manager	17-18	Jamaica Union Conference Session
1	Parish Connect - St. Elizabeth	18	Public Holiday - Ash Wednesday
1	Launch of Parish-based EYEs Mentorship Training Series	21	Operation Family First, Living the Mission Baptism Day
1	Communion with God - Hour of Prayer	21	Elders' Appreciation Day/ Elders' Certification
7	Community Services Day	22	Clerks, Auditors, Treasurers, Elders & Pastors' Workshop - St. James
7	Lay Preachers & Bible Workers' Federation Rally - St. Elizabeth	22	Prayer Breakfast - Security Forces
8	Online Trust Services Workshop	28	Convention - Westmoreland
8	Parish Connect - Westmoreland	28	UNASSIGNED (other parishes)
10	Executive Committee Meeting		
14	Church Clerk 7th Sabbath Attendance Count		
14	UNASSIGNED		
15	Clerks, Auditors, Treasurers, Elders & Pastors' Workshop - Hanover		
15	Online Child Preacher's Training		
15	Parish Connect - Hanover		
15	Pastors & Elders Mission Seminar - Westmoreland		

CONFERENCE EVENTS

FEBRUARY



West Jamaica Conference of
Seventh-day Adventist®

WEST CONFERENCE PARISH CONNECT

Theme: “GROUNDED IN THE BIBLE,
FOCUSED ON THE MISSION, RESTORING HOPE ”

We are Coming to

 **ST. ELIZABETH**
Seventh-day Adventist
Church, Santa-Cruz
Main Street, Santa Cruz
St. Elizabeth

February
1



for more info visit westjamaica.org

CONFERENCE EVENTS

FEBRUARY



WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

OPERATION FAMILY FIRST

Church Officers Reaping Initiative(CORI)/CELP

40 DAYS OF PRAYER & Witnessing

JANUARY 13 - FEBRUARY 21, 2026

- 👉 Each church member should choose seven (7) non-Sevenday Adventist family members to fervently pray for each day.
- 👉 Each department should be assigned a special day to give leadership.
- 👉 Each church member should earnestly work to lead at least one family member to Christ in baptism and nurture.
- 👉 Recommended prayer times: **6 a.m. | 12 P.M. | 6 p.m.**
(Participants may choose other convenient prayer times.)
- 👉 The grand baptism day for every family to celebrate at least one from each family is **February 21, 2026.**

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

MARCH

Communion In Action

Global Youth
T-SHIRT 2026



**CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL
YOUTH DIRECTOR TO ORDER**

GYD 2026

**Shirt orders are placed with the Parish Federation
Cost : \$2000**

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

MARCH



communion in action

GLOBAL YOUTH DAY 2026

MARCH 21ST, 2026



EVENTS

FEBRUARY

THIS IS YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION TO THE

FOOTPRINTS OF HOPE
Evangelistic Series

With Pastor
GLEN O. Samuels
 President of West Jamaica Conference
 & Speaker of Footprints of Hope
 telecast on TVJ Sundays at 8:30am

UNDER THE BIG TENT

WINDSOR COMMUNITY
 (ON WINSTON PROPERTY)

Starting:
**SATURDAY,
 FEBRUARY 7**
 6:45 P.M. WEEKNIGHTS
 7:00 P.M. *EXCEPT
 MONDAYS & FRIDAYS
**SATURDAYS @ 9:00 A.M.
 5:00 P.M.**

Special Features

- Power-Packed, Life-Changing Prophetic-Preaching
- Focus on the Second Coming of Jesus
- Breaking Generation Curses
- Free Medical Clinics
- Intercessory Prayer for Deliverance

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FITROY BAILEY



PASTOR
MICHAEL DIXON



PASTOR
OSRICK PAGE



PASTOR
JOVANNI BROWN



PASTOR ROHAN
GOLDBOURNE

LIVE STREAMING ON:







FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [HTTP://FOOTPRINTS.WESTJAMAICA.ORG](http://FOOTPRINTS.WESTJAMAICA.ORG)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

JANUARY

Please click to view video content.

West Jamaica Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists | **ONLINE LIVE WORSHIP Experience**

THE TAIL OF THE DRAGON: THE SAGA OF TRAGEDY AND TRIUMPH?

Speaker:
Pastor Glen O. Samuels
President, WJC

Sabbath
Jan 24, 2026
Starting: 9:30 a.m.

LIVE ON:
WCCN

Online Worship Experience || Morning Session || Sabbath, January 24, 2026

Rest, Reflection & Restoration || Friday Evening Vesper Service || Jan 30, 2026

The BIBLE STUDY Hour

Bible Study Hour || 1st Quarter || Lesson 5 January 30, 2026

GOD FIRST
WJC STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

Stewardship 360 || Playlist || 2026

WHAT IS THEIR PROPER PLACE?

AI MENTAL
HEALTH “THERAPISTS”

I am one of a handful of trained mental health counselors in my country. I am very concerned about the lack of affordable and available mental health services, especially for young adults and adolescents. Is artificial intelligence (AI) hype or help?

Thank you for asking such a thoughtful question. Around the world young people are struggling with loneliness, anxiety, and fear, and suicide has become a growing statistic. The need for mental health services exceeds the supply since the number of affected individuals is growing and the number of trained counselors is very small. Your community's situation is not unique. In this space of deep need, people are asking whether artificial intelligence—the new “chatbot companions” that can talk with us anytime—might be part of the answer.

Our reply is both hopeful and cautious: AI can be of help, but we should understand what it is and what it is not and employ it for its benefits while avoiding its pitfalls.

Unlike a counselor with a crowded schedule, an AI app is available at any hour of the day or night. For a teenager who wakes in the night with anxious thoughts, having something immediately responsive can feel like a lifeline. These programs also cost far less than professional therapy. And for those who feel judged or silenced when they speak to adults, a chatbot can feel like a safe place to pour out their hearts without fear of criticism. So long as there is electricity, internet, and cell service, these tools are often accessible even in resource-limited communities.

But there is more to the story.

The potential for problems with AI chatbot counseling is real. An AI chatbot is not a true friend. It may say “I care about you” or even “I love you,” but those are only words written into or generated by its programming. Furthermore, an AI mental

health “therapist” cannot respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Their words, however soothing they may be, do not come from someone who knows the young person’s heart. Worse still, AI has no responsibility when life is on the line. Unlike trained counselors, these tools may not recognize a cry for help. Added to this is the fact that most AI platforms are built by companies whose goal may be to keep people using their product, not to heal them. That can mean endless soothing talk that avoids the harder work of growth, change, and accountability.

It is also important to remember that AI does not always give reliable and culturally sensitive answers. Because it generates responses by predicting patterns in language, it can sometimes produce biased or even completely wrong information. Experts call these mistakes “hallucinations.” In everyday matters this might cause only confusion, but in critical or emotional situations the results can be harmful or misleading. And finally, we must admit: the scientific evidence is still thin. One strong study shows promise, but that is far from enough to entrust our children’s well-being to machines.

MISSION: HE ALTH

What is their proper place?

So is AI hype or help? We would say it can be a help, but only as a bridge—something to hold a young person steady until a real human being can step in with presence, love, and responsibility. It can never replace the counselor, the parent, mentor, pastor, teacher, or friend. In reality, no matter how many institutions or remedies we create, true healing is grounded in caring relationships. It is the work that we do with our hearts, in sympathy with the

hearts of those we seek to benefit, that is most successful.

We must not forget or overlook the biblical fact that “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Ps. 46:1). He is the original and genuine ever-available counselor and comforter, and it is He who gives His children the ability to help while He heals. Real comfort and hope flow through living relationships—with God and with each other.

Our counsel, then, is to keep AI in its proper place. Be clear with the youth that it is a tool, not a friend. Encourage them to use it alongside—not instead of—real conversations with caring people. And as communities of faith, let us not allow technology to excuse us from our calling. The church must continue to train, support, and send out more human counselors, mentors, and compassionate leaders who will walk beside our young (and not-so-young) people in love and truth.

Zeno L. Charles-Marcel, a board-certified

“internist, is the director of Adventist Health Ministries at the General Conference. **Peter N. Landless**, a board-certified nuclear cardiologist and General Conference Adventist Health Ministries director emeritus, is also a board-“certified internist.”

OUR MEDIA PRESENCE

WCCN

CHANNEL 234 CORNWALL COMMUNICATIONS

BEHOLD HE COMETH

SUNDAYS @ 7:30 A.M. TELEVISION JAMAICA

SOCIAL MEDIA



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

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Telephone:

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

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give.westjamaica.org

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