THE OFFICIAL E-BULLETIN OF THE WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Friday, Oct 23, 2026

THE WEST WEEKLY

#37

42 YEARS OF FAITH AND SERVICE: THE LIFELONG MINISTRY OF PASTOR ASTOR BOWERS

PHOTO HIGHTLIGHTS

The St. James leg of the NEM Reset: Bible and Torch Tour, took place in Anchovy, St. James, on October 17, 2026. Pg. 7



LAWRENCE WINS JAMAICA UNION BIBLE CONNECTION CHAMPIONSHIP, ADVANCES TO IAD FINALS

NAVIN LAWRENCE OF CENTRAL JAMAICA CONFERENCE EMERGED CHAMPION OF THE JAMAICA UNION BIBLE CONNECTION FINALS ON SABBATH, OCTOBER 10, 2026 EARNING THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPRESENT JAMAICA AT THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION FINALS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ON NOVEMBER 21.

CONTENT

President's Message



Greetings, members of the West Jamaica Conference!

It is a joy and privilege to once again remind you of the integral role that the West Weekly Newsletter plays in our ministry. I want to challenge and encourage you to keep your focus on this vital channel of communication, as it is through this medium that we will share many of the key activities and updates across our conference.

I also encourage you to keep the mission at the forefront of all you do. We know the Lord is coming soon, and we are called by God to declare this Everlasting Gospel to the world. May the Lord bless and keep you as we together pursue His mission.

Pastor Vincent Rose
President, West Jamaica Conference

03-06 **Weekly News**

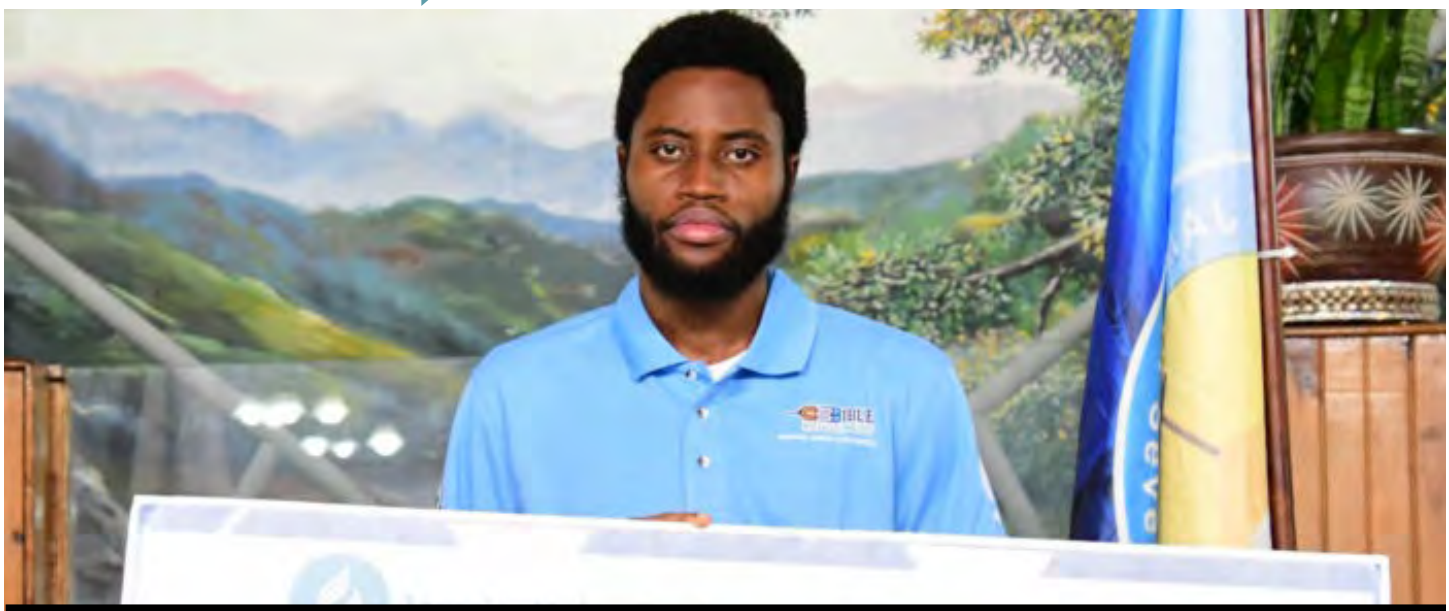
07 **Photo Highlights**

08 **Adventist World News**

10 **Conference & Local Events**

18 **Our Media Presence**

LAWRENCE WINS JAMAICA UNION BIBLE CONNECTION CHAMPIONSHIP, ADVANCES TO IAD FINALS



Navin Lawrence of Central Jamaica Conference displays his championship award after winning the 2026 Jamaica Union Bible Connection Finals at Meadowvale Seventh-day Adventist Church on Oct. 10. Lawrence will represent the Jamaica Union at the Inter-American Division finals in the Dominican Republic on Nov. 21.

By Theodore Henry, East Jamaica Conference | JAMU Communications

Navin Lawrence of Central Jamaica Conference emerged champion of the Jamaica Union Bible Connection Finals on Sabbath, October 10, 2026 earning the opportunity to represent Jamaica at the Inter-American Division finals in the Dominican Republic on November 21.

Lawrence topped a field of 10 finalists at the Meadowvale Seventh-day Adventist Church, leading a strong showing by Central Jamaica Conference as Faith Chambers finished second on her birthday. Miguel Foster of West Jamaica Conference placed third.

The championship brought together two finalists from each of the Jamaica Union's five conferences for five rounds of questions testing their knowledge of the Book of Daniel and the Spirit of Prophecy.



The 10 finalists in the 2026 Jamaica Union Bible Connection Finals display their plaques alongside youth ministries leaders and other church officials following the championship at Meadowvale Seventh-day Adventist Church on Oct. 10.

"Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city..." Where in Scripture can those words be found?

It was among the questions the finalists faced in a competition in which the lead changed several times before Lawrence secured the championship in the final round.

A Shifting Leaderboard

Foster and Chambers led the standings at the end of the first round, but the contest remained open as the finalists moved through the subsequent rounds.

By round three, Shanoya Gayle of East Jamaica Conference had taken the lead. Chambers moved into first place in the fourth round, with Lawrence in second and Gayle in third.

The standings changed once more in the fifth and final round. Lawrence moved into first place to claim the championship, Chambers finished second and Foster secured third.

Lawrence said the calibre of the other finalists made his victory unexpected.

"I really liked the atmosphere. I was surrounded on all sides by the best players in Jamaica. I didn't think finishing first was possible," he said.



The 10 finalists in the 2026 Jamaica Union Bible Connection Finals display their plaques alongside youth ministries leaders and other church officials following the championship at Meadowvale Seventh-day Adventist Church on Oct. 10.

The 10 finalists represented a range of academic interests, including biochemistry, animal biology, psychology, chemistry, business and criminal justice, while also devoting time to studying Scripture and biblical prophecy in preparation for the championship.

Lawrence and Chambers represented Central Jamaica Conference. Sisters Shanieke and Shanoya Gayle represented East Jamaica Conference, while Norville Mitchell and Christopher Smith represented North Jamaica Conference. Ricardo-Rae Douglas and Threvina Chin represented North East Jamaica Conference, and Mawuena Dacosta and Miguel Foster represented West Jamaica Conference.

Encouraging Deeper Bible Study

Beyond the competition, organizers said Bible Connection is intended to encourage young people to develop consistent habits of Bible study and become more intentional in ministry.

Kaldairo Carter, last year's Bible Connection winner, said his experience preparing for the competition changed the way he approached Scripture.

"When you're reading the Bible [after Bible Connection], you don't read it superficially again — you pay attention to the details," Carter said. "You will know your Bible better; you will understand Scripture and how God works better."

Jamaica Union Youth Director Pastor Dwayne Scott commended the finalists and those who helped prepare them for the championship.

"The participants' knowledge of the Spirit of Prophecy and the Book of Daniel was evident throughout the championship, demonstrating that the future of the church is in good hands," Scott said.

He also commended the Bible Connection coordinators and conference youth directors for their work in preparing the participants.

Scott noted that 2026 marks the first year Bible Connection is being conducted in two formats: the AY App Finals, exclusively for Adventist Youth, and the Team Finals, involving Adventurers, Pathfinders and Adventist Youth.

"This expansion is intended to increase the number of young people participating in Bible Connection and encourage more of them to develop a passion for studying God's Word," he said.



Jamaica Union Youth Ministries Director Pastor Dwayne Scott addresses participants and attendees during the 2026 Jamaica Union Bible Connection Finals at Meadowvale Seventh-day Adventist Church on Oct. 10.

The programme also included remarks from East Jamaica Conference President Pastor Melvin Francis, Pastor Jonathan Myrie, Communication and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director of the Jamaica Union, and Pastor Joel Jumpp, Youth director of the East Jamaica Conference, who delivered messages focused on biblical prophecy and the importance of studying Scripture.

Lawrence Heads to the Regional Finals

As champion, Lawrence will receive $50,000 and an all-expenses-paid trip to the Dominican Republic to represent the Jamaica Union at the Inter-American Division finals. Chambers will receive $30,000 for second place, while Foster will receive $20,000 for third.

All 10 finalists were also allowed to keep the tablets provided for their use during the championship and received plaques recognizing their participation.

Lawrence will now turn his attention to the Inter-American Division finals on November 21, when he will represent the Jamaica Union against Bible Connection champions from across the division.

42 YEARS OF FAITH AND SERVICE: THE LIFELONG MINISTRY OF PASTOR ASTOR BOWERS

By Shantel Neal, West Jamaica Conference

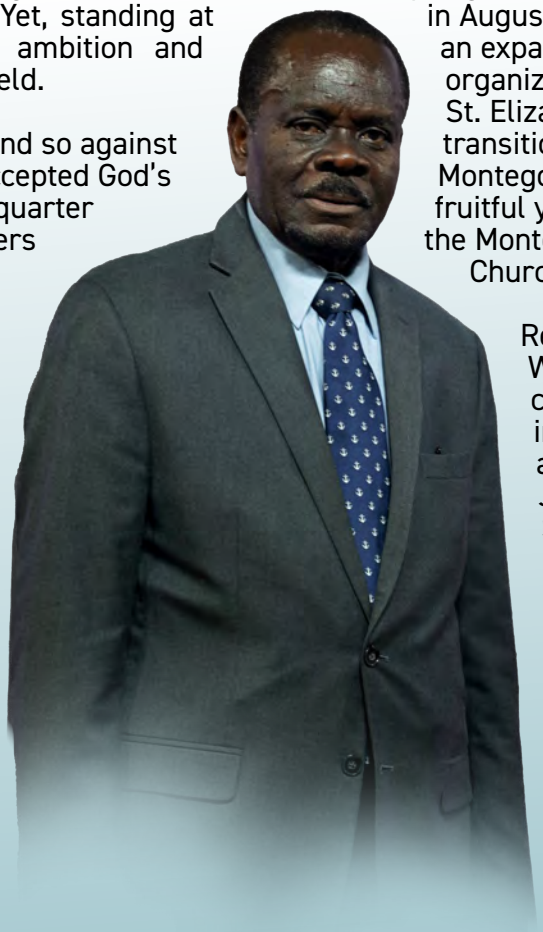
When young Astor Bowers looked toward his future in 1977, pastoring was the furthest thing from his mind. Yet, standing at the crossroads of personal ambition and divine purpose, he chose to yield.

"I didn't want to be a pastor, and so against all odds and expectations, I accepted God's call to ministry in the second quarter of the year 1977," Pastor Bowers reflects.

That pivotal decision marked the beginning of an extraordinary 42-year journey of faith, grit, and pastoral leadership within the Seventh-day Adventist Church across Jamaica.

Trial by Fire and Internship

Enrolling at West Indies College—now Northern Caribbean University (NCU)—Bowers balanced grueling labor with intense study, graduating in May 1981 with a Bachelor's Degree in Religion.



His internship began in 1981 under Pastor B. L. Robinson in Northern Trelawny, followed by service in the Granville Circuit under Pastor W. H. Gunter, where he married his wife, Winsome Bowers in December 1982. After assisting Pastor F. L. Broomfield in Welcome Hall and completing his internship in Santa Cruz with Pastor K. G. Samuels, Pastor Bowers received his first district assignment in September 1983: the Spring Garden Seventh-day Adventist Church in Southern Trelawny.

The assignment was anything but easy. "The conditions there at that time were so challenging that the place was regarded and called 'Siberia,'" Bowers recalls. "Very challenging, but I had some committed and dedicated church members who supported me very well."

A Rising Leader Across Parishes and Conference

Proving his administrative and pastoral strength in Spring Garden, Pastor Bowers was assigned in August 1985 to the Williamsfield Circuit—an expansive area encompassing 11 organized churches across Southwestern St. Elizabeth. In December 1989, he transitioned to the Glendevon Circuit in Montego Bay, St. James, serving for three fruitful years before brief pastoral duty at the Montego Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Recognizing his leadership gifts, the West Jamaica Conference (WJC) called him into executive leadership in January 1993 as Sabbath School and Health Ministries Director. By July 1995, he was elected Executive Secretary of the WJC, serving until 2002. Later that year, he assumed duties as Stewardship Director and became the conference's very first Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator.

His administrative path reached a historic milestone in July 2010 when he was elected President of the West Jamaica Conference. "It came as a surprise, but the Lord had His way," he shares.

Following his presidential tenure in 2014, he transitioned to the Jamaica Union Conference as Family Life, Stewardship, and later Ministerial Director. In February 2018, he joined the North Jamaica Conference as Executive Secretary and Stewardship Director, eventually being elected Vice President in 2022.

A Lasting Legacy of Service

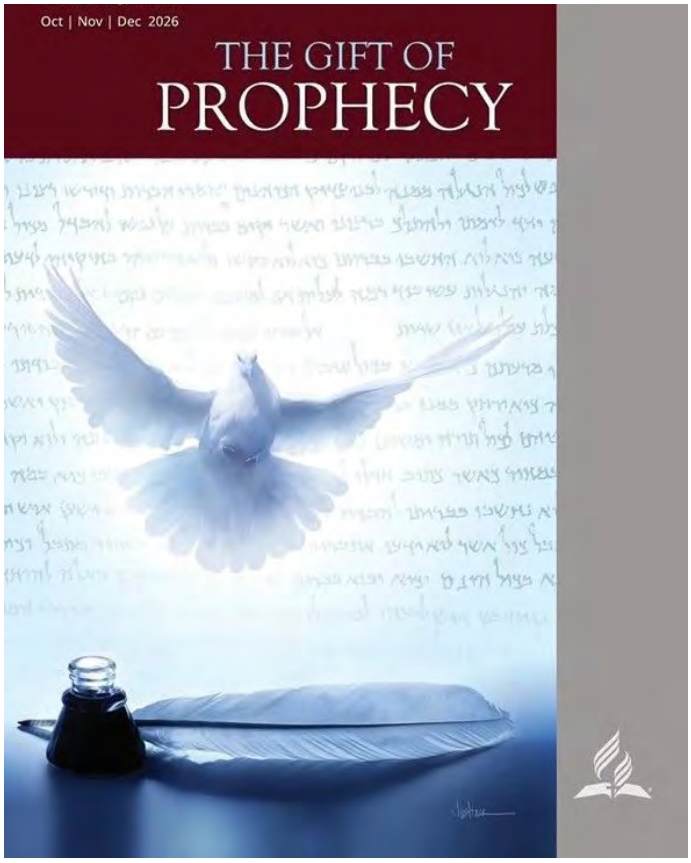
At the end of August 2023, Pastor Bowers officially retired after 42 years of continuous, full-time pastoral ministry.

"Over the many years in ministry, I focused on Prophetic Preaching, and I have been practicing and teaching the health principles that the Lord has given to His church," Bowers says. *"And during my ministry, I might not have been the best evangelist, but with the help of God, I served His people very well, giving meaningful, uplifting, and transforming pastoral care."*

Even in retirement, Pastor Bowers remains actively engaged—conducting prophecy crusades, preaching across congregations, and serving as an adjunct lecturer teaching Bible courses at Northern Caribbean University.

Looking back on more than four decades of service to God and humanity, Pastor Bowers' heart remains anchored in simple, unwavering devotion: *"God has been good to me, and I intend to remain faithful to Him until the very end."*

PLEASE CLICK TO VIEW SABBATH SCHOOL QUARTERLY



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.



The St. James leg of the NEM Reset: Bible and Torch Tour, took place in Anchovy, St. James, on October 17, 2026.credit Joshua Lawrence















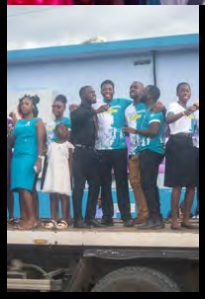




















Two Seventh-day Adventist volunteers stand ready to distribute bags of food from a pickup truck to families affected by the magnitude 7.5 earthquake that struck Panama on October 9, 2026. [Photo: Panama Union]

NEWS FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

Church President Makes Impassioned Plea to Move Forward Together

October 22, 2026 | Panama City, Panama | Johana Garcia and Inter-American Division News Staff

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Panama has launched a nationwide relief effort following a 7.5-magnitude earthquake that struck October 9, leaving one person dead, 27 injured and thousands of families facing damage to their homes.

More than 27,000 people have reported damage to their homes, according to an October 17 update from Panama's National Civil Protection System (Sinaproc), as cited in media reports. The earthquake, centered near Tonosí in southern Panama, caused widespread damage, particularly in Los Santos, Herrera, Veraguas and Coclé. Many families have lost their homes or remain in temporary shelters as authorities assess damaged structures.



Two Seventh-day Adventist volunteers stand ready to distribute bags of food from a pickup truck to families affected by the magnitude 7.5 earthquake that struck Panama on October 9, 2026. [Photo: Panama Union]

Adventist leaders report that approximately 10 churches and dozens of Adventist families have been affected. Through the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Panama, the church has mobilized volunteers and activated collection centers across its local church fields to provide food, drinking water, hygiene products, clothing and other essential supplies.

"The church has come together across the entire

country," said Pastor Jose Smith, president of the Panama Union. "We have collection centers in every local field, and supplies are already being sent to those affected."



ADRA Panama volunteers unload mattresses for distribution to families affected by the October 9 earthquake in Panama. [Photo: Panama Union]

The earthquake, which struck at 12:56 p.m. local time, was felt throughout the country. More than 200 aftershocks have followed, according to Smith, prompting some residents in Panama City to sleep in shopping mall parking lots and other open areas for fear of further tremors.
"People are sleeping in parking lots and even in mall corridors because they are afraid," Smith said. He added that damage to water treatment facilities supplying the capital has disrupted services, extending the earthquake's impact beyond the hardest-hit provinces.



An ADRA Panama volunteer assesses a home destroyed by the earthquake as part of ongoing relief efforts in affected communities. [Photo: Panama Union]

Coordinating Relief Across the Country

Ennar Arriojas, ADRA director for the Panama Union, is coordinating the humanitarian response alongside ADRA and youth ministries directors from local church fields.

The Central Panama Conference, whose territory includes some of the most affected communities, is serving as a major distribution hub. Church members, Pathfinders and youth volunteers are helping receive, sort and prepare donations, with support from conference president Pastor Mike de León.



ADRA Panama volunteers organize donated supplies at a Seventh-day Adventist church serving as a collection center for families affected by the earthquake. [Photo: Panama Union]

The Metropolitan Conference, Western Conference and Southeast Mission have also opened collection centers, channeling supplies toward the Central Panama Conference for distribution to communities in need.

Smith said the relief operation is already reaching affected families, while church leaders continue evaluating damage to Adventist properties and members' homes.



A home damaged by the earthquake in Esquiguita de Pesé, Herrera Province, Panama. [Photo: Panama Union]

At least three Adventist families are known to have sustained damage to their houses, he said, adding that the Panama Union is working with ADRA and local church fields to develop a plan for additional assistance.
"We know of at least 86 families whose homes were damaged, and we are going to assist them," Smith said. Beyond material assistance, congregations across Panama have organized prayer initiatives and encouraged members to support families affected by the disaster.

Please click to view more

"FACTORY RESET"

BY PASTOR GLEN SAMUELS, PRESIDENT OF JAMAICA UNION CONFERENCE



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that a mango tree—no matter how lush or sweet—can never bear a breadfruit? In his powerful message "Factory Reset," Pastor Glen Samuels highlights that throughout Genesis 1, God established a divine order repeated ten times: every living thing must reproduce "after its kind." Just as a fish perishes out of water or a plant dies without soil, human beings cannot navigate life's hardships or fulfill their true purpose when disconnected from their Creator. Pastor Samuels emphasizes that humanity's struggles, divisions, and spiritual failures stem not from a flaw in the "Manufacturer," but from living apart from Him. Drawing on the biblical struggles of Elijah in the cave, Jeremiah under public humiliation, and John the Baptist in prison, the sermon shows that even great servants of God face dark moments—yet these trials are not signs of abandonment, but calls to realign with God.

To overcome life's storms, believers require a spiritual and mission-focused "Factory Reset." Just as nature remains constant and continues to bear fruit regardless of rain, heat, or hurricane, Christians are called to stand firm and reproduce God's image, character, and truth across every sphere of life. Adversity, sickness, and emotional pain are inevitable parts of the human experience, but they do not have to destroy a believer's divine assignment. By surrendering to a "Factory Reset" and drawing strength from their Sustainer, individuals can transform their personal crucibles into powerful testimonies, actively reflecting God's righteousness in their homes, workplaces, and communities.

To watch the full sermon, "Factory Reset " by Pastor Glen Samuels, click the link below.

Please click to view more

CALENDAR OF MISSION 2026

OCTOBER

1 - 31 CELEBRATIONS - Emphasis on Optimism
1 - 31 Stewardship - Emphasis on Legacy, Wills & Trust
1 - 31 Breast Cancer Awareness Month
3 Quarterly Day of Prayer/ Celebrating the Adventist Teacher
4 Communion with God - Hour of Prayer
4 Save Your Breast Symposium
4 - 18 Mentors' Advanced Training - for Pinned Mentors
5 Ingathering Launch - District
8 Pastor's Quarterly General Meeting
8 - 11 Women's Ministries Retreat
10 Youth Sabbath/ Church Clerk 2nd Sabbath Attendance Count
10 Ministerial Family Appreciation Day
13 Executive Committee Meeting
16 - 18 Public Campus Ministries Retreat
17 Stewardship Day/ World Public Campus Ministries Day
17 - 24 Spirit of Prophecy & Adventist Heritage
18 - 23 Adventist Education Promotional Week
19 Public Holiday - Heroes' Day
24 Creation Sabbath/ JAMU Heritage Quiz Finals
31 UNASSIGNED

VACANCY

SEPT

WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE

WE ARE HIRING

Wellesley Gunter Preparatory School

is now accepting application for the post of

Principal

Qualifications

- Masters Degree in Education, Educational Leadership, Education Management or related field
- Certificate in NCEL Principal Professional Training would be an asset
- The ideal candidate must be an exemplary Seventh-day Adventist Christian who is committed to the ministry and witness of the Church.



Experience/ Skills

At least five (5) years experience in management at an academic institution or education related organization

Strong knowledge of the principles that governs Adventist Christian Education

Have a sound knowledge and understanding of the laws, regulations and guidelines that governs the function of the position

Must possess the knowledge and experience of effective financial and budgetary control

Excellent communication, interpersonal and leadership skills

Advanced Proficiency in Microsoft Office Applications; MS Excel and Word

Apply to hr@westjamaica.org

Deadline for applications: November 13, 2026

VACANCY

SEPT

WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE

WE ARE HIRING

Harrison Memorial High School

is now accepting application for the post of

Principal

Qualifications

- Masters Degree in Education, Educational Leadership, Education Management or related field
- Certificate in NCEL Principal Professional Training would be an asset
- The ideal candidate must be an exemplary Seventh-day Adventist Christian who is committed to the ministry and witness of the Church.

Experience/ Skills

At least five (5) years experience in management at an academic institution or education related organization

Strong knowledge of the principles that governs Adventist Christian Education

Have a sound knowledge and understanding of the laws, regulations and guidelines that governs the function of the position

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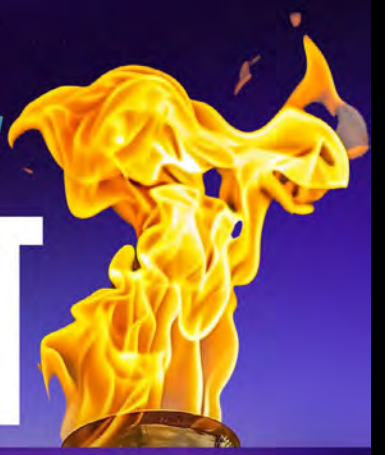
CONFERENCE EVENT

West Jamaica Conference

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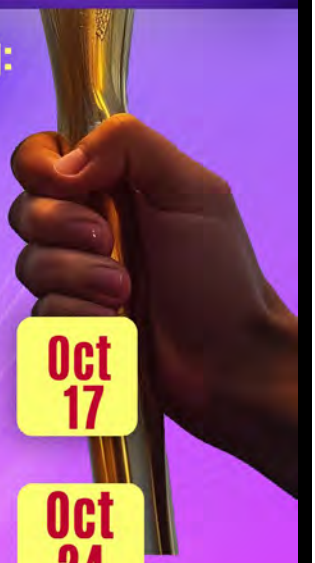
NEM RESET

(National End-time Mission)



BIBLE & TORCH TOUR

Features a parish-by-parish travel of the emblems highlighting:
Obedience to the Bible | Mission of the Church | Second Coming of Christ



TOUR SCHEDULE

St James (Anchovy Square & St James Parish Library 3:00 pm) — Oct 17
Parish to find 3500 passionate disciples.

Hanover (Lucea and Hopewell 3:00 pm) — Oct 24
Parish to find 1500 passionate disciples

Westmoreland (Darliston 10:00 am & Sav 3:00 pm) — Oct 31
Parish to find 2500 passionate disciples.

St Elizabeth (Junction 10:00 am & Santa Cruz 3:00 pm) — Nov 07
Parish to find 2500 passionate disciples

CONFERENCE EVENT



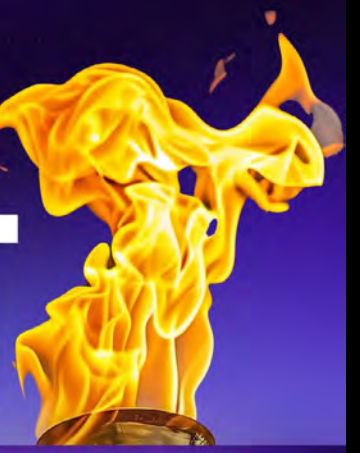
CONFERENCE EVENT

West Jamaica Conference

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NEMRESET

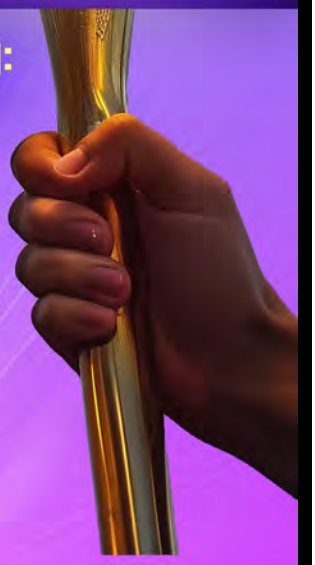
(National End-time Mission)



BIBLE & TORCH TOUR

Features a parish-by-parish travel of the emblems highlighting:

Obedience to the Bible | Mission of the Church | Second Coming of Christ



TOUR SCHEDULE

WESTMORELAND (Darliston & Savanna-la-Mar 3:00 pm)

Oct 31

Darliston
Contented Hall
Darliston
Seaford Town

Savanna-la-Mar
Bath
Coote Savannah
Grange Hill
Little London
Petersfield
Savanna-la-Mar
Sheffield
Water Works
White House

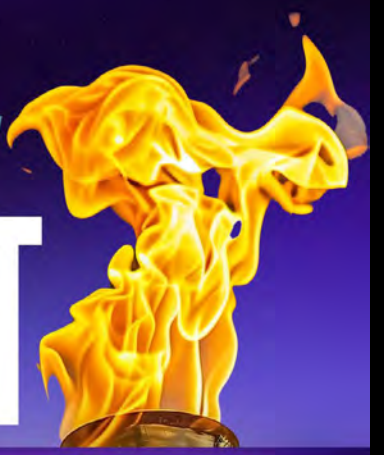
CONFERENCE EVENT

West Jamaica Conference

ONE VOICE 27

NEM RESET

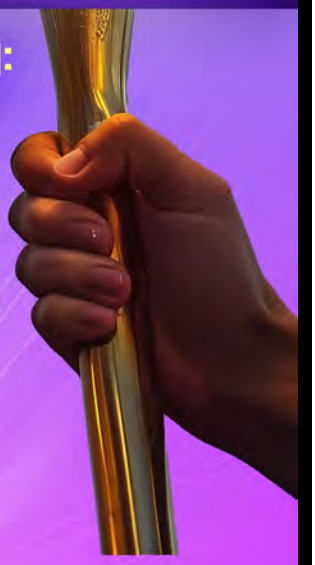
(National End-time Mission)



BIBLE & TORCH TOUR

Features a parish-by-parish travel of the emblems highlighting:

Obedience to the Bible | Mission of the Church | Second Coming of Christ



TOUR SCHEDULE

St. Elizabeth (Junction 10:00a.m.& Santa Cruz 3:00 pm)

Junction
Bull Savannah
Lititz
Southfield
Williamsfield

Santa Cruz
Black River
Burnt Savannah
Goshen
Jointwood
Lacovia
Maggotty
New Market
Santa Cruz
Siloah
Thornton

Nov 7

YOUTH DEPARTMENT EVENTS



UNION EVENTS

OCT



CONFERENCE EVENTS

NOV

West Jamaica Conference
Women & Health Ministries Departments
in Collaboration with **Feed the Fight Breast Cancer Foundation**

invite you to



Yvonne **Dunkley**



Roger **Shippey**

Shades of Pink Gala

November 1, 2026
2:30 PM
Seventh-day Adventist Conference Center
Mount Salem Road, Montego Bay, St. James, Jamaica

Ticket Cost
Regular Ticket Price
$6000

for a **wonderful evening of elegance, live music, & purpose as we raise support for cancer awareness and care.**

In aid of purchasing Chemo Chairs and needles for cancer patients also for persons to be able to do free Mammograms, Pap smears and PSA tests.

For more information & tickets, contact us **@ 876-656-7800 or 876-321-8990**

Sponsors/Partners:

CONFERENCE EVENTS

OCT

West Jamaica Conference
Women's Ministries Department

Week 4

Prevention & Early Detection

The best protection is awareness, healthy choices and regular screening.

Healthy Lifestyle

- Eat a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains.
- Be physically active.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Limit alcohol and avoid smoking.

Regular Screening

- Start mammograms at the recommended age (usually 40 or earlier if high risk).
- Get clinical breast exams as advised by your doctor.
- Know your family history and discuss it with your doctor.

Be Breast Aware

- Get to know how your breasts normally look and feel.
- Check regularly and report any changes.

Early detection gives you more options.

Take charge of your health!

JAMU EVENT

DEC



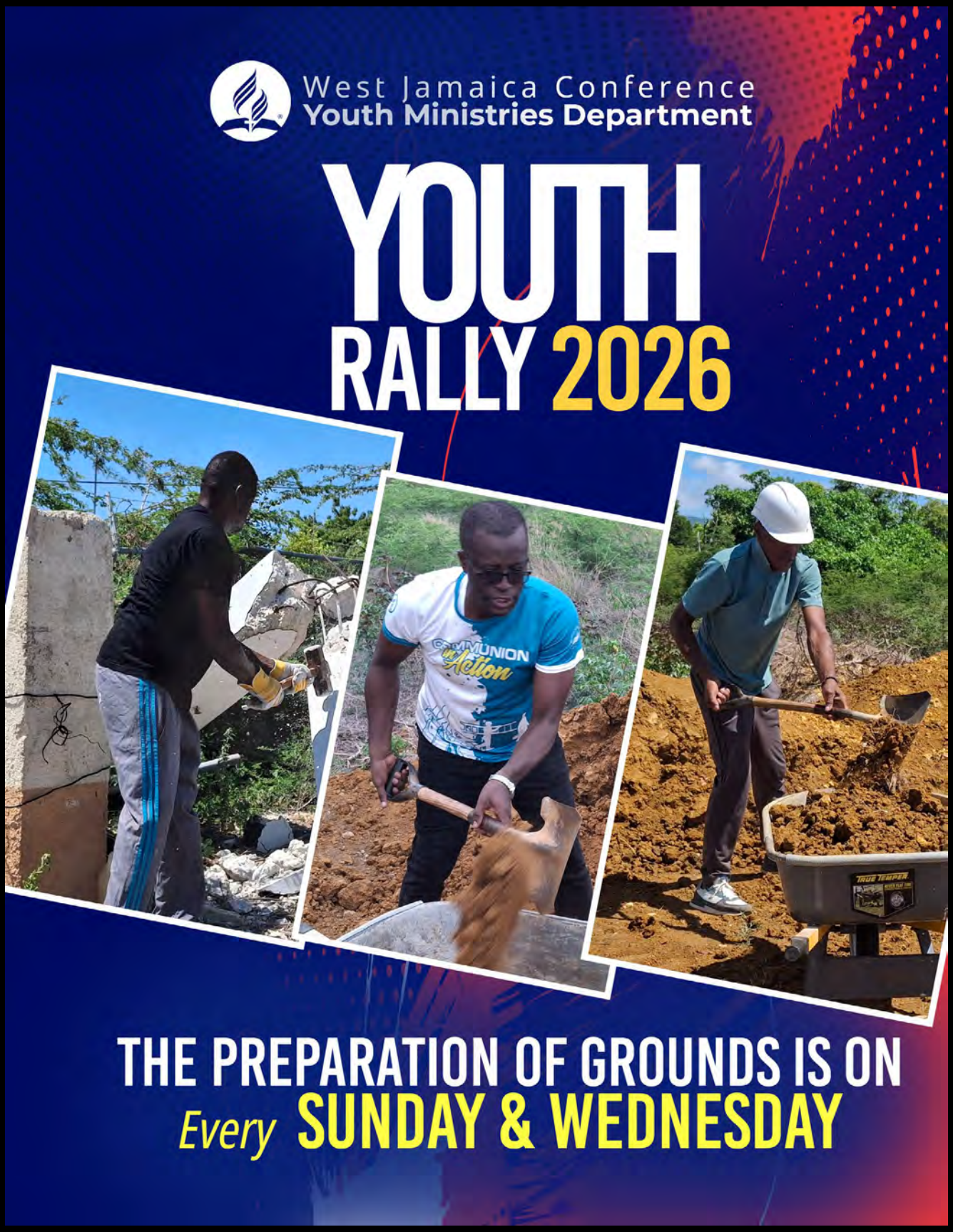
YOUTH DEPARTMENT

NOV



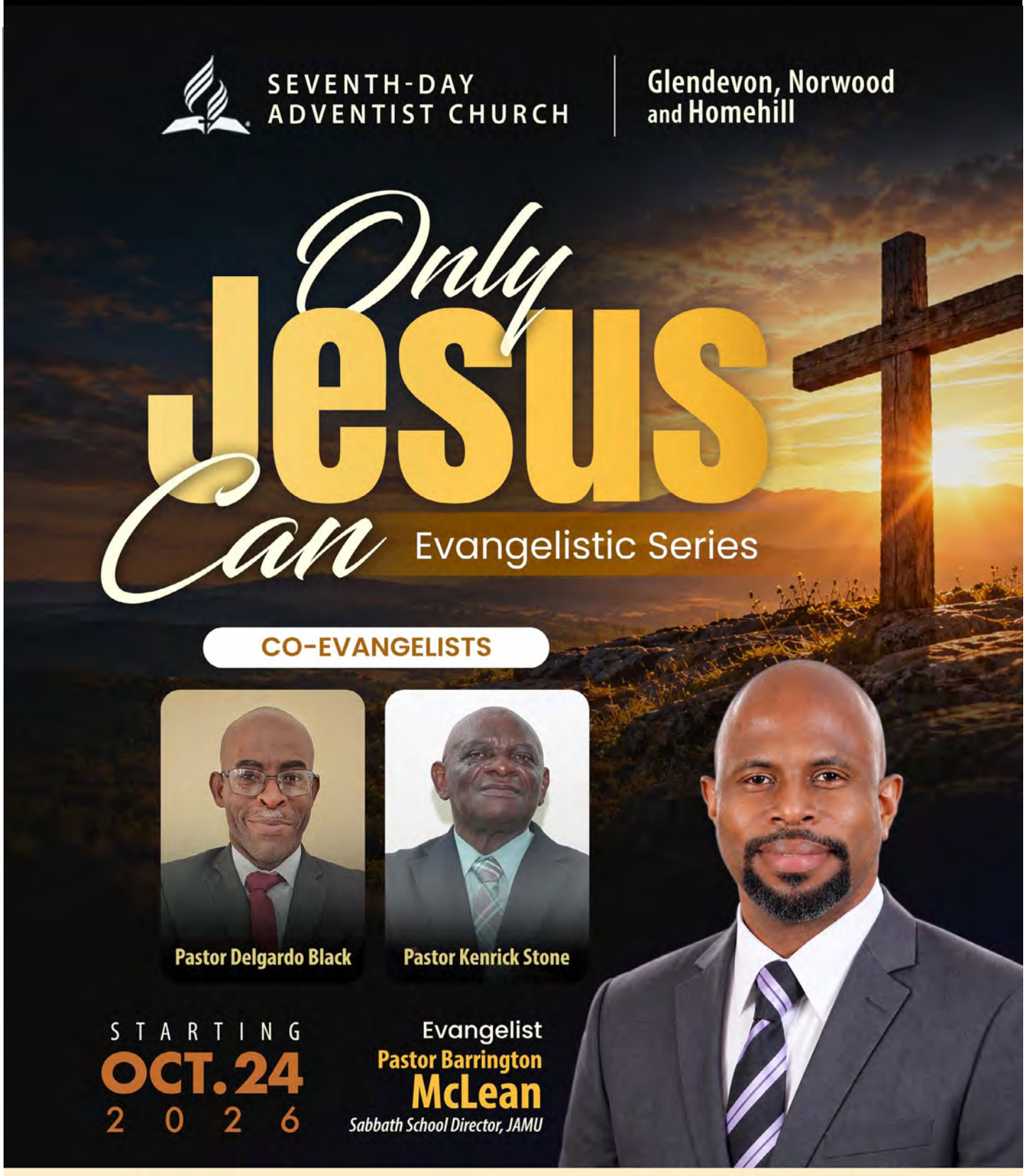
LOCAL CHURCH

DEC



LOCAL EVENT

OCT



YOUTH DEPARTMENT

OCT



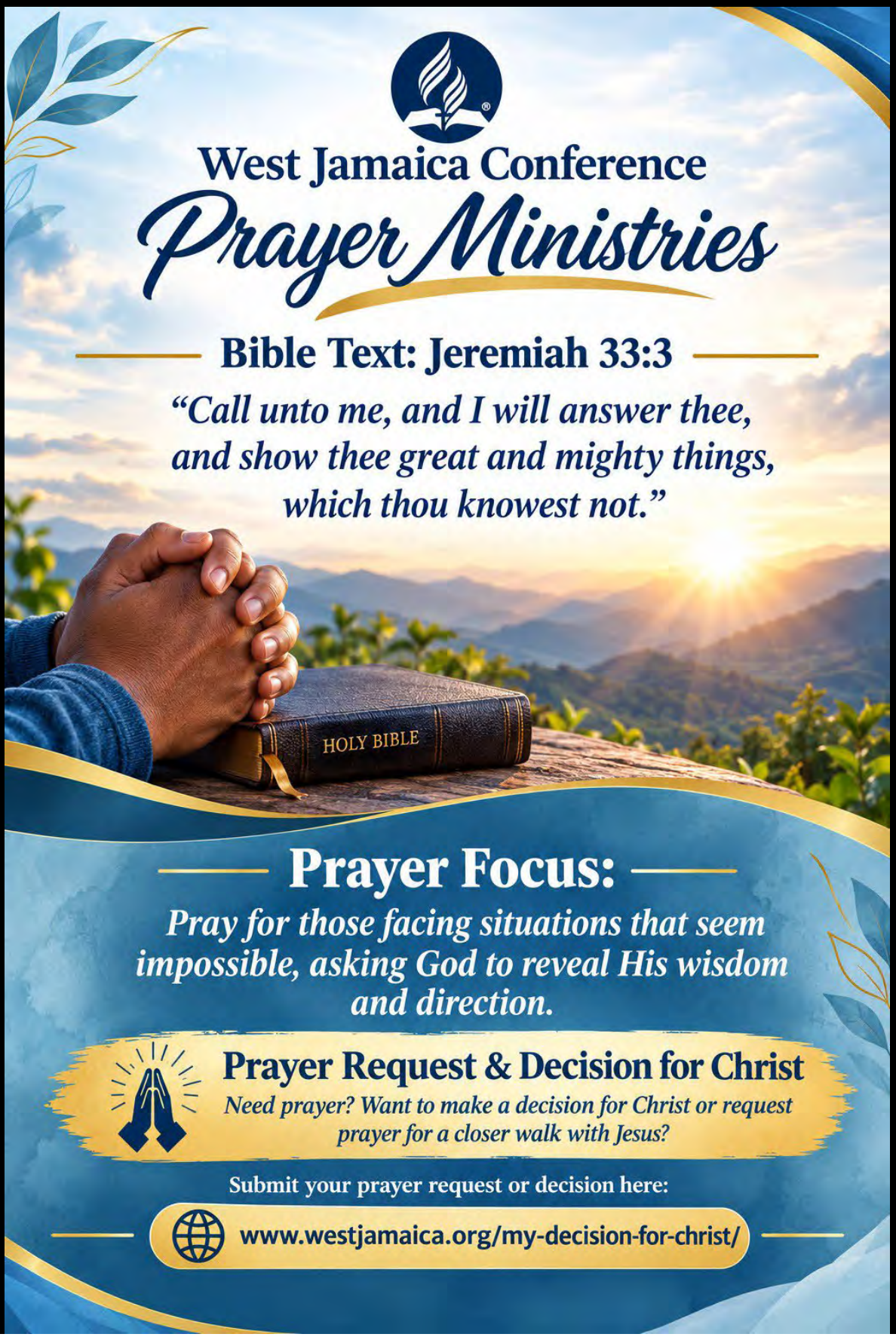
LOCAL EVENT

OCT



PRAYER MINISTRIES

OCT



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

October

Please click to view video content.



Online Worship Experience || Morning Session || Sabbath, Oct 17, 2026



Online Worship Experience ||Evening Session || Sabbath, Oct 17, 2026



Bible Study Hour || Q4 || Lesson 4 || Oct 23 2026



Rest, Reflection & Restoration || Friday Evening Vesper Service || Oct 9, 2026



To submit news, announcements, photos, or stories for consideration in the West Weekly, please email your information to:
communication@westjamaica.org

Please include relevant details, photos, names, dates, locations, and any other information needed for publication.

For announcements on NCU FM Church Bulletin Board, email information to:
sales@ncumedia.com

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