

LATEST NEWS # 494, March 28, 2008

The following news concerns Jamaica.

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Bibles a hit on the streets in Jamaica's neediest communities

JAMAICA — “People were very eager and excited to receive a Bible.” This is the very positive response reported by the Bible Society of the West Indies to a large-scale Bible distribution initiative undertaken recently by members of the Central Jamaica Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Going from street to street in several communities in the Spanish Town area of Saint Catherine, known for its high levels of violence, they were able to give some people the first Bible they had ever owned.

With almost 160,000 members, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the largest of all the Churches present in Jamaica*. Some time ago, it recognised the need for particular outreach to residents of Spanish Town communities. In making its plans, it turned to the Bible Society for assistance and was offered a significant discount on the Bibles it wished to purchase. The Society also contributed more than 100 Bibles, making a total of almost 2,000 available for distribution.

Speaking at the Sabbath service held by the Sydenham congregation before the distribution, Bible Society General Secretary the Rev Courtney Stewart commended the Church for its willingness to make a commitment to this program and for following up its commitment by purchasing Bibles. He promised that the Bible Society would offer ongoing support by making Bibles available for any future distribution programs.

Worshippers were soon engaged in “a blitz of Bible distribution,” says Mr Stewart. Among the many people eager to receive a Bible, Pastor Dr Patrick Allen, President of the West Indies Union of Seventh-day Adventists and a member of the Bible Society Board, encountered one young man who “literally begged him for a Bible”. Unfortunately the stock of Bibles had run out, but Dr Allen promised him that he would ensure that he received one as soon as possible.

With the distribution having had such a significant impact on the community, the Church is now considering undertaking a further distribution as soon as possible.



* source Operation World

Photos (Bible Society of the West Indies):

JAM08DJ-5: Pastor Everette Brown and two Seventh-day Adventist Prayer Warriors present a Bible to a resident of Spanish Town, Saint Catherine, Jamaica, at his sewing machine. This Bible distribution initiative received support from the Bible Society of the West Indies.

JAM08DJ-6: Pastor Everette Brown (centre) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church shares Bibles with two residents of Spanish Town, Saint Catherine, Jamaica. This Bible distribution initiative received support from the Bible Society of the West Indies.

For further information please contact comms@ubs-wsc.org

