The Dawn of a Spiritual Awakening in the district of Cavaliers

The dawn of a new era was to be unfolded as a 29-year young lady, Wilhelmina Harvey, being led by the Holy Spirit in a dream, visited the Everton Park S.D.A. Church in the first week of March 1942. She held a week of Prayer Meeting, highlighting the observance of the Seventh Day Sabbath and started a branch Sabbath School on Sundays at her home in Star Apple Tree, Cavaliers. From thence, she along with another sister and their children, ages five to eight years old, conducted a regular Sabbath and Divine Service at her home every week. In 1945, this young lady filled with zeal and determination, requested help from the brethren at the Everton Park S.D.A Church, in building a bamboo booth at her new residence on Burnt Shop Road. In 1946, the group was organized into a company, and they moved close to the Lipman's residence, which is nearer to Burnt Shop square. Filled with energy, enthusiasm and eagerness; a thirst for God's truth, and souls to be rescued from the clutches of the master deceiver, she responded to and acted on what was given to her in the dream. Soon, there was much rejoicing in heaven as twenty-three (23) precious souls were added to the company of visionary believers on December 5, 1948. In that same year, a church was organized by the then President of the East Jamaica Conference, Pastor K.S. Crawford along with Pastor C. Edwards and D. McCalla as District Pastor. Unfortunately, they had hurdles in the path they were travelling on as the 1951 storm (Charlie), blew down the bamboo structure and another was rebuilt at the Ballentine's property. Between 1959-1960, the members, having spiritual resilience and not daunted, worked assiduously with willing hearts and hands to excavate a hill and erect a building at Buck Up Corner which was after established and is presently the home of the Cavaliers S.D.A. Temple. Brother W. Nelson from the Everton Park S.D.A. Church was sent to help and this he did until December 1963.
Ms. Harvey's son, Banny, cousin Louise Hutchinson; her daughter Olive, her granddaughter Peggy and Sis Willette Lake, were the other individuals who assisted in the initial stage.
We praise God for the way He led those early pioneers who laid both physical and spiritual foundation for the church then and now, strengthening our faith and spreading hope in the coming of the Lord.

Over the decades, Cavaliers SDA grew into a very vibrant lighthouse within the burnt shop community. Many pastors came at different intervals and continued the work started before their arrival. These pastors are Lorenzo Brown, Samuel Lewin, Rodolph wright, Lorenzo Whyte, Seebert Hamilton, Errol Griffiths, Linton Williams, Leebert Williams, Dane Fletcher, Melvin Francis, Anthony Baugh, Michael Lewis, Andre Clark, Jeremy Ornald, Leon Afflict, Brian Shaw and Robert Francis.
The elders who worked alongside the pastors are Naaman Forrest, Johnathan Francis, Charlie Clough, Geova Harvey, Winston Ross, David Campbell, John Burrowes, Michael Pounal, Kirk McLeod, Orville Hammond and Alton Millwood.
Today we extol God wholeheartedly for carrying us this far by faith.

A Season of Restoration

In 2019, led by the Holy Spirit and guided by the leadership of Pastor Brian Shaw, otherwise known as action Shaw, the elders and congregation answered a fresh calling; to restore, renovate, and revitalize our sacred home. This journey of physical and spiritual restoration required generous giving, long hours of labour, and persistent prayer. From demolishing the school which was almost on its way down the road, to erecting the retaining wall to secure the remaining portion of the building, tearing down the old roof and struggling to get a new one, modernizing worship facilities, acquiring an additional "bump" of land, enhancing the general aesthetics of the sanctuary and battling with the unforgettable Covid 19 pandemic**.** Every dollar given and every nail driven was an act of worship. Pastor Shaw was then called to work in another part of the vineyard but God provided more men of faith to build on the hope that he planted in our hearts.
Pastors Andre Clark, Jeremy Ornald, Leon Afflict and Robert Francis were all welcomed into a roofless church. This provided a lovely view into the heavens we're all hoping to go one day. However, a different picture was painted when the weather was not dry. We had to ensure that we had our umbrellas at hand and prepare to lift our feet off holy ground and put them in "holy air" or on the benches, even when we were under the little slabbed portion of the roof to the side of the church. On sabbaths, Pastor Ornald met with his flock for sabbath school after which everyone went to visit members or return home for the new trend- online church. Pastor Clarke was passionate about getting the roof on. He rallied the Florence Hill District of churches together to host a concert to raise money to raise the roof. We spent a lot of money but made over six hundred thousand dollars in profit.
Finally, a little, big man came, Robert Francis. He caught the vision and set out to work. He had a heart bigger than himself. He along with his congregation, left no stone unturned until the roof was on, the restrooms renovated, the children's department completed, among other things.
We praise God for Elder Kirk McLeod, his wife, and the six members, who tried their best by the grace of God, to keep the church doors open despite the absence of the roof and the online church syndrome (created due to Covid 19 pandemic). During this time, they made numerous calls and visited many members, who slowly but surely, came back to church.

We praise God for Pastor Carl Cunningham who shepherded us faithfully at one point, when we had no pastor assigned to our church.
If you look down, you'll realize that the tiles are not what they were before.
We praise God for Bro. Carl wright who bought some tiles and retiled the floors free of charge.
We praise God also for our contractor Wilfred Dixon and his team who did a tremendous job. In addition, Bro Wilfred Dixon and his wife Deona Dixon, got all the windows installed on the children's department at no cost to the church.
We praise God for the Administrative team at East Jamaica Conference of Seventh day Adventists (President- Meric Walker, Executive Secretary- Melvin Francis, Treasurer- Elder Porteous) who ensured that the roof was replaced through the C.W.D. fund.
We continue to praise God for our elders, leaders, men, women and children, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the sanctuary is where it is now.
As the walls were renewed and the sanctuary refreshed, our hearts were simultaneously renewed. We realized that renovating a building is not simply about brick and mortar—it is about preparing a space where future generations can encounter the living God.
Today, on **the 25th day of October**, we gather with overwhelming gratitude to formally rededicate **the Seventh- day Adventist church right here in cavaliers,** to the glory of Almighty God.
As we step into this new chapter under our theme, **"Strengthening Faith, Spreading Hope,"** we affirm our sacred responsibility:

- **Strengthening Faith:** We pledge to remain anchored in holy scripture, equipping the saints, nurturing disciples, and deepening our devotional walk with Christ. In an ever-changing world, this sanctuary remains an unshakeable fortress of truth and spiritual growth.
- **Spreading Hope:** We commit to opening our doors wider than ever before. This rededicated sanctuary is not a fortress to retreat into, but a launchpad for gospel mission. From this place, we are called to bring hope to the hurting, comfort to the brokenhearted, and the transformative light of Jesus Christ to our surrounding community and beyond.

As we look to the Future with gratitude**,** we stand on the shoulders of the faithful men and women who came before us, honouring their legacy as we look forward with expectation to what God will accomplish in and through us next.
To God be the glory for all He has done, all He is doing today, and all He will do in the years to come. I leave you with this bible verse;
"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain." — **Psalm 127:1**

Prepared and submitted by Detisha McLeod