



# Connections

Celebrating the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of connecting the BOL Family

No. 44 ☞ June 5, 2010



## Summer

### is heating up at BOL

*Celebrations, special programs, and outreach top the church's third-quarter agenda.*



**T**HE long hot days of summer are around the corner, and already things are heating up at BOL. The third-quarter calendar is filling up with wonderful celebrations and activities that will inspire and revive everyone in our family.

We launched the season today—quite appropriately—with prayer at the Early Morning Prayer Service, which featured one of our active youth, **Sean Todd**, who presented the spiritual thought for us to reflect upon. What a thrill to have one of our youth lead out in such a major way.

Next Sabbath, those who like their inspirational music with just a touch of smooth jazz will be blessed by the **Jazzpiration** concert, staged here at the Worship Center at 7 p.m. It will feature world-renowned, Grammy-caliber instrumentalists, including saxophonist **Courtney Fadlin**, guitarist **Shake Anderson**, bass master **Victor Wooten**, percussionist J.D. **Blair**, our own **Justin Wilson**, **Keith Tutt**, and the harmonic vocal sounds of **Simple Gift**. Emcee is our own **Alvin Chea** of Take 6 (see p. 3). So bring your friends to pack the house for this wonderful evening of contemporary music.



Third Sabbath, June 19, will be a very busy day for **dads** and **grads**. The women of BOL are plotting and planning a tribute to the men in commemoration of **Fathers' Day**. They're keeping their plans hush-hush, so there are no details to report at this time. One thing we do know is that the women are reviving their **Prayer Calendar**, which lists groups of men who are prayed for each day in June. On Sabbaths, categories of men are lifted up: today (all men), next Sabbath (husbands), June 19 (fathers), June 26 (singles and youth). As for the rest of the women's plans, the men just need to show up and enjoy what's in store.

In the afternoon of June 19, BOL will hold its first formal **Graduation Recognition Ceremony** in the sanctuary. Grads from K thru college will be recognized and honored with all the pomp and circumstance of a commencement ceremony. All grads *must* complete their profiles today and send a digital photo for the visual presentation (see **Benita Knight**).



July 10 is **Pathfinder Day**—the entire day!—and the leaders are planning an investiture ceremony that will recognize the accomplishments of our growing Pathfinder Club.

Also in the planning stages is BOL's first **Candlelight Evensong Vesper Service**, which is a mellow inspirational way to end the Sabbath. It will feature our BOL organists, soloists, scriptural litany, and congregational hymns—in a more classical mode—all in the glow of candles to create a soothing ambience.



On the leisure side, the Social Committee is planning the **Annual Church Picnic** for early August. This will be a family affair, replete with fun activities, team games (remember the fall retreat?), sports competitions, and, of course, food!

Throughout the summer, we will continue our community service and outreach activities, which are all posted on our website (**breathla.org**). Our weekly "**meet the neighbors**" will continue, as will our visits to senior centers, Watts youth activities, homeless feeding, the **Food Bank** (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays), community Bible studies, and the **Faith in Action** outreach training sessions each first and third Fridays of the month.

We've even factored in some summer down time for families to go on vacation and refresh themselves for even greater involvement at BOL. *Enjoy your summer blessings!* ☞



# Sabbath School

*The church's biblical instruction program has made some gains, but it still struggles to expand member support and participation.*

**A**s General Sabbath School Superintendent, **Sharmayne Farrior** leads BOL's largest organization, which is responsible for the biblical instruction of the church. One could call Sharmayne the "SS Cheerleader" as she is expected to promote and advocate on behalf of the five divisions that comprise the department. We interviewed her to gain a deeper perspective on the role and functions of the Sabbath School Department and to explore the program's relevance today, given declining interest and participation among American Adventists.

## **BOL: What are the goals of the Sabbath School?**

**Sharmayne:** As the official instructional arm of the church, the Sabbath School provides a forum and the resources for members of all ages to explore the Word of God and learn how to apply it. We strive to do that by creating a comfortable setting that fosters dialog, questions, and free expression of thought. We encourage our teachers to dig deep beyond the surface facts of the lessons and challenge members to find the practical application for their life experience. For our children's and youth divisions, we try to achieve this through creative approaches that stimulate interest and interaction. Our ultimate goal is to achieve full participation, where all church members attend Sabbath School regularly.

## **BOL: What is your role as General Superintendent?**

**Sharmayne:** My job is to ensure that teachers get the training, tools and resources they need to carry out their lesson plans. I also fill in for leaders when they are unavailable or may be running late. I listen to the concerns of teachers, children, youth, and parents, and I voice their concerns at the appropriate levels to get them resolved. Administratively, I manage the department budget and business-related functions, and I represent the interests of the Sabbath School on the Church Board.

## **BOL: Who serves on the Sabbath School team?**

**Sharmayne:** The Sabbath School is organized by divisions:

**Beginners/Kindergarten Teachers:** Endene Dupree, Jasmine Johnson, Monique Toolsie, Herman Fenison | **Assistant:** Evelyn Thompson.

**Juniors Teacher:** Giovanni Ferdinand | **Assistant:** Damian Pipkins

**Primary Teachers:** Antonette Simpson, Rita Brown, Shelana Wilson, Elder Leroy Pascal

**Youth Teachers:** Kelli Lewis, Kim Mackey, Debbi Clavon, Elder Ron Brathwaite

**Adult Superintendents:** Brent Hart, Sheila Frazier, Malcolm Phillips  
**Teachers:** Elders Nathan Lewis, Eric Todd and Janet Hart, Sheila Frazier, and Bernard Pendergrass | **Secretary:** Alina Colon

## **BOL: What are some of the major challenges you face in the various divisions of the Sabbath School?**

**Sharmayne:** One of our biggest challenges in the children's/youth divisions is consistent attendance and punctuality on everybody's part. We're doing better, but there's still a lot of room for improvement. We need parents to get their children to Sabbath School on time and to make sure they're prepared with their Bibles. Teachers have to make the same effort and set the example if the parents are to follow. In the adult division, I encourage more members to attend and participate, especially during the devotional/Sword Toss/sharing period, which begins at 9:30. We have such great teaching that could benefit everyone. We're very excited about the number of visitors attending each week.

## **Adult Division**

*Members share favorite Bible verses, discuss the lesson, and share their experiences in personal ministry and witnessing.*





*Juniors and Beginners/Kindergarten teachers engage students through interactive, creative activities as well as biblical object lessons.*

***BOL: Any new programs on the horizon?***

**Sharmayne:** The Children’s Division just launched their **SuperStart** program (for kids up to age 12), which runs every Sabbath from 9:30 to 9:50 a.m. During this period, we engage the children in interactive, fun activities and songs, leading up to the teaching of the day’s lesson. I encourage all parents with young children to involve and engage them in this wonderful program.

***BOL: Sabbath Schools in developing nations can barely accommodate the crowds—many of whom walk several miles to get there. But for most Adventists here in the land of plenty and convenience, Sabbath School is not even on the radar. Is it still relevant in our society today?***

**Sharmayne:** Absolutely! The lessons are so beautiful and rich with blessings and sound counsel for everyone in today’s world. Our teachers have a special way of making the spiritual principles of the lesson applicable and personally relevant to all age groups and all situations. Sabbath School also provides yet another forum for fellowship and fostering closer relationships through sharing. Sabbath School is a great jumpstart to the worship service. I pray that *everyone* at BOL will give Sabbath School a test drive and bring a friend along for the ride. ☺



*Primary and Youth classes challenge students to think about life implications and applications during their lesson discussions.*

***Get committed. Get involved . . .***

*in Sabbath School* each week at 9:30 a.m.!



**in concert** at the BOL Worship Center  
**next Sabbath ■ 7 p.m. ■ FREEWILL OFFERING**

. . . and our own **justinwilson** ~ **keithtutt** ~ **simplegift** ~ **emcee alvinchea**

***jazzpiration!***

. . . also featuring Grammy -winning artists

**victorwooten** ~ **jdblair** ~ **shakeanderson**



D.L. McPhaul, Senior Pastor ■ Roger Frazier, Associate Pastor  
Nathan Lewis, First Elder ■ Patricia Williams-Harris, Bible Instructor

## ORDER of SERVICE

SABBATH, JUNE 5, 2010

### Sabbath School—The Church at Study ☞ 9:30 AM

Sword Toss ~ Sharing ~ Personal Ministries  
Superintendent: Sharmayne Farris

Adult Lesson Presentation Elder Nathan Lewis

#### Lesson 10 — “Integrity: Wholeness and Holiness”



**Key Thought:** Integrity is a lot easier to talk about than to display. Even the best of us find ourselves easily compromised unless we are careful. Truly in the *littlest* things it is so easy to slip.

**Next Week:** “Optimism: Happiness and Healing”

Download the weekly lessons at: [www.ssnet.org](http://www.ssnet.org).

For a summary of Seventh-day Adventist fundamental beliefs, visit:  
<http://www.adventist.org/beliefs>

### Divine Service—The Church at Worship ☞ 11:00 AM

Pastoral Introit & Invocation Elder Clarence Brown

Greeting Our Friends Elder Clarence Brown

Pastor’s Corner

Hymn of Worship | “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Musical Selection By Grace

Feeding Our Lambs

Vocal Selection Sheila Ray Charles

Scriptural Reading | 1 Cor. 1:19-25 Elder Goldson Brown

Musical Selection By Grace

Prayer of Intercession Elder Patricia Harris

Song of Meditation Todd & Co.

The Spoken Word | “Drill, Baby, Drill?” Pastor D.L. McPhaul

His Tithe, Our Offerings Elder Clarence Brown

Benediction Elder Goldson Brown



#### TODAY’S SERVICE ATTENDANTS

**Greeters:** Thurman Edwards, Leslie Miller, Rhonda Williams

**Ushers:** Terri McKinney,\* Estelle Eugene, Giovanni Ferdinand, Camille Smith

**Deacons:** Bernard Pendergrass,\* Harold Burnett, Giovanni Colon,  
Hasani Davis, Marcos La Porte

**Musicians:** Clarence Brown, Shelea Kyle, Trey Richardson, Chris Watkins,  
Justin Wilson | **Sound:** Christopher Erskin

outreach  
reachout



Put on your walking shoes and join us after worship to knock on doors and meet our neighbors. Or join us in praise and worship with our senior friends in Culver City at 3 p.m. today. The choice is yours . . . reach out and share the good news of salvation and hope.

wonbyone

## HYMN of WORSHIP

### “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”



Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more; Feed me till I want no more.

2

Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield;  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell’s destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan’s side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee; I will ever give to Thee.


F Y I



Sunset Today: 8:00 p.m.      Next Week: 8:04 p.m.

**Grace** to you on this Sabbath day. We ask all visitors to please complete the blue Visitor Card found in the pew rack, and place it in the offering plate. Thank you. Welcome to Breath of Life!

**Board Meeting:** The Church Board will meet tomorrow at 9 a.m. in the Board Room. All board members are urged to be present and on time.



**AY Today:** Recording artist **Sheila Ray Charles**, daughter of the late great crooner, will share her music and testimony as revealed in her new book and CD, “Behind the Shades” today at 4:30 p.m.

**Scholarships:** Applications for BOL scholarships are due next Sabbath. Please submit completed apps to an Education Committee member.

**Photobooks Are Here!** The first series of *Bless This House Photobooks* will be distributed in the La Brea foyer after today’s service only to those who have paid for their order. Please contact **Clarence** or **Judy Brown** if you still need to make payment arrangements or would like to place an order.

**It’s in the Bag!** Don’t throw away your plastic and paper grocery bags! Bring them each week along with your excess clothes hangers and used clothing/shoes to the BOL Food Bank and Thrift Shop downstairs.

**Room Needed:** The fiancé of one of our new members is seeking a room to stay in from June 25 through July 22. He is a grad student. If you have a room or a referral, please contact **Kari McKenzie** at (909) 496-3151 or by e-mail: [kariogenic@yahoo.com](mailto:kariogenic@yahoo.com).