

Mr Chairman, special guests, fellow delegates, brothers and sisters, I deem it a privilege to present this report on the work of the Publishing Department for the last quadrennium.

Ellen G White states in Counsels for the Church pg. 72

Our publishing work was established by the direction of God and under His special supervision. It was designed to accomplish a specific purpose. Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. By the great cleaver of truth He has cut those (Seventh-day Adventists) out from the quarry of the world and brought them into connection with Himself. He has made them His representatives and has called them to be ambassadors for Him in the last work of salvation. The greatest wealth of truth ever entrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warnings ever sent by God to man, have been committed to them to be given to the world; and in the accomplishment of this work our publishing houses are among the most effective agencies. The publications sent forth from our printing houses are to prepare “a people” to meet God.

The Publishing Ministry continues to play a key part in the Church and will continue to play a major role in the evangelization of the world, the conservation of new members and the growth of present members as we are “ looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of the Lord” (2 Peter 3:12). The following Mission and Vision Statements guided the activities of the department during the quadrennium.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Barbados and Dominica, bringing hope and light into the homes of our communities through the sharing and selling of literature.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to see every member of the East Caribbean Conference of Churches being transformed into a better member through the reading of literature and also sharing literature to the salvation of the members of their communities whether free or by sales.

Core Objective: GROWTH AND CONSERVATION OF LITERATURE

EVANGELISTS

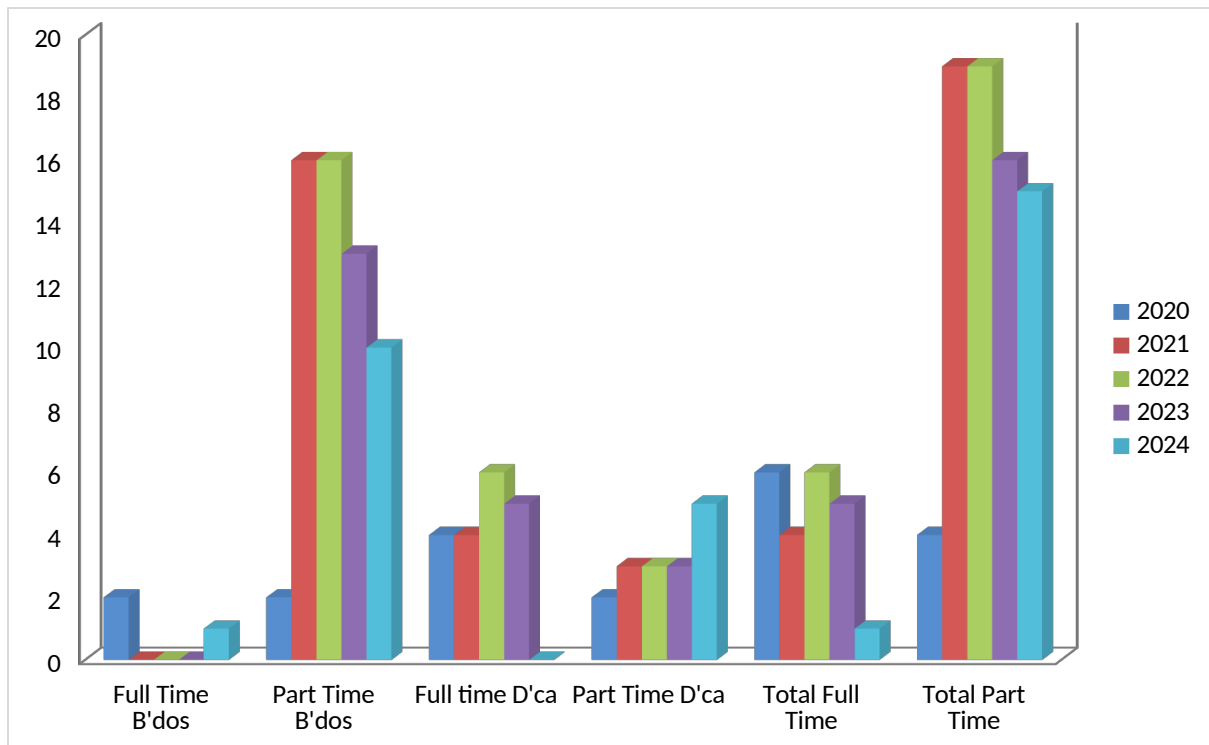
A key player in the Publishing system is the Literature Evangelist and one of our major challenges is the growth of the number of Full-time Literature Evangelists in the Conference.

The Director posited that if the ministry was to grow and be successful in its impact, that it would require significant growth in the number of Literature Evangelists and conservation of those already in the ministry. Due to the economic challenges in each territory and the importance of the Literature Evangelist of being that “first line of attack” in the promulgation of the gospel, there was a decision made to change the status of literature evangelist. This was one of the key strategic moves as stipulated in the 2022 Conference Session Publishing Ministry report.

Plan – To increase recruitment and conservation by making Literature Evangelists employees of the organization

The Director believed that the longevity of the ministry with least turnover required a change in the approach of the current literature Evangelist model. The current model had literature Evangelists as self-employed persons, who were responsible for their own upkeep and ensuring that they are financially sustained. The Director believed that due to the economic realities and difficulties of the fields, at some point financial sustaining of the Literature Evangelist by the Literature Evangelist alone will prove difficult and so if there is to be longevity of the ministry, the Organization will need to assist in some manner. It is with this in mind coupled with a legal reality as to the actual status of a literature Evangelist that the Director developed a Literature Evangelist Employee Contract which was approved in November 2019 by the Union.

In February 2024, a decision was made to change the status of literature Evangelists from self-supporting to employees in the East Caribbean Conference and to employ two persons in Barbados and one person in Dominica. In July 2024, we employed Kyle Harewood as our first employed literature evangelist in Barbados. We are currently going through the process of advertising for the second literature evangelist in Barbados and the one person in Dominica. The chart below shows the distribution of full-time and part-time Literature evangelists from 2022-2024; full time at the end of 2024 refers to the employed Literature Evangelist.



We started the quadrennium with zero credentialed, four full-time and nineteen part-time Literature Evangelists; we ended the quadrennium with one person employed full time, and fifteen part-time Literature Evangelists. However, we continue to trust God to lead this ministry and to bring more workers to bring hope into the homes of our communities.

During the quadrennium, we employed two persons under the Pastoral Literature Evangelist Program and this is shown in the chart as full-time Literature Evangelists. Due to the lack of opportunities in the East Caribbean Conference to become pastors, one migrated to Antigua in August 2023 and one migrated to Jamaica in March 2024 to continue their pastoral ministries.

During the quadrennium, we lost one of our faithful Literature Evangelists in Dian Felix who went to sleep in Jesus on August 23, 2024. We give God thanks for her ministry and for all the lives she had impacted. I also want to take this time to once again show appreciation to those other Literature Evangelists who through the quadrennium continued to move the ministry forward. These are Kerrlin Dublin, Emaline Denis, and Glenda John-Baptiste in Dominica.

Secondary Objective – Sales and Ministry Development of Literature Evangelists

Plan – To conduct consistent training activities during the quadrennial and ensure participation at Union Training Institutes

During the quadrennium, much emphasis was placed on the development of the Literature Evangelists in terms of sales, ministry and their spirituality. There were several training sessions done and annual evaluations of the progress of the Literature Evangelists. There were two major institutes that were attended by Literature Evangelists in Trinidad in 2023 and in Punta Cana in 2024.

Plan - To assist in the spiritual development of Literature Evangelists

The Director ensured that each Literature Evangelist received an Ellen G White devotional each year to assist in spiritual development.

Plan – To assist the technological development of Literature Evangelists

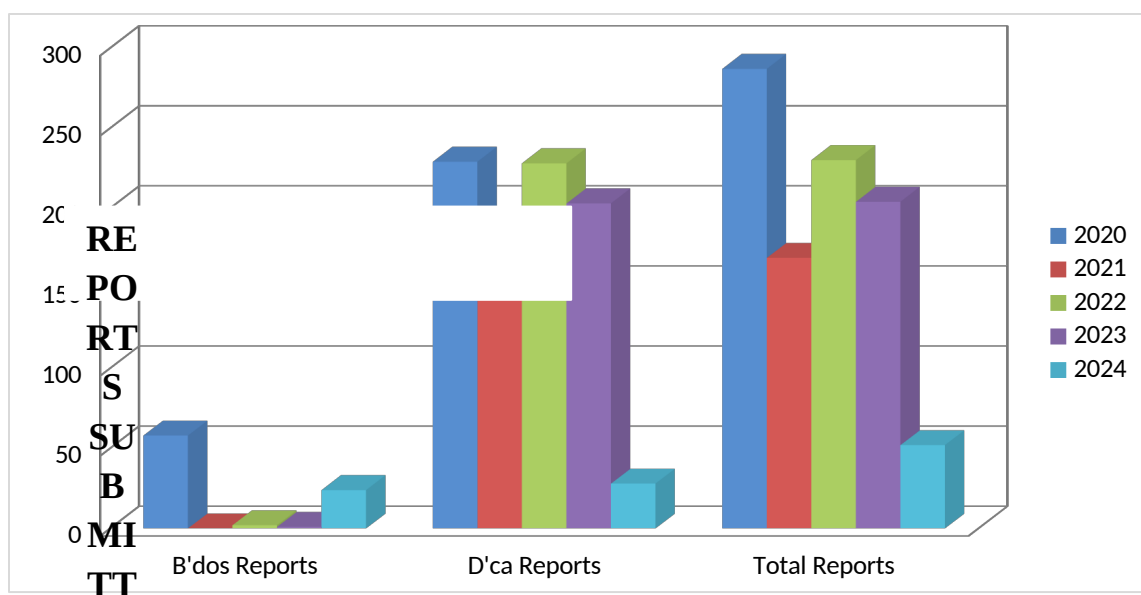
In 2019, the Director created a digital Prospectus which gave the Literature Evangelists access to covers, content pages and some pages of sixty-six (66) books; the Literature Evangelists could then send the pictures of the books to customers via WhatsApp. There were also short promotional videos of some books in the Prospectus which the Literature Evangelists could also share with their customers. In 2023, a decision was made to upgrade the digital prospectus to the Literature Evangelist Catalogue (LEC) app and this is already in operation and currently being used by them. The department also invested in tablets for the Literature Evangelists that can be used as they go door to door. These tablets will have the LEC App, WhatsApp, Zoom and Facebook. This will give the Literature Evangelists easier access to more resources and also lighten their load of books carried.

Core Objective – GROWTH IN THE KEY AREAS OF THE LITERATURE EVANGELIST MINISTRY

Secondary Objective - To see a 15% increase in the key areas of the Literature Evangelist Ministry (Magazines Distributed, Prayers, Houses visited, Bible Studies and Baptisms)

Plan – To constantly evaluate the number of reports submitted and ensure all Literature Evangelists submitted their reports

The focus of this quadrennium was to continue from the good work done in the previous quadrennium; there was a consistency in submitting reports monthly and this is reflected in the bar chart below. The number of reports submitted in Barbados are minimal due to there being no full-time persons working in Barbados during the period; this changed in 2024 due to the hiring of the Literature Evangelist in Barbados. This was different in Dominica because of the consistent work of the full-time literature evangelists in that island.

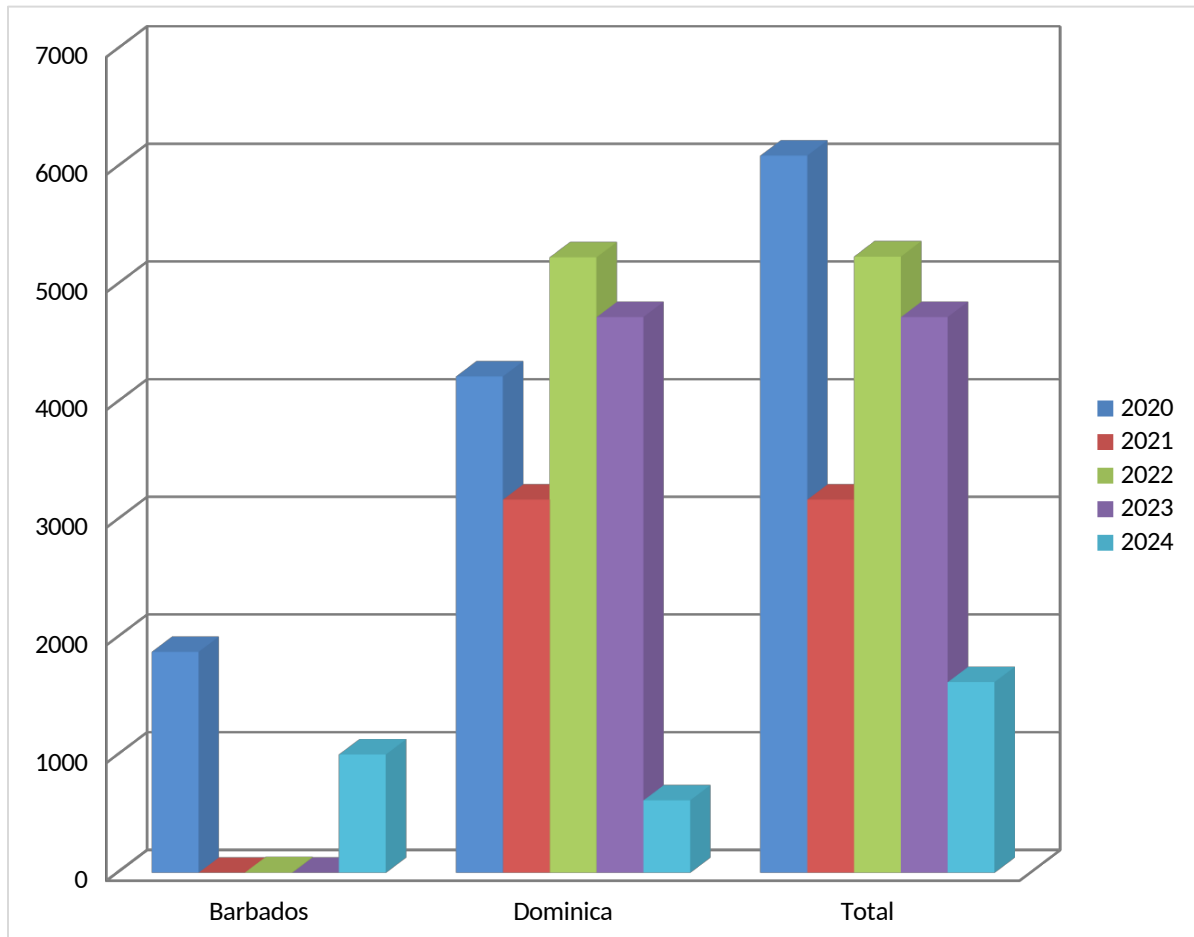


Plan – Evaluate all reports submitted and give continuous feedback on hours worked to

Literature Evangelist

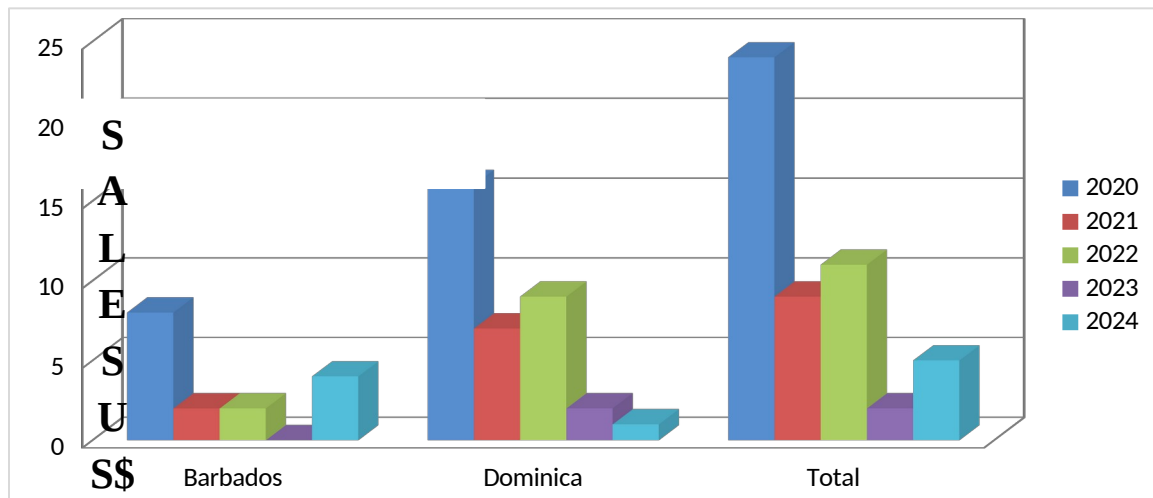
The Director was able to implement the above plan, plus quarterly evaluations to impact the hours worked by the Literature Evangelists. In Barbados we already understand why the hours were minimal until we hired the Literature Evangelist in 2024. Meanwhile, in Dominica, in the early period, we saw a definite increase in 2022 over 2021 and 2020, this

dropped in 2023, and when we made the change over in 2024, it decreased significantly. We are expecting minimal hours in Dominica until we hire the Literature Evangelist. We still want to commend our Literature Evangelists in Dominica who still worked consistently during the period under consideration.



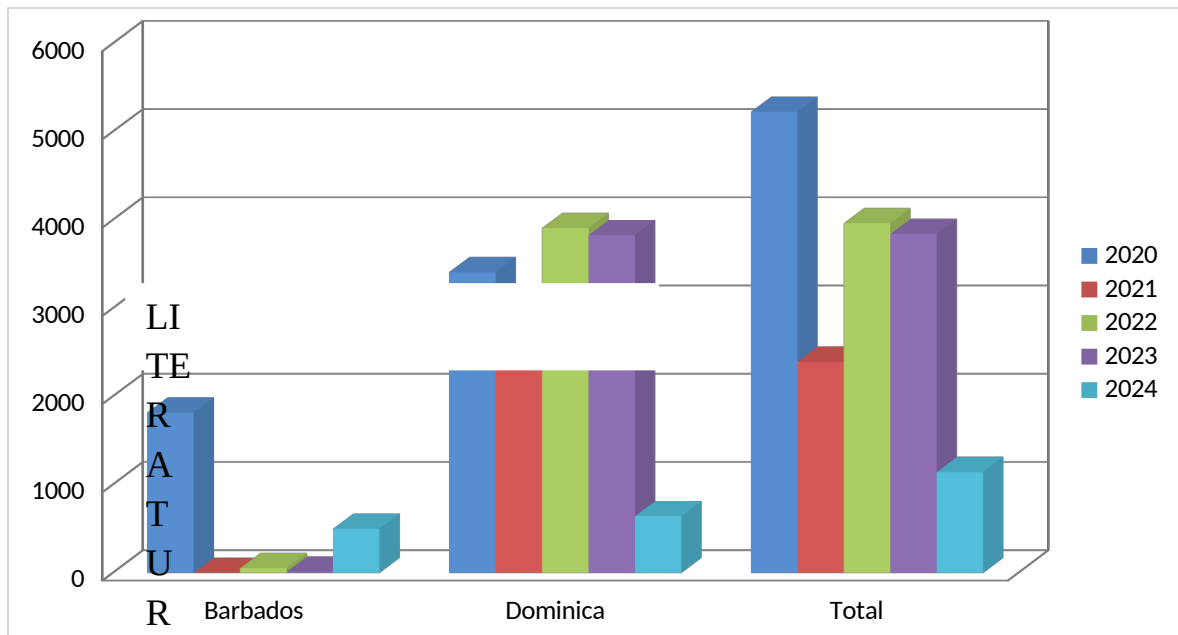
Plan – To increase deliveries through teaching new sales techniques and consistent evaluation of literature Evangelists

Both fields are still being impacted by economic challenges of their respective countries and have resulted in a decrease in sales as seen in the chart below.



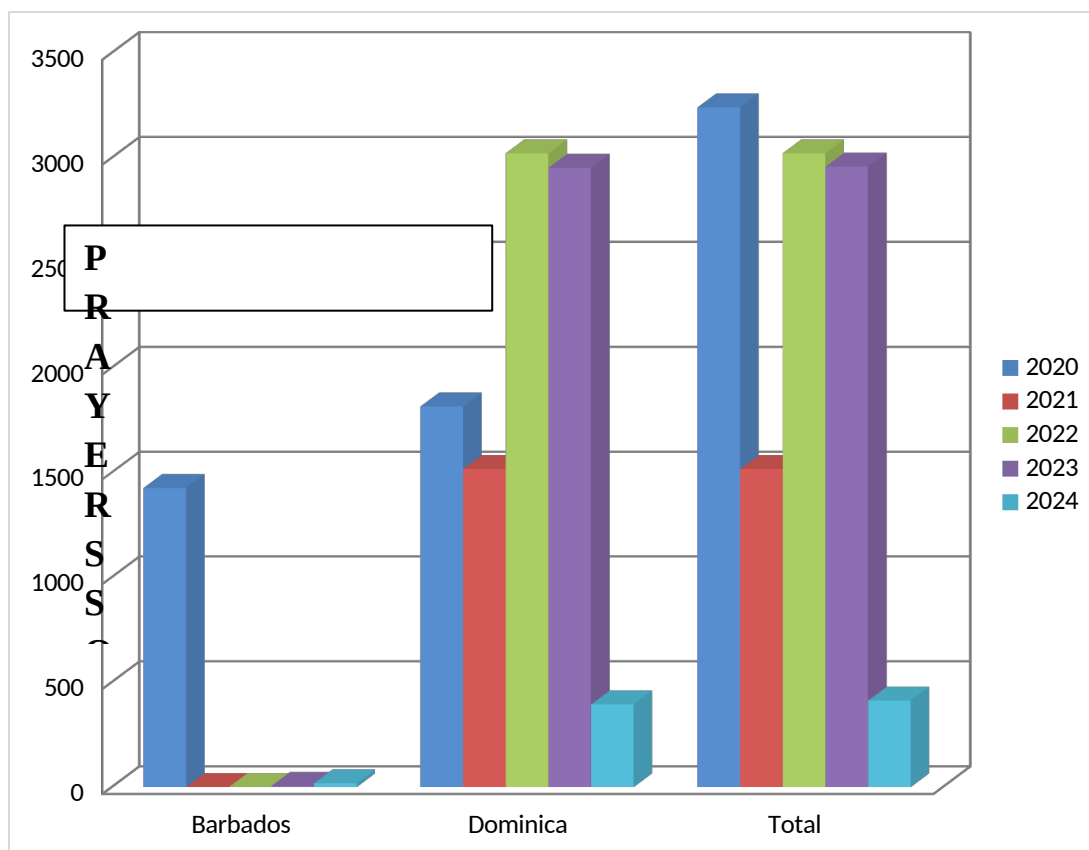
Plan – To make available to the Literature Evangelists Priorities, Missionary book of the year and other literature

The Director continues to make available to the Literature Evangelists, Priorities magazines on a monthly basis and has also invested in Missionary books each year for them to distribute to their customers. There was a continued focus on the missionary aspect of the work and propelled our decision to hire persons to be literature Evangelists. However, we have consistently distributed over 3500 pieces of literature annually and we have already stated the reason for any decrease in areas analysed.



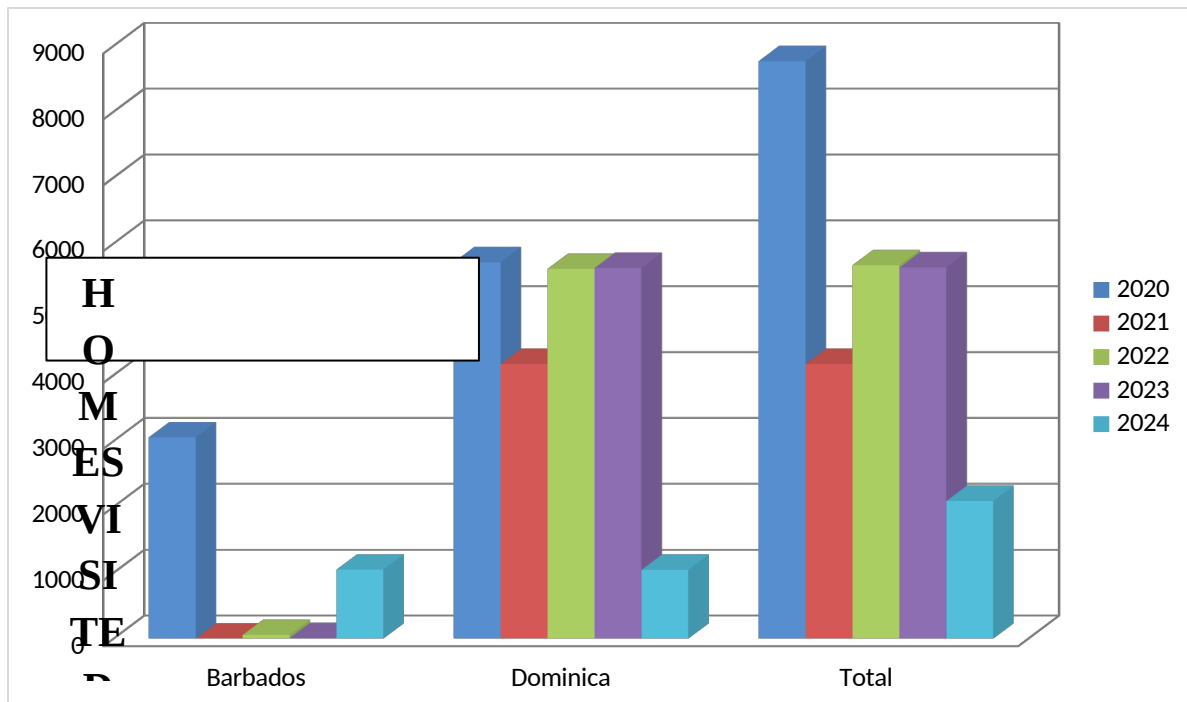
Plan – To encourage Literature Evangelists to pray with at least half of the persons they visit

During evaluation of the Literature Evangelists, the Director brought to their attention the low percentage of persons for whom prayers were done. The Literature Evangelists were encouraged to increase that number to half of the persons to whom they give Literature. We have seen a consistency in the number of prayers done, averaging around 3000 prayers annually.



Plan – To increase the number of houses visited by encouraging Literature Evangelists to manage time better so they can visit more homes

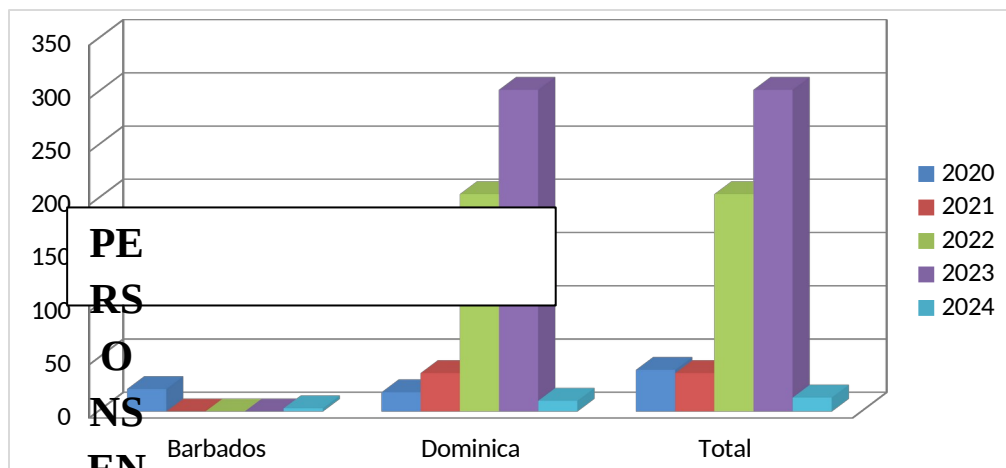
The Director implemented this plan through constant evaluation of monthly reports and giving feedback to Literature Evangelists; quarterly evaluations, and training sessions on conducting a successful canvass. This encouragement resulted in the Literature Evangelist continuing their foray into communities and impacting more houses! Our next objective is to specifically identify the areas where most of those homes are located and the types of books they are purchasing. This will help us to identify the needs within those communities and we will work with local churches to provide and implement activities and initiatives to satisfy these needs.



Plan – To increase Bible studies enrolment through making lessons available

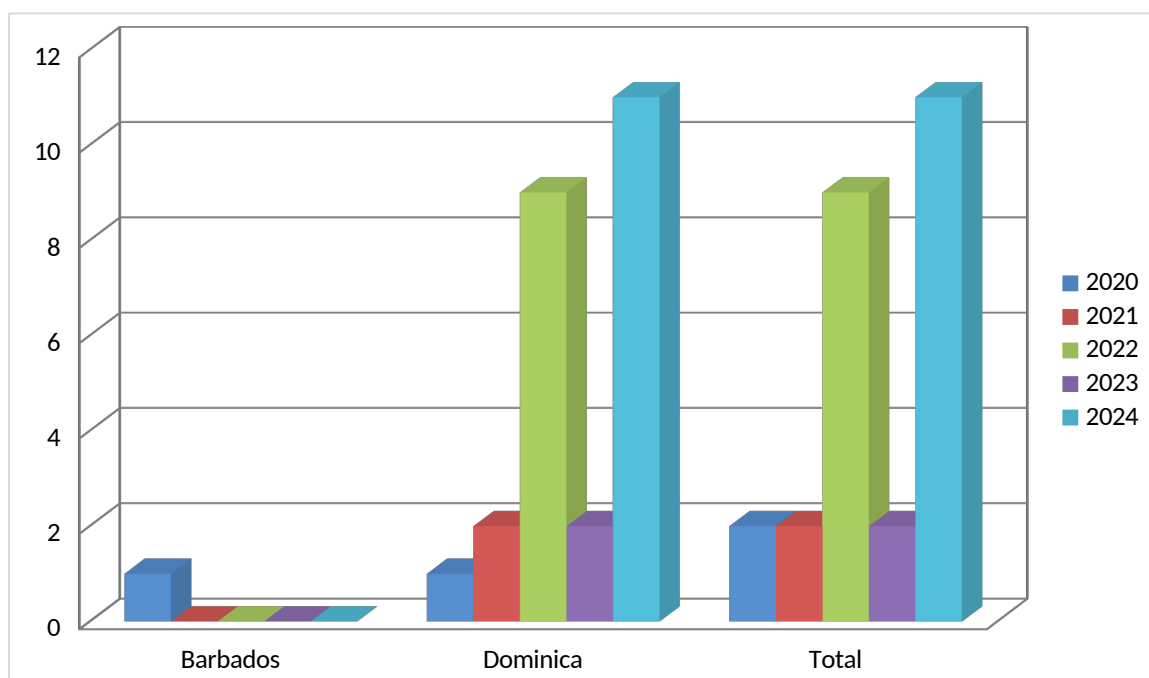
Bible Lesson Enrolment

We have seen from the previous chart that there was a tremendous increase in the number of homes visited; our challenge now is to move those persons who have been canvassed to the Bible Lessons category and then have them surrender fully to Christ. In an effort to help Literature Evangelists still conduct Bible Studies with their contacts, the Director continues to make available to them a number of lessons from the Voice of Prophecy school.



Plan – To increase the number of persons doing Bible studies thus increasing the number of potential persons for baptism

During the quadrennium, the literature evangelists became fully aware of their responsibilities to assist in helping persons to make decisions for Jesus through baptism and so we are seeing some movement in that direction in Dominica; this was mainly through the Pastoral Literature Evangelist Program. We give God thanks for all those who accepted Jesus through the work of our Literature Evangelists.



Core Objective – To grow the church physically, socially, intellectually and spiritually through literature and increase evangelistic participation.

The aim of the Publishing Department is to make every church a Literature Evangelism Centre and every member a Literature Evangelist.

Secondary Objective – To increase the number of Publishing Coordinators in the Conference

Plan – Encourage Publishing Coordinators to retain their positions and encourage pastors to elect persons to the office.

Another key cog in the Publishing system is the literature evangelism work done in the local churches throughout the conference. A key person in the local church who represents the work of the publishing ministry is the Publishing Ministries Coordinator. At the end of the quadrennium we had twenty-six (26) coordinators, which represents 27% of the churches.

The Director implemented the plan and encouraged the previously elected Publishing Coordinators to continue serving each year. All of these Publishing Coordinators came from Barbados. Due to the time, people will have to sacrifice to attend training sessions, the Director created training videos so that Publishing Coordinators can train at their own pace. Two of these training videos were viewed an average of twenty-one (21) times while the video which highlighted the responsibilities of the Publishing Coordinator was viewed fifty-four (54) times. We truly encourage and solicit the assistance of the leadership of the Churches to ensure that the office of Publishing Coordinator is elected and that these persons, when elected, attend the training sessions and view the training videos -

<https://youtu.be/RP6UrmAvKhM>; <https://youtu.be/lAIg7uhz4zY>;

<https://youtu.be/9HzSNvJ5VmU>

Secondary Objective - To increase members participation in reading and sharing books

Plan – To promote the importance of Literature Evangelism and make available more materials in the local church

In an effort to keep the importance of literature evangelism, the Publishing Director made presentations at churches throughout the conference and this has resulted in persons becoming more involved in distributing Priorities and other small books. However, there was a decision made in September 2024 to discontinue the use of the Priorities to the churches, this was due to a great number of stock at the conference office. The Missionary book of the Year project still continues to play a major part in the evangelism program of the Church; however, once again we see only a few churches purchasing books for distribution in their evangelistic work. In 2022, the missionary book was Final Hope written by Mark Finley. One of the major challenges coming out of Covid-19 was that members were still reluctant to share books and connect with people. So instead of an improvement in the number of books distributed for 2022, we saw a significant decrease from 9,100 in 2021 to 4,500 in 2022. In the last quarter of 2022, in an effort to gauge the response of persons receiving literature post-Covid, we implemented the Impacting the City Initiative. The purpose of this initiative was to go into Bridgetown and distribute books on the streets of Bridgetown and see how people responded and if they took the books willingly. We spent two hours on one day a week for 3 weeks, a total of 6 hours and in that time, we distributed over 4,500 copies of the book, Hope for Troubled Times. The response was very positive and it confirmed to us that people were still willing to accept literature, especially that from the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In 2023 and 2024, the book Great Controversy was designated the Missionary book of the Year. We ordered 30,000 books, 25,000 for Barbados and 5,000 in Dominica and have only been able to distribute 14,100 copies. We still have a number of these books in each field as the churches have not seized the opportunity to make these books available in their communities.

Plan - To Recognise Persons in each church who are distributing literature on a consistent basis throughout the Conference - Literature Ambassadors Initiative.

The Literature Ambassadors Initiative was to recognise persons in the churches who consistently personally distribute literature to the public. As part of the initiative the department created a key ring to give to each Literature Ambassador as a token of appreciation. This leather key ring has the words Publishing Ministry Literature Ambassador inscribed on one side encircling the Publishing Ministry Logo. We have recognised nineteen (19) persons in Barbados and one (1) person in Dominica. We continue to encourage members to personally distribute literature on a consistent basis.

Executive Summary

We give God thanks for all that we would have achieved throughout the quadrennium in spite of economic, nature challenges and the pandemic. We were able to build on the foundation laid in the previous quadrennium and were also able to implement new initiatives to ensure that the work of the Publishing Ministry keeps moving forward. Below is a summary of the achievements of the Publishing Department.

Development of Literature Evangelists

Development of Literature Evangelist Catalogue

Tablets to assist the Literature Evangelists in their Canvassing

Collaboration with Bible School to make lessons available to encourage Bible Studies

Focus on the Spiritual Development of the Literature Evangelists

Union Institutes in 2024

Access to Training Materials and other Resources digitally

Development of Literature Evangelism

Training Videos for Publishing Coordinators

Increase in Missionary Books orders to challenge Churches to share more books

Recognition of persons who distributed books on a consistent basis in each Church

Appreciation

Mr Chairman, special guests, fellow delegates, brothers and sisters, it was truly an enjoyable and challenging experience working in the Publishing Department. I thank all those who supported me and give words of encouragement during the tough time. I thank the administration for its unwavering support in ensuring that various initiatives and programs were implemented in a timely manner. I thank my secretary Leandra Greenidge who provided excellent administrative assistance; I thank Bro Lindsey Bowen for his assistance in receiving, sorting and storing the books. I also thank Bro Bowen, Sis Vondene Hunte, Sis Amanda Parris and Sis Valencia William for assisting in delivering the books to churches and individuals. I thank all the Publishing Coordinators in the churches for assisting me in the promotion of Literature in the various Churches; I thank all Publishing Ambassadors and members who distributed literature faithfully during the quadrennium. I thank my wife Karen and my son Aaron who have been tremendous in their support in this part of my ministry. I thank them for their patience as we adjusted to a different way of life that comes with being the Publishing Ministry Director. Most importantly I thank God for giving me this opportunity and using you the electorate to appoint me to serve Him in this capacity.

*The Spirit of Prophecy states - **We are fast approaching the end. The printing and circulation of the books and papers that contain the truth for this time are to be our work.** —Testimonies for the Church 8:89 (1904). **Publications must be multiplied, and scattered like the leaves of autumn. These silent messengers are enlightening and molding the minds of thousands in every country and in every clime.** —The Review and Herald, November 21, 1878.*

As we enter a new quadrennium, as a Church, as a Christian, let this be our aim to share a magazine, a book, a tract, a piece of literature and in doing so we will bring Hope into Every Home and prepare men and women to meet Jesus when He comes.

God Bless and Maranatha

