



# EAC NEWS

A publication of the Evangelical Association of the Caribbean

OCTOBER 2022

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## Learn to Fund Your Mission



Free live online  
training Course for EAC  
Affiliated ministries,  
Commissions, NEA  
Leaders, Ministry  
fund-raisers,  
Christian Agencies,  
Theological  
Institutions and  
other persons in  
faith-based  
fundraising

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## Building Capacity in the EAC

"Capacity-building" is one of those "buzz words" trending globally in discussions on matters concerning Organisations and their development today. It speaks to the important and necessary process of training up the operational and human capital of an entity to allow it to deliver the programmes, products and projects that form part of its Strategic or Operating Plan. - pg 7



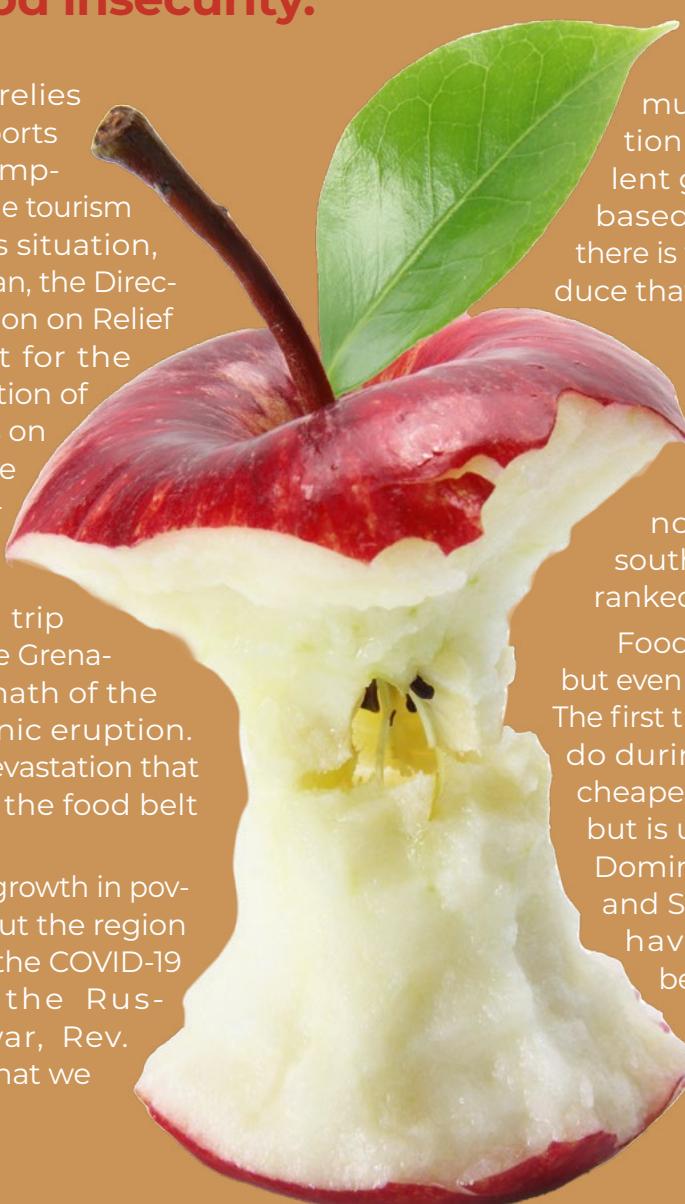
# food insecurity

By Ronald A. Nathan

## Caribbean Evangelical Leader calls on Churches to combat regional food insecurity.

The Caribbean relies heavily on food imports for domestic consumption and to supply the tourism industry. Given this situation, Rev. Ronald A. Nathan, the Director of the Commission on Relief and Development for the Evangelical Association of the Caribbean, calls on churches to be more involved in food production. He had travelled on a recent fact-finding trip to St Vincent and the Grenadines in the aftermath of the La Soufriere volcanic eruption. There he saw the devastation that had taken place in the food belt of the nation.

Recognizing the growth in poverty rates throughout the region in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian-Ukrainian war, Rev. Nathan explained that we



must engage in poverty reduction beyond traditional benevolent giving. Feeding the poor is based on the presumption that there is food, and someone must produce that food.

The Evangelical Association of the Caribbean represents 5.5 million Evangelical Christians in the region stretching from the Bahamas in the north to the Guianas in the south many of our members are ranked among the 'food insecure.'

Food crises are bad for everyone but even worst for the poor and needy. The first thing families with low income do during a food crisis is switch to cheaper food that fills the stomach but is usually less nutritious. In the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, and Suriname, where food prices have risen 5% every month between March 2021-2022, this could trigger a humanitarian crisis in our region.

**The EAC is a  
Regional Alliance  
of the WEA**

## WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE



1  
World



9  
Regions



To learn more about the WEA visit [worldea.org](http://worldea.org)

Fred Bahnson, in his book, Making Peace with the Land: Reconcile with Creation, takes us on a what if... faith project:

**“What if we planted church-supported community gardens, permaculture parishes... and apostolic farms that fed entire neighbourhoods?... What if we created infrastructures of holiness where God's kingdom of shalom could flourish on earth as in heaven?”**

It's a dazzling vision for some. We need churches using surplus land for food production and encouraging their members to start kitchen gardens.

For me, it would suffice to see a Caribbean region feeding itself. As the Commission on Relief and Development launch's its' Creation Care initiative, we could not start at a better place than with a food production drive.

**Jeremiah 29:5 “Plant gardens and eat the fruit of them**





## Be Transformed to Transform Your World

BGU is in 100+ nations including 50 alumni students and faculty in the Caribbean serving as pastors, business leaders, educators, NGO leaders and in official government roles. With colleges of Christian theology, business and urban studies, students can choose to pursue online, mentor-led, relationally driven, cross-discipline degrees in:

- **EMBA** – Practical business skills for social good.
- **MATL** – Transformational leadership for pastors & NGO leaders.
- **DMin** – For pastors seeking to influence their communities.
- **DTL** – Transformational leadership for influencing cultures.
- **PhD** – Research to create significant policy and worldview change.

Degrees are online but BGU offers urban immersion courses (optional for all degrees but DMin and DTL) in the largest cities on 5 continents connecting students for a lifetime of global relationships. Caribbean graduates serve as mentors and are currently developing specialized courses for the Caribbean context as they support those who follow them at BGU.



**Gain a new firsthand view of God's work in the world.**

**Develop a deeper understanding of your own call to transform.**

**Connect your vision and calling with practical skills.**

# Apply Today

## EAC Leadership Study Programme



closer  
vision

### Your leadership goals just got 50% closer with this fantastic offer

The Evangelical Association of the Caribbean (EAC) has joined with the Bakke Graduate University (BGU) to offer the EAC Leadership Study Programme (LSP) across the Caribbean. Through the LSP, Bakke Graduate University will grant successful EAC-approved registrants a **50% discount** on course tuition associated with BGU's masters and doctoral programmes of study.

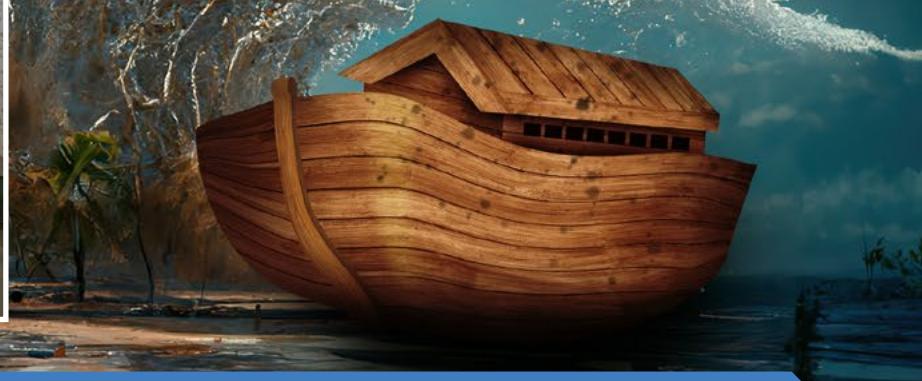


The LSP is an initiative of the Caribbean Institute of Leadership (CIL), an agency of the EAC's Commission for Leadership Development (CONLED). These internationally recognized (accredited) programmes are customized to empower Caribbean Leaders to transform their communities through innovative Christian-based education.

Sign Up Today at: [caribbeanea.org/lsp](http://caribbeanea.org/lsp)

NOAH DID NOT WAIT FOR THE FLOOD TO

# PREPARE FOR DISASTER



## EAC CONRAD DAY EXTENDED To Sunday 27th November 2022

Across the Caribbean, about 200,000 people are impacted by disasters every year! Our People suffer through Hurricanes, Volcanoes, Floods and Earthquakes! **Caribbean CARE Day is when the Church says: "We will go"! Here's how you & your Church can help:**



Present information about EAC's CONRAD CARE Programme with your Members & Friends



Raise a Special Offering of US\$2 each from Members & Friends of your Church



Share your Offering:  
- 25% for local Church  
- 25% for National Alliance  
- 50% for CONRAD CARE

For more information and to download EAC CONRAD CARE Day Resources, visit: [caribbeanea.org/careday](http://caribbeanea.org/careday)

# BUILDING CAPACITY IN THE EAC



A Message from the  
Secretary-General

Rev. Emerson Boyce

“Capacity-building” is one of those “buzz words” trending globally in discussions on matters concerning Organisations and their development today. It speaks to the important and necessary process of training up the operational and human capital of an entity to allow it to deliver the programmes, products and projects that form part of its Strategic or Operating Plan.

As I see it, capacity-building is a process that must start at the highest levels of any Organisation if it is to be successfully used to drive the entity’s development. It demands leadership buy-in and it expects leadership commitment at every level.

Within the context of the EAC, the capacity-building process begun with the Regional Board evaluating and deciding on the training needs, operational demands and the institutional structures that are important to the regional body itself. The next stage has taken two paths: firstly, we have been moving to quickly address our identified needs and; while that has been happening, we have moved to encourage and assist

But make no doubt about it, the primary responsibility for implementing and sustaining the capacity-building solutions to the challenges being faced across our National Evangelical Alliances will lie with the Alliances themselves.

our affiliates in examining their operations and plans with the aim of revealing their peculiar capacity-building needs and then help them fulfill those needs.

But make no doubt about it, the primary responsibility for implementing and sustaining the capacity-building solutions to the challenges being faced across our National Evangelical Alliances will lie with the Alliances themselves. The EAC must and will make every effort to assist in a way that helps our NEA's to be the primary designers and controllers of their ecclesiastic, economic, educational, operational and social circumstances.

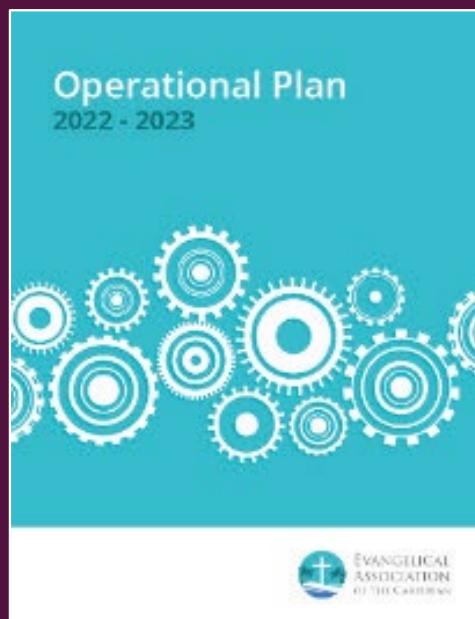
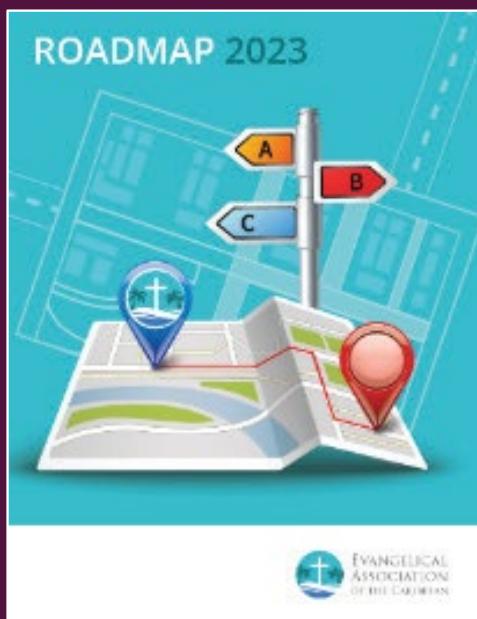
It must also be pellucid that the EAC's Regional Board cannot and will not propose capacity-building initiatives that help the EAC to maintain the status quo. Quite on the contrary, I see part of my role as challenging EAC's governing body and our corporate partners to become catalysts for the change we all want to see in the EAC itself and also across our Affiliates.

Let us take note of three things about capacity-building in the context of the EAC.

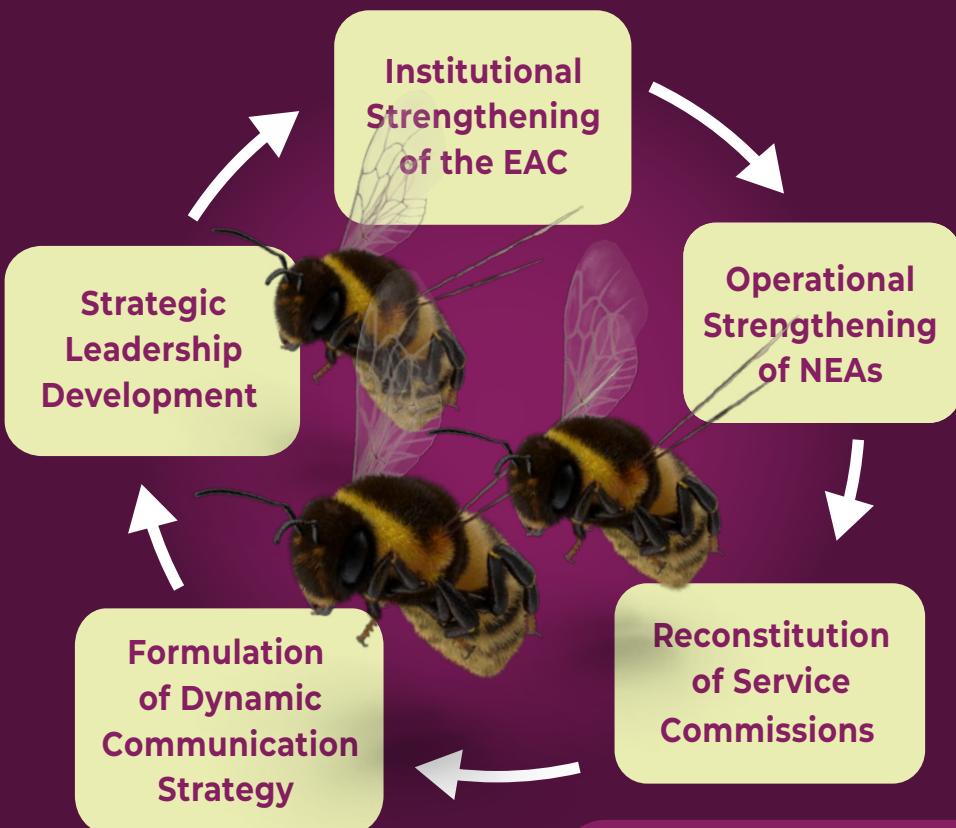
Firstly, it is a continuous process. Capacity building cannot only be about fundraising endeavours, project proposals, and short-term interventions; it needs to involve long-term commitments and a willingness to ask the hard questions about sustainability.

Secondly, it must involve leadership at all levels within the EAC and our Affiliates. Capacity-building should involve a "bottom-up" approach that is member-guided and member-sustained. For sure, this is one of those situations where a commitment to biblical standards as well as social justice are crucial. It is important to ensure that the widest possible latitude of "membership" is involved in devising the process and programmes. No one, no voice and no interest group should feel excluded from the leadership table or the capacity-building debate.

Thirdly, if capacity building is as critical to the EAC's progress as I feel it is, then it is important that all of the EAC's affiliates take responsibility for the task of capacity-building in their own context and their particular geographic space. I would argue that capacity-building needs to go hand-in-hand with a commitment to social cohesion and community development. Today's Church has to do more than preach the word; we must advocate for and influence the growth and development of healthy, God-fearing communities all across the Caribbean and the globe.



I remind you that the EAC's Strategic Plan, Roadmap 2023 and our Operational Plan 2022-2024 identified five strategic priorities for capacity-building across our vision, our mission and our operations, namely:



1. Institutional Strengthening of EAC;
2. Operational Strengthening of NEAs;
3. Reconstitution of existing Service Commissions;
4. Formulation of a robust Communications Strategy;
5. Strategic focus on Evangelical Leadership Development

These strategic priorities, however, also reflect the capacity building needs of a majority of our affiliates. They provide an indication of some of the things we must be doing well as we connect with and work with our affiliates. Capacity-building within the EAC is currently focused on:

1. Upgrading the skills and competencies of affiliate leaders and members
2. Creating a common vision for the future
3. Enhancing decision making and problem-solving skills and processes
4. Implementing practical strategies for managing the inevitable changes

In my opinion, we are taking great care not to come across as dictating to our Affiliates that they need “capacity building” in this area or that. Instead, we want to embrace and adopt a ‘strength-based’ approach in which we help to build up the capacity in Affiliates to be responsible for their own future.

My prayer continues to be that together we can embrace the challenges of our times and continue to work assiduously to transform Caribbean societies into the healthy, God-fearing spaces we were designed to be.



**Rev. Emerson Boyce is  
the Secretary General  
and CEO of the EAC**

# International Men's Day

**2022 Theme: "Making a positive difference to the wellbeing and lives of men and boys."**

By Jenifer Johnson & Clovis St. Romain

International Men's Day is an occasion to reflect on the achievements and progress of men in society, promote basic humanitarian ideals, recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of boys and men in the community, society, family, marriage, childcare and nation.

The objectives of celebrating International Men's Day are

- 1. To highlight good role models for men**
- 2. To acknowledge the valuable contributions made by males**
- 3. To emphasize the health and wellness of men**
- 4. To draw attention to gender injustice**
- 5. To enhance gender equality and gender relations**
- 6. To build a more secure and better world**

Activities you can use or come up with your own

- 1. You can observe the day in a variety of ways**
- 2. Conduct panel discussions on the role of men in the home, church and society**
- 3. Donate to a men's charity. There are lots of charities dedicated to helping men live better lives**
- 4. Learn more about lesser-known influential men**
- 5. Award men who have influenced or impacted your life**
- 6. Address the significance of honouring Retired Ministers**

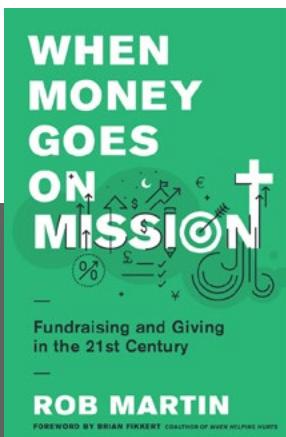
Use this day to address the significance of honouring men.



# Sign up Today for EAC Fundraising Training



**Does Your Ministry need Funding support? Then don't miss this!**



If you are part of a ministry, Church or para-Church Organisation across the Caribbean which is struggling to execute your God-given mission because of a lack of money, then listen up! Help is on the way!

The EAC's Caribbean Institute of Leadership (CIL) will be rolling out our 4-week online Course entitled **"Funding the Mission"** and based primarily on Rob Martin's book: "When Money goes on Mission".

## 4 Saturdays

12, 19, 26 Nov & 3 Dec 2022 | 3:00 - 6:30pm

### Who will benefit?

This free online training Course is for EAC Affiliated ministries, Commissions, NEA Leaders, Ministry fund-raisers, Christian Agencies, Theological Institutions and other persons tasked with attracting the resources that make successful ministries tick. The course will help participants develop an understanding of the donors' mindset and the process of discovering, attracting and nurturing individuals and charitable entities who can support their ministry's work.

**Sign Up Today at [caribbeanea.org/frm](http://caribbeanea.org/frm)**

# Financial Strengthening Training



Deputy Secretary General of the Evangelical Association of the Caribbean (EAC) Clovis St. Romain returned recently from a week-long visit to the Dominican Republic where he had the opportunity to interact with Members of the Alianza Evangelica Latina, AEL.

The event was the AEL's 9th General Assembly held at the Barcelo Bavaro Resort in Punta Cana and Clovis' specific mission was to support Global Institute of Leadership (GIL) Director, Dr. Brad Smith in facilitating a Fund-Raising Training Course for AEL Members. The GIL Team also comprised Edward Retta and Pastor Mario Matos, of "City Sommes" Ministry in Santo Domingo.



Exec. Members of the AEL's first Financial Support Commission with GIL Trainers

**AEL hosts Fund-Raising Course during 2022 General Assembly**

By Clovis St. Romain

*GIL Training Team at the AEL General Assembly*



Sixteen delegates from 10 National Alliances across the AEL participated in the 4-day Course which examined the giver's mindset, working-paper preparation, donor-discovery and navigating donor databases. Participants were engaged in various training exercises including breakout groups, individual, country and team reviews as well as role-plays and live website navigation.

**"He also commended attendees for their sacrifices and charged the new Fund-Raising Course Graduands...To cascade the training they had received to other persons from within their National Alliances."**



AEL Fund-Raising Course Graduates pose for a photo opportunity during General Assembly

Addressing the Class on the final day, President of the AEL Juan Cruz Cellamare remarked that they were part of a historic new day and new time across the Alliance. He said the area for which they had been trained represented a brand new service within the Alliance that he hoped would begin to reap dividends very soon. President Juan Cruz thanked Dr. Brad Smith of GIL for bringing his Team to the Dominican Republic to share their expertise with members of the AEL.

President Juan Cruz also commended attendees for their sacrifices and charged the new Fund-Raising Course Graduands: 1. To make contact with their National Alliances to ensure they had developed a Strategic Plan; 2. To help their National Alliances with funding for execution of their Strategic Plans and; 3. To cascade the training they had received to other persons from within their National Alliances. President Juan also asked the Group to form themselves into the AEL's first Financial Strengthening Commission for the purpose of expanding the range of services available to Members of the Alliance.

In his remarks to the Closing Ceremony of the AEL General Assembly, Dr. Brad Smith congratulated the Alliance for hosting the Fund-Raising Course and after commending the New Fund-Raising Training Graduates, invited them to join him at the podium. Dr. Smith also showered praises on the Training Team which he said had integrated seamlessly although it was their very first time working together.

## VACANCY

# Volunteers Needed



Are you a member in good standing in an EAC affiliate church who has admin, communication, writing or research skills and wants to serve the Lord at a regional level?

**Then, volunteering with the EAC might be for you!**

Send applications via email to The Secretary General, Evangelical Association of the Caribbean P. O. Box 4947, Tunapuna, Trinidad at [info@caribbeanea.org](mailto:info@caribbeanea.org)

**APPLY TODAY**



# CONWA leads Prayer for our Region

A brief report on the Prayer Event held on 6th October

By Jenifer Johnson & Clovis St. Romain

The EAC's Commission for Women's Affairs, CONWA, held another of its monthly Prayer Sessions on Thursday 6th October via the Zoom Platform. Open to Pastors, Leaders and lay members of the Evangelical Church in the diaspora, the October Prayer Event had active participation of some 42 "prayer warriors" drawn mainly from CONWA's network.

The theme for the prayer session was: "Bringing Everything to God in Prayer and Supplication", in line with Philippians 4:6 (Amplified Bible): ***Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in every circumstance and situation, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your specific requests known to God.*** There were 5 special Prayer Points, namely:

1. **For the Family,**
2. **For Spiritual and Governmental leaders**
3. **For women in leadership in national, pastoral, family and women's Ministries**
4. **For believers to remain strong, focused & faithful in this season**
5. **For God to intervene in the matter of gun violence across the Caribbean**

Prayer in line with these points were taken by Rev. Setranelia Young from St Vincent and the Grenadines; Min. Dolores Griffith from Barbados; Rev Sandra Martin from Antigua; Min. Esther Gooding of South Carolina in the USA and Min. Jenifer J. Johnson, the CONWA Chair.

Prayer is foundational to our mission as co-labourers with the Lord in building His Kingdom on the earth; it is a mandatory staple in all the weekly, monthly and quarterly meetings that take place across the various Boards, Commissions, Agencies and Councils of the EAC. As an area of the globe that is blessed with immense natural beauty but beset by varying forms of natural disasters, we who live across the Caribbean know just how important prayer is to ensure we continue to have the grace and the freedom to dwell in relative peace.

The next regional Prayer event is scheduled for Thursday, 1st December, which will take the form of a "Day of Prayer" across the Caribbean from 6 am to 6 pm. We encourage you to mark your calendars and begin to mobilise your Nation for this important point of meeting with the Lord on behalf of our beloved Region! Further details on this event will be circulated soon.

The Lord loves it when we pray individually; He is overjoyed when we pray as a family; He moves mountains when we join in prayer collectively and corporately!



# A critical look at THE SAMOA ACP-EU AGREEMENT

**Challenging the sovereignty of ACP states on sensitive  
issues and pushing for geopolitical power**

By Rebekah Ali-Gouveia  
[r.aligouveia@gmail.com](mailto:r.aligouveia@gmail.com)



The Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) is a group of countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific created by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975. The organization's main objectives are sustainable development and poverty reduction within its member states, as well as their greater integration into the world's economy. All the member states, except Cuba, are signatories to the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) with the European Union. Article 37 of the Cotonou Agreement provided for negotiating economic partnership agreements (EPAs).

Alfonso Medilinia points out that in an era in which European politics of "AID FOR INFLUENCE" is diminishing, Europe appears to want to double down on the Caribbean, Africa, and the Pacific States in this Samoa Agreement by binding the OACPS region to itself through "procedural certainty, legal commitments, and conditions to give EU policymakers a

“ experts believe this is a major shift in the financing structure and will make it more difficult for OACPS countries to access financing, in particular, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands. ”

sense of control.” Part of the appeal for the EU is the size of the OACPS, which has seventy-nine sovereign member states, all of which have a vote in the UN and other multilateral fora like the World Trade Organization (WTO).



Europe seems keen to partner with Africa, which is increasing in strength and trade positions. By 2050 Africa will have the largest population of young workers globally. The EU is said to be explicitly adopting a narrative of geopolitical power and a strategically driven foreign policy and partnership agenda and is trying to assert global leadership. It is reported that various forms of ‘persuasive methods’ seem to have been used in the negotiating process to get OACPS countries to compromise on the wording in the agreement concerning sensitive issues such as abortion, sexual orientation and gender identity and comprehensive sexuality education. Methods such as imposing visa processing hurdles for entry into the EU.

The SAMOA agreement has three protocols (Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific), thereby dividing

the unity of the OACPS and introducing a new ‘unified’ Neighborhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument. While the NDICI includes a financial envelope of EUR 29.18 billion and earmarks €800 million for the Caribbean, experts believe this is a major shift in the financing structure and will make it more difficult for OACPS countries to access financing, in particular, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands. The NDICI also introduces the ‘policy-first’ principle, indicating a move towards a more EU interest-driven and policy-driven approach. This suggests tighter EU control over how the EU uses its resources, and more importantly for the OACPS countries; it signals a movement away from the initial and core goals of the OACPS, which is to have access to steady and predictable streams of official development assistance channeled through government systems.

The ‘Team Europe’ approach, according to Jones and Teevan, was born in the context of COVID-19 and was intended to brand European collective support to partner with countries in response to the pandemic. Yet, this phrase is now being used to describe a longer-term political trend and an extension of geopolitical power.

Attorney Jacques Berthelot, in his efforts to mobilize resistance to the signing of the Samoa agreement, points out, among other things, that, The Samoa Agreement is violating the WTO’s (world trade organization) position on special and differential treatments.

Dr Ishmael wrote in part on the difficult negotiating process during which OACPS countries cited concerns. These areas of contention were and continue to be around:



- A. Human Rights
- B. Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights. (This has implications for ACP countries to change their laws and policies on abortion, comprehensive sexuality education, and same-sex marriage.)
- C. Rule of Law & Justice (such as the death penalty)
- D. Human & Citizen Security
- E. The jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court
- F. Migration
- G. International Business & Financial Services
- H. Funding of the Samoa Agreement for OACPS and the OACPS machinery, such as who is funding the OACPS secretariat.

Caribbean citizens and leaders need to follow the development of this treaty, now set for signature in June 2023 and can go to [deviouse-treaty.org](http://deviouse-treaty.org) for detailed concerns. Already, there are intentional efforts and detailed plans to introduce comprehensive sex education into schools, embark on sexual orientation and gender indoctrination, reduce the age of consent, and liberalize access to abortion in the Caribbean, including to adolescents without parental consent. These plans will challenge the laws and policies of Caribbean States.

Every Caribbean territory has sovereignty to govern by its laws and the tradition, culture, norms, and values of its citizens. Governments must ensure that the best outcomes for their people are pursued. As Caribbean citizens, we must call on our governments to heed our voices on sensitive issues, respect the rule of law, condemn coercion from international agencies and safeguard life and the family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society entitled to protection by society and the State.

Contact your Ministers of Foreign Affairs and insist this treaty be amended and reservations are made for States and their parliaments so as not to be coerced into changing their laws and policies on sensitive issues.



# WHEN WERE YOU HUNGRY?

An opinion by Rev. Ronald A. Nathan

As I flew into Nairobi, I accessed a local television news item showing schoolchildren in the Northern County of Meru, Kenya. They were digging up plant roots to supplement their meagre diets. There is a famine taking place in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and South Sudan of biblical proportions that are intensifying outside of the vision of most Western Christians. This cataclysmic event is being ignored by the Western press as not yet newsworthy to be placed on a high priority for the nations or their multi-national agencies such as the United Nations World Food Organization.

How is it that over 22 million people can be facing the looming threat of famine in the Horn of Africa, and we do not see them? They are invisible as the screens of our television and other communication devices are awash with news and documentaries of the recent death of

Queen Elizabeth II and the political shenanigans of the British Conservative party leadership struggles, and the latest soap opera from the US.

Two years of no rain, that is, the absence of four seasons of short and long rains, is the reality in the Horn of Africa. This climatic catastrophe is further exacerbated by decades of conflict, mass displacement and severe economic challenges.

Each day, as delayed rains worsen extreme drought in the Horn of Africa, more livestock are dying, food is harder to come by, children are dropping out of schools, and health centres are filling with mothers and severely malnourished children.

Pastoral communities faced with the worst drought in half of a century are pushing their livestock further south to greener pastures. They are encountering farmers whose crops

are being eaten by the pastoralists' animals. This leads to ethnic clashes in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Somalia.

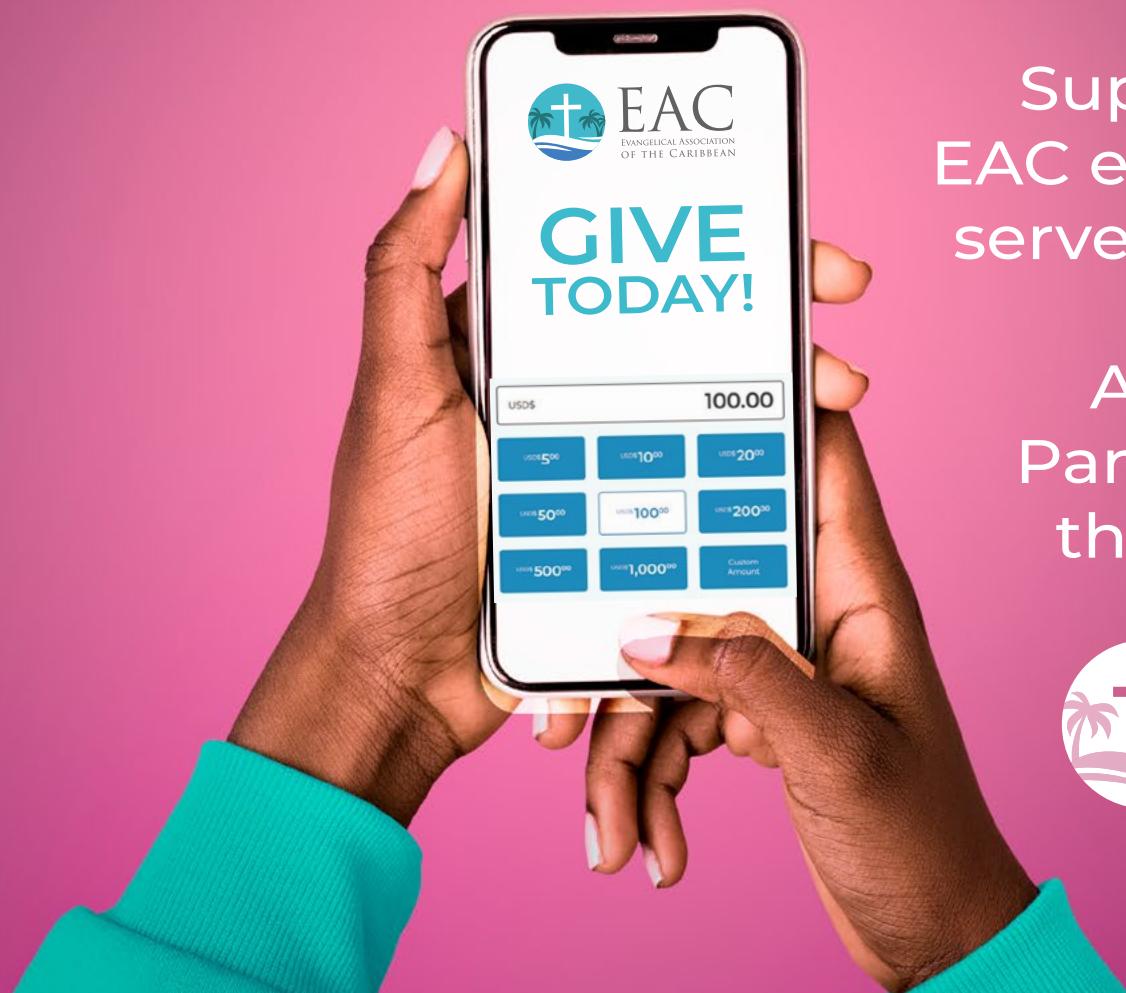
When Jesus spoke to the disciples in Matthew 25, he articulated the experiences of millions of God's children who are hungry and thirsty, imprisoned and remain invisible.

How can we claim to be "blessed and highly favoured" at the expense of our brothers and sisters" overseas? We need a new Christian consciousness that would also allow global needs, such as the crisis in the Horn of Africa, to become our issue and take a higher priority on our church's agenda. This should include pushing the world media to play its part in featuring global issues of injustice and the need for international corporations even when it is not politically popular.



**Rev. Ronald A. Nathan**

Rev. Ronald A. Nathan is the Caribbean Consultant to the National Church Leaders Forum (UK), Director of the Commission on Relief and Development of the Evangelical Association of the Caribbean, and the World Politics Editor of the Star of Zion Newspapers.



Supporting the  
EAC enables us to  
serve Evangelical  
Churches,  
Affiliates and  
Partners across  
the Caribbean



**EAC**  
EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION  
OF THE CARIBBEAN

Give today at: [caribbeanea.org/support](http://caribbeanea.org/support)



# CONVOCATION ON CLIMATE AND HUNGER

## A Faithful Voice on Hunger and Climate Justice



Convocation Delegates

As Christians from Africa. Europe, the Caribbean. and North America. we share a fierce resolve to stand and work together to end the hunger crisis made worse by climate instability, to renew God's creation. and bring our planet into balance. forming a beloved community in which all of creation can thrive. Climate justice is our means for furthering this resolve.

The Earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world. and they that dwell therein. (Psalm 24:1)

### We lament:

- that many of us experience hunger. loss of shelter. loss of livelihood. poor health. environmental injustice. forced migration. fear. and distress due to climate shocks;
- that healthy diets are unaffordable for almost 3.1 billion people - 40% of the world population;
- that more than 100 million people are forcibly displaced -1 person in every 78 on Earth;
- economic systems that exploit the land and vulnerable people in mostly low-income

communities for the benefit of the few;

- a planet that is wildly out of balance. with the number of weather and climate related disasters increasing fivefold over the last 50 years<sup>3</sup>: supercharged hurricanes. severe drought. prolonged and intensifying waves of heat. massive floods. acidifying oceans. melting glaciers and polar ice caps. and rising seas;
- the creatures and life-systems that have been and are being decimated. and the web of life that is unraveling before our eyes.

### We confess:

- that the extreme patterns of living and livelihoods of some of us cause the extreme suffering of our brothers and sisters: 10% of the world's wealthiest individuals are responsible for around half of global greenhouse gas emissions;
- that some of us experience the impact of these extremes more than our brothers and sisters do: namely, people dispropor-



## Convocation Workshop

tionately affected by historic inequities that are also racialized. women and children. and those living in the Global South;

- that Christianity has too often been complicit in the exploitation of the Earth and our fellow human beings and that we have repeatedly ignored the fact that Biblical justice and righteousness are central to our identity as Christians;
- that too many Christians have ignored the findings of climate science, have failed to recognize how climate-fueled extreme weather severely harms our brothers and sisters and increases hunger, and have failed to recognize the urgency to act and address the climate emergency.

## Prayer for Repentance

O God, our Creator, turn us away from the patterns of this age that include patterns of domination, overconsumption, individualism that ignores the common good, commodification, exploitation, and othering. May we heed your wisdom and the wisdom of our ancestors, our bodies, and your whole creation. Give us strength to turn toward ways of love, trust, reconciliation, justice, and grace. Amen.

To address the hunger crisis made worse by climate change, we draw from the wellsprings of our Christian faith. We affirm the intrinsic goodness of the world that God created (Genesis 1). We recognize that the first task that God entrusted to human beings was the responsibility to care for God's creation (Genesis 2:15). God's love embraces not only humanity but also the

rest of creation (Genesis 9:8-17). Jesus gave his life for the whole world, so that all things could be reconciled (Colossians 1:15-20; Ephesians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 2:19). The power of God's Holy Spirit renews the face of the Earth (Psalm 104:30) and makes all things new (Revelation 21:5).

Jesus taught us to find him among "the least of these" (Matthew 25:31-46). We recognize Christ's suffering presence in the communities hurt first and hardest by climate change: those without adequate means to flourish, the historically underserved, and those least likely to have a voice at the table where policy decisions are made - the very people who suffer disproportionately even as their contribution to global emissions is almost negligible. We also recognize Christ's liberating, life-giving presence in the individuals and communities who refuse to settle for a killing status quo and who rise up to affirm the dignity of all people and the sacredness of Earth.

Guided by the Spirit given to us in Jesus, we regard the climate emergency as not only a socio-political and economic challenge, but fundamentally as a spiritual and moral summons to all people of faith and good will - including Christians - to participate in the growing worldwide movement to restore reverence and justice for Earth and all her communities - human and other-than-human.

Before God, we commit ourselves to share in Christ's mission to reconcile us to God, each other, and the rest of God's creation.

## Prayer of Commitment

Gracious God, we pray for people who benefit from - and people who suffer from - unjust systems that exploit human labor and plunder the Earth. Make us bold to stand together as Resurrection people. Empower us to step out of fear, despair, and inertia and to join - and lead - the joyful, justice-seeking, Spirit-led, unstoppable movement to make a swift and just transition to clean, renewable energy, to support vulnerable communities, and to safeguard the world that you entrusted to our care. Amen.

## Call to Action

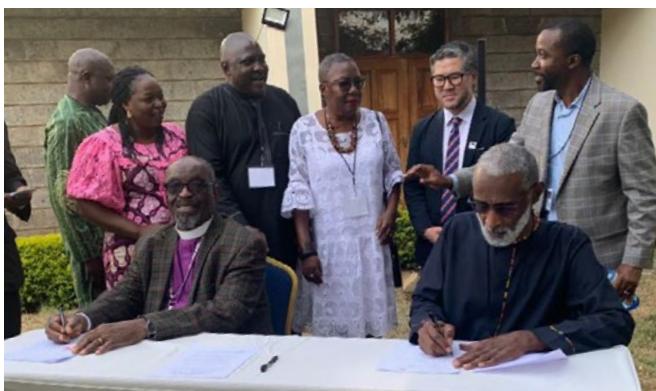
African faith leaders have invited faith leaders from high-income countries in Europe and North America to come alongside them with policies that align in establishing climate justice and ending hunger. Together, we seek public policies that yield measurable results and meaningful change for those disproportionately affected by hunger and climate change. We recognize that high-income countries have historically been the highest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions and have strategic roles to play in ending the dual hunger and climate crisis. This informs our demands for the following actions:

### For All Parties at COP27

- The Adaptation Fund, and other climate justice funding mechanisms, must conform to evidence on gender and accessibility and embed Locally Led Adaptation Principles in their processes.
- Stop the politicization of climate change discourse, which is killing people around the world; accept the moral urgency of addressing the climate crisis with ambition, equity, and resolve.

### For Governments and Decision Makers in the North

- Fulfill all milestone commitments made by those responsible for polluting the planet and invite the initiatives that build on these commitments.
- Fulfill the promise to mobilize \$100 billion annually to fight climate change.



Rev Nathan signing on behalf of the EAC

### For Government and Decision Makers in the South

- Environmental policies, action plans and Nationally Determined Commitments should be formulated in ways that guarantee economic and ecological justice and should be fully implemented.
- Create a policy and legislative environment that enables smallholder farmers to fully utilize all available climate change adaptive measures to address food insecurity.

### For the Private Sector

- Prioritize community and environmental health and sustainability in all its practices and move beyond a rigid focus on profit-making.
- The private sector must be responsible partners in addressing the climate crisis and loss and damage, and must advance practices that heal, rather than perpetuate, historic inequities.

### For Young People of Faith

- The time for action is now! Young people will inherit the Earth that older generations bequeath them. We urge older generations to leave a healthy, habitable planet for those who come after.
- We celebrate youth leadership in climate activism, and we call for ecumenical unity as old and young stand together to advocate for a safe and healthy world.

### For Church Leaders, Faith Communities and Faith-based Actors

- Biblical teachings, guided by church teachings, inspire, empower, and motivate us to love each other and creation with passion and to prioritize environmental action in our faith communities and our everyday lives.
- As Christians who confess and lament our past unfaithfulness and who are determined to seek climate justice for God's whole creation, we urge all Christians and all people of faith and good will to join us in taking bold action to restore the Earth.

# St. Vincent Recovers

**The EAC explores volcano-ravaged St. Vincent 18 months later**

Secretary General of the Evangelical Association of the Caribbean (EAC), Bishop Emerson Boyce and Director of the EAC's Commission on Relief & Development (CONRAD), Rev. Ronald Nathan, recently visited St. Vincent as part of ongoing efforts to support the work of our affiliate there in the aftermath of the devastation to parts of the island-nation following the eruption of the Soufriere Hills Volcano in April 2021.

The ranking EAC Officials were hosted by the Association of Evangelical Churches in St. Vincent (AEC SVG) for their week-long visit.

They had the opportunity to get up close and personal with the people and projects targeted for recovery and rehabilitation support. Funds for this programme in St. Vincent have been provided through grant-funding supplied by Giving Hands - a charity out of Germany – partnering with the EAC and the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA).

The project review part of the tour took the EAC Team to several of the Rehabilitation Phase II Projects spearheaded by the Association with the funds received. Here are highlights of some of the projects visited:

1

## Maxroy's Bakery



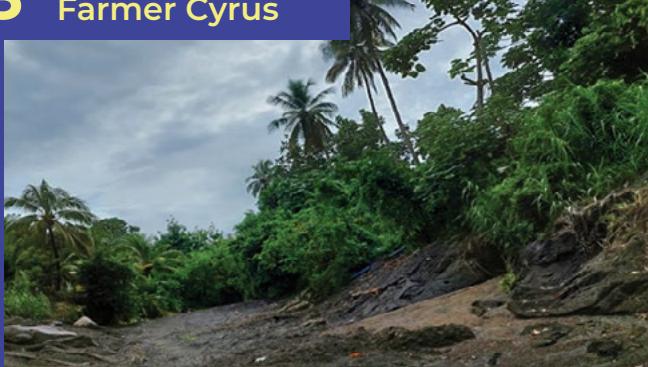
The building housing Maxroy's bakery was severely damaged by the eruption. The funding support he received from the AEC-SVG Programme was used to restore the building and purchase supplies to reactivate the bakery. Maxroy's bakery is now functional, providing bread and other goodies to many returning villagers and a livelihood for Maxroy.

2

## The Baptiste family



Funds were provided to assist with repairs to their fishing boat, net and engine, which were damaged by volcanic ash. The repairs were effected, and in the week of 26th September 2022, the family boat had its very first successful post-eruption catch. That brought in much needed income to the family, changing not only their immediate financial situation but their outlook for the future.

**3****Farmer Cyrus**

Cyrus owns a small family farm on which they cultivated Bananas and reared a small herd of cows. The family lost their cows and their banana field to the volcanic eruption. The grant from the AEC-SVG Programme was used to buy a heifer and restore his banana farm. His farm will now be able to provide an income. Loraine intends to use his income to restore his house, which was also damaged by the volcanic eruption.

As the island recovers, this visit allowed the EAC Team a first-hand look at and appreciation of the severe damage and disruption to lives and livelihoods caused by the volcano's eruption; the human and family impact of the life-changing rehabilitative work being undertaken by the AEC-SVG was brought into sharp focus.

Along with direct intervention and funding support, as referenced in the cases above, the Association has been focusing attention on building relational capacity with Church Leaders and Political Representatives in the affected areas of the island.

Dr. Reynold Murray, head of the AEC SVG and his Team have also been conducting Training Sessions on Financial Empowerment, Disaster Mitigation, Community Advocacy and Leadership for persons living in the affected areas. While the process is on-going, the Association has also been partnering with the Ministry of Agriculture in an intentional focus on Youth-centered enterprises in Agriculture.

**4****Edwards Family**

The Edwards family house was washed away and totally destroyed during a rain storm which followed the volcanic eruption, ash from which blocked drainage canals and led to massive flood damage. The family received support to buy materials to assist with the construction of a new house. Edwards and his family hope to move into his new home for Christmas.

The EAC Team's visit coincided with the AEC-SVG's celebration of 43 years as a National Evangelical Alliance (NEA) serving the Church in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Meetings were held with the AEC-SVG Executive, where the parties shared on matters relative to leadership, the direction of the national church, relief and development and their collaborative efforts with the EAC to empower the Alliance to enhance the voice of the church in the nation.

Feedback from local Pastors and Leaders indicated that members were excited and happy about the Team's visit from the EAC and felt encouraged to continue 'Making Disciples' to 'Build the Kingdom' in their part of the world.

Our prayer is that this visit helped to strengthen the AEC-SVG's mission to represent, lead and serve the Evangelical community in St. Vincent with Vision, Biblical Clarity, and Gospel Witness.

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