

PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE WEST INDIES INTERNATIONAL

PAWI'S CENTENNIAL HISTORY

Fact Sheet 2010

HISTORY

1. Pioneering of Pentecostalism in the West Indies:

Established in Montserrat – oral history has the commencement of the planting of the first church around 1910. The church was pastored by Joseph Jephunun Fenton, a Montserratian. Former Holiness missionaries, Rev. Robert and Mrs. Elizabeth Jamieson joined the Pentecostal movement in the West Indies in 1912 when he was released from the Holiness movement, which headquarters was in the USA.

Rev. Jamieson later visited and established churches in Trinidad, Barbados and Grenada after leaving Montserrat. In Trinidad, he met an existing Pentecostal church in Woodbrook pastored by Mother Moseley.

2. Canadian Influences:

Canadian missionaries sent from the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (PAOC) arrived around 1926 and contributed significantly to the spread of the Pentecostal message and church planting in Trinidad, Barbados and Grenada in those early years. The organization augmented their outreach in the West Indies by sending a stream of missionaries in subsequent years.

The booklet, "The Church Manual of Doctrine and Discipline for Pentecostal Churches in the British West Indies Affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada" which was printed in January 1952 disclosed the following statistics:

<u>Islands</u>	<u>No of Churches</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>S.S. Attendance</u>
Trinidad	18	1,000	4,000
Barbados	11	450	875
Grenada	7	250	925
Montserrat	8	350	975
Antigua	8	261	1,050

The rapid expansion of the Pentecostal Churches throughout the Southern Caribbean occasioned the Conference to group the islands into 'Sections' over which the respective Field Director would give leadership.

1. The Northern Section Antigua, Montserrat
2. The Central Section Barbados
3. The Southern Section Grenada and Trinidad

A pre-requisite to holding credentials was that one had to be filled with the Holy Spirit with the accompanying evidence of speaking in tongues. Rev. Ryan often rehearsed that although he was a graduate of the West Indies School of Theology, he was never granted credentials until he was filled with the Holy Spirit followed by the accompanying evidence.

3. Transition to National Leadership

The organization became the West Indian District of the PAOC in 1958 and was released into the hands of national leadership in 1965, the first National General Superintendent being Rev. Patrick Ryan. PAWI was legally established in Trinidad and Tobago as a charitable church organization in 1965 by an Act of Incorporation, No 29 of 1965. A celebratory event was held in 1966 to mark the occasion, attended by the late Honourable Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Eric Williams. Each district has since been legally incorporated in their respective nations.

4. An excerpt from the unedited history of PAWI, "Ablaze, Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies".

"In 1913, the missionary passion of the Jamiesons brought them to Trinidad, the most southerly island in the archipelago. This is when the Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church, later to be called the Woodbrook Pentecostal Church became the mother church of the fellowship."ⁱ

According to the best oral and written traditions, their earliest endeavours were associated with the activities of Mother Moseley, who seems to have been not only their patron but organisational head of a small group or congregation. According to Christopher Osborne's "History of the Woodbrook Pentecostal Church", Rev. Jamieson became involved in Woodbrook, a district of Port of Spain, through his association with one Mother Moseley whom he first met on one of his many journeys by steamer. At the time Mother Moseley pastored a small church at the corner of Buller and Gatacre Streets in Woodbrook. Impressed by Jamieson's missionary fervour, Mother Moseley invited him either to assume the pastoral care of the church or to assist her in the work. Osborne, in writing about Mother Moseley's proposal, quoted a statement made by foundation member, Sister Lilly Clarke: "The congregation was spell-bound and almost awe-struck to have a 'white man' preaching to them."ⁱⁱⁱ The association between the Jamiesons and Mother Moseley developed to the extent that she provided a fully furnished house in Woodbrook in which to accommodate the missionaries. Unfortunately, that association was short-lived. A rift between the Jamiesons and the Moseley faction soon became a total separation. Another quote from Osborne's account seemed incredible. The 'Moseley party' was heard to say: "Imagine this white man riding a bicycle when we have to walk and eating bacon and eggs to boot when we have to do with salt-fish and smoke-herring."ⁱⁱⁱⁱ Regrettably, the dissension resulted in Mother Moseley evicting the Jamiesons from the house that she had provided for them. It is said that their belongings were literally put on the street.

Osborne states that, undeterred by this episode, Rev. Jamieson formed his own Pentecostal group in a house on Roberts Street opposite the Woodbrook Fire Brigade Station. The membership consisted of four followers, including Lilly Clarke. In 1920 the Jamiesons moved the operations of the church to the northern end of Gallus Street in Woodbrook. The official Woodbrook website states that the building was completed in 1923. The Jamiesons went on furlough shortly after moving the church to Gallus Street and during their absence the Hurleys from Montserrat were invited to pastor the small congregation, assisted by Lydia Dowdye.

An interesting anecdote is often associated with the activities of the congregation during the Jamiesons' absence. It is said that several members were arrested for disturbing the peace through noise-making, charged with disturbing the peace, and put in jail. On the following day they appeared in the local magistrate's court where they were questioned about the intolerable noise level associated with their worship. The leader gave a prompt response *in tongues* rather than in English.

The magistrate continued: "What do you have to say in your defence?"

The answer came *in tongues*—but without interpretation. The bewildered magistrate dismissed the case!

While the accuracy of the details above about the encounter with the legal authorities may be questioned, it is clear that the foundation years of the Fellowship in Trinidad, as in Montserrat and several other islands, were marked by persecution and prosecution. The mainline churches and many of their followers resented the new evangelical voice invading their territory, and firmly resisted the newcomers. The members of the movement in the early days were accused of being “Shouters” (just as was the case with early Baptists), cultists and rabble-rousers, and stones were often hurled at them from the bushes. Their persistence in such circumstances demonstrated their steadfast commitment to Christ.

The building was dedicated in 1924.

WEST INDIAN PIONEERS

Montserratian revival and church planting:

- Lawrencina Hurley of St. Croix and husband, Mr Hurley, a Montserratian
- Joseph Jephunun Fenton – oral tradition about 1907; later passed on to son, Arnold Fenton at Cudjoe Head
- Mother Moseley – 1912 (oral tradition), Woodbrook, Trinidad

MISSIONARY PIONEER

Missionary Rev. Robert J. Jamieson, 1912 – in Montserrat, then to Antigua, Barbados and Trinidad

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Bible School – The PAOC missionaries took decision at its inaugural general conference in August 1946 to establish a Bible School to train regional pastors and to name it “The West Indies School of Theology” (WIST). The school commenced operations on October 1st 1946 with twenty-one (21) students under the leadership of Missionary Abraham Jacobson, Principal. Classes were held at the prayer room of the Woodbrook Pentecostal Chapel, Gallus Street, Woodbrook, from Tuesday through Friday mornings and Wednesday and Friday evenings. The first graduation took place in April 1948 at which Patrick Ryan emerged as the class Valedictorian. He later became the first General Superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies. The location of the school was moved several times before its present location at 4th bridge, Maracas, St. Joseph – a six and a half (6 ½) acre property acquired to provide more commodious space for the school. WIST has graduated students annually since then.

Principals of WIST:

- Abraham Jacobson, Missionary – October 1946
- Robert Eames, Missionary – September 1955
- Charles Barker, Missionary – 1960-1970

- Dennis White – May 1970-1974
- Thomas Maginley, Ag. Principal – 1974-1976
- Thomas Maginley – 1976
- Alvin Nicholson – 1979-1986
- Emerson Boyce, Cecil Vincent, Pat Glasgow – 1986-1989
- Lew Thomson, interim – 1989-1990
- Pat Glasgow – 1991...

2. Accreditation – WIST is currently registered with the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago and offers accredited ministerial training at certificate, diploma and tertiary level (Bachelor's) degrees in interdisciplinary studies, including Bible and Theology, Christian Education, Pastoral Studies and Missions.

WIST currently partners with the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology to offer students Masters Degrees in counselling, organizational leadership and interdisciplinary studies. WIST is also a member institution of the Caribbean Evangelical Theological Association (CETA) and a candidate for accreditation with the said body. CETA gives accreditation to religious and theological institutions in the Caribbean.

3. Extension campuses function in several districts of the Fellowship. WIST Extension schools offer biblical training and development in Certificate and Diploma programmes to workers, enabling them to function more effectively in their local church setting and as a 'feeder' for graduates who wish to pursue further theological and ministerial training. There are several locations across the Fellowship, including:

- Antigua/Barbuda/St. Kitts District – Certificate;
- Barbados District – Diploma;
- Central Trinidad District – Certificate;
- Grenada District – Certificate;
- Montserrat District – Certificate.
- North Trinidad – Certificate, operating in five (5) locations;
- South Trinidad District – Certificate and Diploma operating in three (3) locations;
- St. Lucia District – Certificate;
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines District – Certificate;
- Tobago District – Certificate and Diploma;

4. Other Schools –

- Barbados – People's Cathedral Primary School, St. Michael's, established by the People's Pentecostal Cathedral; Pastor – Rev. Dr. Holmes Williams.
- Tobago – Pentecostal Light and Life Foundation, a kindergarten/primary/secondary school, established in 2002 as a ministry of the People's Pentecostal Church, Scarborough; Pastor – Rev. Dr. Glenroy Frank.
- St. Vincent – Multifaceted vocational school in Layou established by the Layou Miracle Church; Pastor – Rev. Noel Clarke.
- Trinidad – PAWI High School established in 1994 as Pentecostal Institute of Learning operated at the WIST Campus; Overseer – Bishop Dr. Alister Alexander.
- Trinidad – Early Childhood Care and Education Centre (ECCE), San Juan established by Lighthouse Tabernacle, San Juan now government assisted; current Pastor – Rev. Winston Lewis.
- Barbuda Academic School of Excellence established March 19th 2004 by the Barbuda Pentecostal Church; Pastor – Bishop Nigel Henry.

- Several churches across the Fellowship conduct day-care centres and preschools.

MISSIONARY GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS – Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

Rev. Robert Jamieson – 1926-1946

Rev. Harry Eggleton – 1946-1952

Rev. Charles A. Barker – 1952-1964

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS – West Indian Nationals

Rev. Patrick Ryan – 1964-1976, 1st national General Superintendent, deceased

Rev. Dennis White – 1976-1982

Rev. Frederick Coombs – 1982-1986, deceased

Rev. Dr. Turnel Nelson – 1986-1988, deceased

Rev. Alvin Nicholson – 1988-1992

Rev. Torrance Bobb – 1992-1996

Rev. Dr. Turnel Nelson – 1996-2006, deceased

Rev. Dr. Pat Glasgow – 2006 ..., current General Bishop of the Fellowship effective 2006.

CURRENT STRUCTURE

General Conference > General Executive > National/ Districts' Conferences > National/District Executives > Local Churches

DEMOGRAPHICS

1. Headquarters in Trinidad at:

The Campus of the West Indies School of Theology, 4th Bridge Maracas Royal Road, St. Joseph

Mailing address: P.O. Box 100, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, West Indies

2. Twelve administrative districts, all nationally governed located in:

- Trinidad and Tobago – consisting of five (5) internal districts – Northeast, Northwest, Central, South and Tobago, coordinated by the National Council of PAWI Trinidad and Tobago.
- Grenada, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua/ Barbuda/ St. Kitts/ Nevis, Montserrat – each having one national district.

3. Composition – inclusive of sixteen (16) islands:

Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados, Grenada, Carriacou, St. Vincent, Union Island, Bequia, St. Lucia, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Antigua, Barbuda, St. Kitts, Nevis

3.1.1. Example of development of the District of St. Lucia which gained independence from Britain, February 22nd 1979:

- Pentecostal church planting - began in 1940s by Sis Scatlif, followed by Sis. Benjamin in Castries - no further trace is currently available;
- Streams of Power, originated in the Dutch Antilles and Suriname, 1960 then migrated northward through Guyana, Trinidad, St. Vincent and St. Lucia.
- PAOC Missionaries arrived in the persons of Jack and Daisy Keys, August 1968 from St. Vincent; local Pastors Euphrates and Lucille Alexander were part of the organizing team of the initial crusade conducted by Rev. Holmes Williams (of Barbados) in Castries; also Thomas and Angela Welch, Wayne Webster and a YWAM team of youths – from which 100 persons were baptized; they formed the nucleus of the first PAWI church, Bethel in Castries; within a few months a building was completed and dedicated on March 2nd 1969 with a baptized roll of 155 persons.
- Other pioneers 1969 and beyond – Missionaries Leroy and Marilyn Lebeck of Canada started a radio station; Ivan Kirsch pioneered a church in Vieux Forte; Wayne Webster and Winston Broomes followed the Lebecks at Bethel; Marcus Roberts, PAOC's Don and Janice Scheske 1978-1981; Emmanuel Mc Lorren in 1998, the current Bishop of PAWI St. Lucia.

4. Missionary outreaches:

- Caribbean mission:
 - Guadeloupe – Bishop Michael Daniel and the Dominica District
 - Haiti – PAWI World Missions Agency, medical and relief; Bishop Nigel Henry
 - St. Kitts and Nevis – Spanish-speaking churches, PAWI World Missions Agency
- South American mission:
 - Venezuela – Rev. Ernest and Josephine Pollard
 - Brazil – Rev. Martin & Chamine Mc Dowell
 - Surinam – Rev. Sherry-Ann Griffith
- African mission:
 - Malawi – PAWI World Missions Agency and missionaries Trevor and Calma Campbell
 - Zambia in 1976; Kenya in 1981 – Rev. Winston and Gloria Broomes, first fully-supported PAWI missionary
 - Evangelistic ministry in African nations; Ethiopia, Congo, Uganda, Malawi, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa – Rev. Dr. Jeremiah and Marlene Prescod operating out of New York, USA
 - Assisting in indigenous church planting in Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, South Africa, Congo, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Malawi – Bishop Wharton and Grace Nicholson
- Asian mission – Cambodia; Miss Lindy-Ann Taylor, PAWI working through Operation Mobilization
- North American mission – establishment of PAWI International in the USA (New York)
- Language groups – inclusive of English, Spanish, French, Creole, Dutch and Portuguese

5. Membership

- Credentialed workers – approximately 500
- Number of Churches – approximately 230

- Number of members – approximately 30,000
- Preaching points – numerous house churches and group outreaches

i < <http://www.woodbrookpc.org/content.cfm?id=3>>

ii “History of the Woodbrook Pentecostal Church”

iii “History of the Woodbrook Pentecostal Church”