



Southampton Seventh-day Adventist Church

"Saluting Our Treasures"

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden."

Matthew 5:14

A Monthly Profile: ...April 2026

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Sister Dollene Ray



The first thing that catches the eye when visiting Sister Dollene Ray's home is a wide display of framed photographs.

The living room walls, sideboard and coffee table of her cozy Horseshoe Road, Southampton residence are replete with pictures of family and relatives: her parents, her late husband, George, and closest neighbours, son Michael and his wife, Elizabeth. Daughters Bette -Jean and Lisa Anne, and sports-loving great grandsons --- all smilingly hold pride of place in a home that exudes an atmosphere of love.

A long-standing member of the Southampton Seventh- Day Adventist Church 93-year-old Sister Dollene attributes her life-long belief in Adventism to the example set by her parents. "They were devout Adventists. As a matter of fact, all my sisters and brothers were Adventists".

Her father, Boysie Burchall, was an Elder in the original church at Jew 's Bay and held other offices. A stone mason by trade, he was tragically killed while cutting stone at the construction site of the current church.

Sister Dollene clearly remembers that Sabbath Day in 1950 when she was baptized. Decades later, due to physical challenges, she is not always able to attend Divine Worship services, but when she does make an appearance, the warmth and affection of fellow members follow her from the entrance to her favourite seat in the seventh pew.

When unable to attend she relies on social media to keep abreast of worship services both here and abroad. Charles Bradford, Archie Hudson and John Bradshaw's Breath of Life programmes are always within reach.

Sister Dollene recalls the days of Pastor Alvin Goulbourne Sr., when the Seventh Day Adventist Church was more diverse, consisting of other nationalities, including a strong presence of Portuguese.

Blessed with the benefit of good sight, she is an avid reader; a passion embraced during childhood, when tales like the ‘Bobsy Twins’ were the rave of young girls. Near her favourite chair in the living room are books on history and literature and members of her family keep her supplied with reading material. The Bible in a Year Reading Plan is her current project, and she diligently reads various chapters every day. “Daniel 11 is not quite clear to me yet,” she says with a laugh, “but I’m determined to master the scriptures through daily reading.”

One thing she has mastered is technology. Surprisingly, this nonagenarian uses the iPad, cell phone and WhatsApp with the skill that would make younger generations marvel.

A graduate of the then School of Arts and Crafts, she also attended Sandringham (now The Bermuda Institute), after which she took up employment at the King Edward V11 Memorial Hospital, first in the kitchen, then delivering meals to the wards---“for the princely sum of ten pounds”, she smiles.

A day in the life of Sister Dollene begins with prayer and gravitates to Bible study, followed by reading and browsing her iPad or spiritual material.

She moves about her home with the support of a walker, but she is fiercely independent and organized. Appointments with her hairdresser are a part of her schedule, while Wednesdays are firmly set aside for shopping.

Faith is an important part of Sister Dollene’s life. Her conversation is interspersed with scripture verses and testaments of God’s amazing grace. One is left in no doubt that she practices what she preaches as her home environment reflects that “cleanliness is next to Godliness.”

Sister Dollene’s long life of dedication and service to Christ gives her confidence as to where she will spend Eternity.

“I truly believe that my relationship with Christ is what’s going to save me”, she says.

“My faith in Christ is steadfast, and while we may not feel like we are ‘one’ anymore, when the Lord comes, we are all going to be ‘one’. I truly believe that”

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