

Dr. Silas N. McKinney

If there is one word that could be used to describe this wonderful man of God it is the word "fellowship." Pastor Silas N. McKinney is a man of fellowship. He loves talking with and mingling among people. He's just a great person. We can easily change his name to **Silas Fellowship Napoleon McKinney**. What a wonderful name!



He enjoys sharing time with his colleagues, young or old. He is well loved and respected in the Adventist Church in the Bahamas, Jamaica and around the world. In addition, the wider communities of the Bahamas and Jamaica, where he served in administration, also grew to respect and love Pastor McKinney.

What also makes Pastor McKinney a great person is his loyalty and commitment to the work of Christ. He has labored long and hard to develop God's church in the Bahamas and Jamaica. He is a true friend of workers and their families. He believes in being fair, compassionate and caring.

Although he is retired, he is still active preaching, and of course fellowshiping. The young and older pastors, enjoy visiting his home to "fellowship" and to get some advice and counsel.

As a result of Pastor McKinney's valuable contribution to the development of the church in the West Indies, he was awarded an honorary doctorate degree on August 10, 2003 at Northern Caribbean University. Read the story below.

August 14 - Northern Caribbean University (NCU), on Sunday, August 10, conferred the Honorary Doctor of Public Service degree on Dr Silas McKinney, a former president of the Bahamas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and Executive Secretary of the West Indies Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The conferral was made during Commencement 2003, when 860 students graduated.

Dr. McKinney, a Bahamian-born minister of religion, graduated from NCU (then West Indies College) with a Bachelor of Theology degree in 1955. He later earned a master's degree at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, U.S.A.

Dr. McKinney, is one of the first two Bahamians to enter the Adventist ministry, in which he served actively for 42 years. Of those years, 31 were in administration. He was the first Bahamian to be elected secretary-treasurer of the Bahamas Mission, a position he held for three years, and was also the first Bahamian and the first man of color to be appointed President of the Bahamas Mission, serving for four years.

After leading the field into conference status, he was the first Bahamian to be elected President of the Bahamas Conference, a position he held for more than 12 years. As the first Bahamian to be elected Executive Secretary of the West Indies Union Conference of SDA in Jamaica, he occupied that office for five years.

In 1993, Dr McKinney was honored by her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II with an O.B.E., and in 1997 he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Shaw University in North Carolina, USA.

He is known as an astute theologian, historian and a visionary administrator in the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the regional and divisional levels for more than four decades.

A former chairman of the Board of Northern Caribbean University, Dr McKinney who traveled to Jamaica to receive his degree with his wife Ruth, described the gesture as a tremendous honor. He told NCU News "I never expected anything like this. It is particularly gratifying that it came from my alma mater." He congratulated NCU for its "tremendous progress," and wishes for the institution continued success.

Dr McKinney has been retired since 1997 and enjoys reading and walking.

Brief Overview of the Life of Pastor Silas McKinney

Birth: October 30, 1926, Crooked Island, Bahamas (Age 76)

Married: January 1, 1956, on the Campus of Northern Caribbean University. Pastor H. D. Colburn, who was President of the Bahamas Mission at the time, traveled to Jamaica to perform the ceremony

Children: Rosa London, who resides in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with her son. Mischelle Joseph, married to Pastor Peter Joseph. They have two boys. Neil McKinney, married to Marlene and they have three children.

Ministry: January 1, 1956 - South Andros district

1958 - Pastor of Centreville

1958 - First Bahamian Secretary of the Bahamas Mission of Seventh-day Adventists

1960 - Return with wife to Northern Caribbean University, Jamaica, to complete the bachelor degree in theology.

1962 - Returned to the Bahamas and continued pastoring Centreville Church

1964 - Became the first Bahamian president of the Bahamas Mission of Seventh-day Adventists

1968 - Was instrumental in leading the Bahamas Mission to Conference status and became the first president of the Conference and remained president until 1975

1975 - Became Secretary of the West Indies Union Conference, Mandeville, Jamaica

1981 - Returned to the Bahamas as served as district pastor for Grand Bahama

1986 - Served as President of the Bahamas Conference

1990 - Served as President of the West Indies Union Conference

1997 - Retired on September 1

You can reach Pastor McKinney by emailing to ladyruth@batelnet.bs Or Writing P.O. Box N-356, Nassau, Bahamas