

BT NEWS

BOSTON TEMPLE - A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



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BROTHER MICHAEL TURNER CHAMPION OF JUSTICE



The BT community is deeply saddened by the loss of Michael Turner. Michael Leroy Turner or “Brother Turner” as he was affectionately known at BT passed away peacefully on Friday, April 28, 2023. Three months after celebrating Brother Turner’s 80th birthday the church celebrated and remembered his life, gathering at Gormley Funeral Home in West Roxbury. The memorial services were held May 11th and May 12th with a repast after the funeral at Elks Lodge. The BT Hospitality team provided support during this time of grief with a meal at the repast.

Brother Turner was a pillar in the BT community. He loved to lead and teach the world around him, bringing light and inspiration to the hearts and minds of friends and family.

Brother Turner faithfully advocated for peace at a time of racial strife. His love shone brightly in all the places he lived.

Losing a beloved member of the church is not the easiest thing to deal with, but BT is pulling through by remembering Brother Turner's strength, faith, and courage. During times of grief and loss the BT community learns how to put everything in God's hands. We know that God works things for the best, though sometimes we wonder when the good things would start to come.

Brother Turner taught BT so much, but most of all BT looked up to him because he was very strong. Not only was brother Turner a strong leader and champion of justice, but he also had a strong faith in God. It is not known what Brother Turner's last words to BT church would have been. We know that one day the BT congregation will reunite with Brother Turner in heaven.



Michael and Solvig at their home in Jamaica Plain.

Until the day that the promised good things come, a prayer that Brother Turner wrote in his Bible can comfort and encourage the BT community. Brother Turner wrote:

“We thank You for loving us. We thank You for blessing us. For answering our prayers. Bless us that we may have, a full relationship with You. Knowledge of Your will for us. We don't ask for what to do. We ask that You lead us. Bring Your Glory! Amen.”

We do not know the circumstances surrounding brother Turner's prayer since it was discovered in his Bible. But it does offer us a glimpse into his unwavering faith. That God holds us in His hand. It reminds us to trust in the Lord. It encourages you to believe in Jesus and be saved.

May Brother Turner's life and legacy live on in our hearts and memories.



Turner Family Photos.

CAMP MEETING 2023

The Southern New England Conference Annual Camp Meeting was held from the evening of June 16 through the evening of June 24. For those of us who were able to attend it was an exiting and interesting time.

Boston Temple was open both Sabbaths, as always, for those unable to attend Camp

Meeting. Our A/V team endeavored to stream the worship service from Camp Meeting but ran into some technical problems the first Sabbath. So Elder Robert Van Ornam presented a fascinating study which was in fact, eagerly discussed even after the service ended.

For those who attended Camp Meeting the first Sabbath, the Pavilion opened at 9:00 a.m.

The two hours until the Worship Service began were filled with Conference Ministry reports after which we were blessed with a wonderful sermon by Pastor David Asscherick, founder of ARISE.

In the afternoon there was a musical program where the Boston Temple Choir performed three songs under the direction of Sharon Hamel.



L to R: Simon Okaine, Sebastian Sokolov, Brooks Musangu, Vonya Perham, Sharon Hemel (directing), Alexandra, Katherine Jimenez, Bubotu Musangu.

During the week there were several speakers, giving seminars and various presentations. Among them was Dr. Hyveth Williams, former Senior Pastor here at Boston Temple in the 1990s, who gave a seminar on mental health and wholeness Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. The second Sabbath we enjoyed a call to unity in mission by our Conference President, Robert Folkenberg, Jr. The afternoon found several of us lunching with the Waltham church and then meeting with the Young Adults from across the Conference. Then there was Service

where four Pastors were ordained, among them Endri Misho, a former Boston Temple member, who is now in charge of the Conference's Public Campus Ministries, and is the Seventh-day Adventist Chaplain at Harvard University. It was wonderful to see him receive this recognition of his calling.

The evening concert by Pastor Wintley Phipps was the perfect conclusion to a wonderful 8 days of inspiration, fellowship and worship. Those of us who were able to attend Camp Meeting came away truly blessed.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Congratulations to all Boston Temple Graduates for all your hard work!

Sharon Hamel, representing BT News, had the honor of interviewing two of BT's high school graduates. **Christopher Sandi** graduated from Pine Forge Academy in Pennsylvania on May 27, 2023.

Elias Wattogwang graduated from Medford High School in Medford, MA on June 7, 2023.

Interview with Christopher Sandi

SH: Tell us about your education before you attended Pine Forge Academy(PFA)?

CS: I was homeschooled up until the third grade. Then I went to Greater Boston Academy for the remainder of 3rd and part of 4th grade. Afterwards, I moved in with my Aunt Sophie in Alexandria, VA. I attended Vienna Adventist Academy from 4th thru 8th grade.

SH: What did you enjoy about homeschooling?

CS: Being able to be close to friends in the neighborhood and it was more interactive.

SH: Who in your life is proud of your progress?

CS: My teachers from past schools would like to see who I am becoming and what I did during my last semester of Pine Forge Academy.

My mom and dad, Maxine and Nebhu, who



The Pine Forge Academy Choir performing the song Jacob's Ladder.

taught me the value of respect and showed me mannerisms. They taught me how to grow in personality by becoming more open with my interests and vocal about my opinions.

SH: What do you love about church?

CS: Besides the singing I love sermons that have new takes on the same stories. I like the stories where the main character prevails despite having the correct resources. I believe God will make a way if God wants me to be there. Regardless of life's circumstances He will always put me where I need to be.

SH: How do you study your Bible?



CS: I spend 15-30 minutes reading the Bible and then pray before going to sleep. The Bible helps me calm down at night and sleep in peace. When I am awake and most alert I can find rest in the scriptures.

SH: What’s your favorite Bible Verse?

CS: Luke 12:7; I like this passage because it reminds me how much God cares about my life. We are worth more than the sparrows. God will provide exactly what you need.

SH: What interests did you pursue at PFA?

CS: I really enjoyed being in the choir because



L to R: Brenton Forbees, Sharon Hamel, Michelle Lindo, Christopher Sandi, Tyler Lindo.

I got to travel quite a bit and I developed my vocal skills - breath control, diction, projection. My expression developed over time with performances and hours of practice.

Jacob’s Ladder and *Consider It Done* were my favorite songs.

SH: What has inspired you most about Boston Temple?

CS: I was inspired by the caring members of Boston Temple. I stopped attending church in Boston after I went to PFA. No matter where I was, caring BT members would call to check up on me. They would also contact me when I came home to visit.

What I remember most about BT is cooking with grandma Zeinna. She showed me how to make bread, chicken, and other Jamaican recipes that are not written down.

SH: What are your plans for the future?

CS: I would like to go to Southern Adventist University and study Journalism. I hope to get a job in creative writing when I graduate from Southern.



Christopher with Sharon Hamel, and his Aunts, Michell Lindo, Maud Prosper, Helen Morgan, and Ruth Carnegie.

SH: If you were to write a story or a book, what would you write?

CS: I would write, *A Guide to PFA*.

The book would include: the “do’s and don’ts” of Pine Forge Academy; How to ask to get what you want; Information on what classes to take and which ones to avoid.

It would also include advice on how to interact with your deans and mentorship. I see myself as a mentor.

Interview with Elias Wattogwang



SH: Tell us about yourself?

EW: I was born on July 12, 2003, in Arusha, Tanzania. When I was young, I attended the Tanzania Adventist Primary and Secondary schools. Two years ago, I moved to the Boston area with family. I made BT my home church and have



Elias at a Basketball game.

served as part of the Audio Video Communications Team.

Every time I go to church I enjoy worshipping God in a safe place and doing what Jesus did on the Sabbath. I love the BT Praise and Worship team. I feel that singing about God's work will draw people closer to God.

I also participate in ministry by sharing Bible verses with others and creating gospel music playlists. I know that my reward in heaven will be good.

SH: Is there anyone in your life who is proud of your hard work and progress?

EW: My mom, Nazahed Kangalu Goodness (Rachel's sister).

SH: Describe your High School interests?

EW: In academics I was drawn to math and science. Last summer, I visited Carnegie Mellon University on a school trip. I also participated



Elias playing Volleyball.

in a Math, Science and Biotech summer program at MIT in 2021. In my junior year of High School I got an outstanding award for Math Achievement.

For athletics, I participated in soccer, track and field, and volleyball. I played two seasons on the varsity



Bernadette Henry, Goodness Wattogwang, Elias and Pastor Henry.

soccer team. The first year on the soccer team my field position was left wing and in the second year I played right wing.

Boston Temple family.

I will always remember the first time attending (during the pandemic) and Andrew enthusiastically

SH: What are your plans for the future?

EW: I will attend UMass Dartmouth this Fall. I will take medical laboratory science courses. I plan to go into the medical field.



Rachel Kangalu Grossi, Goodness Wattogwang, and Mr. Grossi

In track and field I specialized in the 1 mile race, 1,000 meters long run, and 600 meter sprint.

SH: What has inspired you most about Boston Temple?

EW: I appreciate my



Elder Benjamin Frempah, Elias and Brooks Musangu.

welcomed me with two hands. I was also inspired by serving on the Audio Visual ministry.

Volunteering with the A/V team was a welcomed challenge because it made me come up with new ideas and strategies for solving problems.



*Back Row: Bernadette Henry, Charron Meredith-Scott, Rachele Innocent Goodness Wattogwang, Elias, Elder Andrew Innocent, Mr. Grossi.
Front Row: Goodness Kangalu, Malachi Meredith-Scot.*

BABY DEDICATION

On June 10, 2023, Jonathan and Anna Duong Van Ornam brought their two younger children to Boston Temple for Dedication to the Lord.

Jonathan and Anna were supported by Jonathan's father, Robert Van Ornam, who has been visiting BT since Akira's birth. He has also contributed much

We are very happy to welcome these children into our church family along with their older sister Alyssandra.



Pastor Michael Henry prays as Jonathan, holding baby Akira, Robert Van Ornam and Anna Duong Van Ornam holding Aurora bring their children for dedication.



Pastor Henry holding Akira, Benhamin Frempah, Jonathan Van Ornam. Bpb Vam Ornam, Aurora, Anna Duong Van Ornam, Rachel Kangalu, Alyssandra and Andrew Innocent kneel in dedicatory prayer.

Aurora was born during the height of the pandemic. So this was the earliest opportunity for her dedication.

Akira is the Van Ornam's youngest child.

to our Sabbath School studies here at Boston Temple.

Pastor Henry officiated with the support of the Elders, Andrew Innocent, and Benjamin Frempah and with the help of Rachel Kangalu Grossi the Head of the Diaconate.

SABBATH SCHOOL/PERSONAL MINISTRIES

Changes have been made to the BT Sabbath School program. The changes in Sabbath School times and segments were made to reflect the General Conference's four goals, and to further the intent of BT's mission and vision statements.

The Sabbath School Personal Ministries Council also considered past programming in making the changes.

The GC's four goals emphasize Scripture Study, Fellowship, Community Outreach, and World Mission. The BT Sabbath School department will collaborate with the BT Prayer ministry and Music ministry departments to implement these four goals into each week's lesson study.

In-person Sabbath School attendance is strongly encouraged in order to experience the exciting program changes.



Darryl Campbell-SpaULDing teaches the three angels message during Sabbath School.

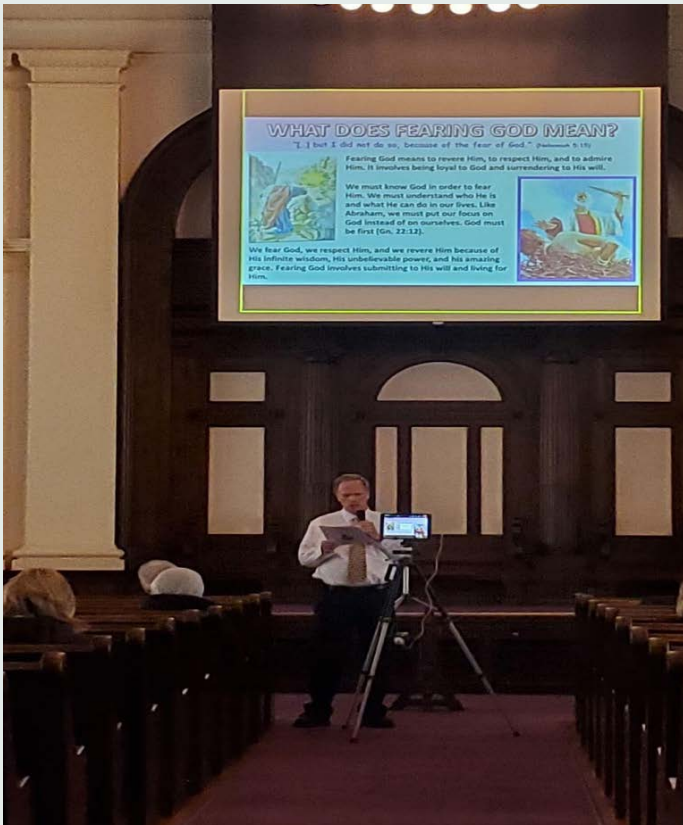
Promoting the new changes to the BT Sabbath School program superintendent of Sabbath School Personal Ministries, Vinieta Lawrence, said “the benefit of this emotional interaction defies description... it is one of God's many blessings.”

Ms. Lawrence is optimistic about the program changes but also acknowledges that “as with any change experience it will be challenging.

Revisions will be ongoing as we seek to complete the process.”

The SSPM Council, under the authority and direction of BT's Board of Directors, is working diligently to do God's will. Join the Sabbath School program change efforts by humbly asking God to call the additional co-workers needed to share the Gospel with the spiritually lost and dying.

The SSPM Council is extremely interested in all feedback on how you are enjoying Sabbath School and/or any suggestions on how to improve the programming. All the comments will be reviewed.



Bob Van Ornam teaches the Sabbath School.

However, as much as the Council would like to honor all submissions, it must consider all aspects of an action and its effects, efficiency, appropriate applications, and related effectiveness with managerial strategies.

To provide feedback, suggestions, comments, or to obtain information about becoming a volunteer with SSPM please contact info@bostontemple.church.