

## **Adventists to Recognise Traditional and Church Media Personnel at GAIN Conference**

Global Adventist Internet Network (GAIN) is a conference designed by the General Conference to foster the use of technology, media and the internet to help the mission of the Adventist Church. Through annual, worldwide events, we seek to educate and train communication and technology professionals in finding new ways to reach their communities. Dwyane Cheddar was awarded for outstanding service and contribution in the area for media and production and commitment to the mission of the Global Seventh-day Adventist Church for over 30 years.

Currently he serves as Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at Oakwood University and Program Director for Broadcast Journalism and Film and Television Production. He is the Producer for the 'Breath of Life' television broadcast ministry and serves as Media Director for the Oakwood University Church where he is a member. Cheddar has a passion for his work and over the years have had a strong influence on many who chose the field of media and television as their career.

Mr. Cheddar served as Video Manager and Producer/Director for the largest television production house in the Caribbean before joining the church community fulltime. He worked as Technical Director for Broadcom International and was part of the award-winning magazine television program 'Trails.' Some of his contributions while in the public sector included the direction of the General Elections Coverage in 1989 and 1993; the historic visit of Nelson Mandela to Jamaica 1992; Queen Elizabeth's visit to Jamaica in 1994; '*Hill and Gully Ride*' and '*Rappin*' television programs in 1988 – 1996.

In 1996, Cheddar joined the staff at West Indies College (now Northern Caribbean University) as Director of Media Services, and later transitioned from staff to faculty, and became the first program coordinator for the Mass Communication program at NCU. While there, he developed the Associate Degree in Mass Communication and the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass Communication. His passion for students led him to start WIC 88.3 FM Radio Station in 1998 on the campus of NCU which provided an opportunity for students to receive hands-on experience and develop their craft in preparation for the job market.

In 2007, Mr. Cheddar joined the faculty of Oakwood University, where he developed two programs: Broadcast Journalism and Film and Television Production. Throughout his 33 years in the field of education, communication, and media, he has built a strong reputation for mentoring and motivating students to pursue careers in the related industries. During the 2008 United States presidential election, he coordinated with ABC, NBC and CBS affiliates to facilitate 21 of his students assisting in media coverage of the election where Senator Barack Obama was elected as President. Cheddar joined the faculty at Andrews University in 2016 and served for a short time before returning to Oakwood University.

Mr. Cheddar's service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church spans over 30 years. He has served on various communication committees such as the East, Central and West Indies Union (now Jamaica Union Conference) Conferences and the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventist Church. He worked as Technical Director for both West Indies Union and the Inter-American Division from 1996 -2000 and was instrumental in the development of media production across the region. Cheddar has been working with the production team for the General Conference Sessions since 2000.

Mr. Cheddar holds an MA in Communication and is currently completing a doctoral degree in Filmmaking in History and Education from Middlesex University in London, England. He is married to the former Dianne Brown and they have one adult daughter, Daynia.