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## Local Church Launches Distracted Driving Awareness Initiative

**Guest speakers from Highway Safety, VIPD, and Fire and Emergency Services join efforts to educate young drivers on the risks of distractions behind the wheel and the importance of spiritual preparedness**

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**A demonstration of July 20 showed negative impacts of distracted driving. By. V.I. CONSORTIUM**

In response to the increasing number of auto accidents on the island, Melady Dolcar, the teen director for Iglesia El Tabernaculo, has launched a new initiative to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving. Inspired by a moment of prayer, Dolcar felt compelled to address

this critical issue, particularly as many teens in the church are reaching driving age.

"I was praying, and God put it in my spirit to start this initiative," Dolcar explained. "There are so many distractions for drivers, especially with cellphones and other activities that take their attention away from the road. It's crucial that we bring awareness to this and help prevent accidents."

The initiative aims not only to educate young drivers about the risks of distracted driving but also to encourage them to reflect on their spiritual lives. "We want to make sure people get their lives right with God before it's too late," Dolcar added. "It's important to think about whether someone had time to repent before dying in an auto accident."

The program features guest speakers from various local agencies, including Highway Safety, the Virgin Islands Police Department, and Fire and Emergency Services. These experts will provide valuable insights and tips on how to stay focused and safe while driving.

The church community hopes that this initiative will lead to a significant reduction in accidents caused by distractions and will foster a greater sense of responsibility among young drivers. "It's not just about staying safe on the road," Dolcar emphasized. "It's about living a life that's pleasing to God and being prepared for whatever comes our way."

By addressing both the physical and spiritual aspects of distracted driving, Iglesia El Tabernaculo aims to create a viable approach to this pressing issue, ensuring that the message resonates with the community and brings about lasting change.