

CBF



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From the President's Desk:



Rev. Dr. William L. Thompson

Once again, it is my distinct pleasure and privilege to send to my Caribbean Baptist Fellowship Family my personal greetings and best wishes as we observe another issue of our NEWS-LETTER.

Baptists have a history of which they need not be ashamed – a history of noble names and deeds, extending back through many ages, in which the present generation well

may glory. From the days of John the Baptist until now, a great army of these witnesses for the truth, and martyrs for its sake, has illumined and honoured the march of Christian history.

The ages since Christ have known no purer, nobler lives, no braver, more faithful witnesses for the Gospel of Christ, no more glorious martyrs for its sake, than many of those who honour us by being called "our fathers in faith". They were true to Christ, at a cost to which we are strangers. They went gladly to prison and to death in defense of the Gospel which they loved.

These are troubled times. All the nails in every facet in our region seem to be coming loose. **Do we give up? Do we retreat? Do we lift our hands in disgust? The answer is a resounding NO!!!**

Inspired by the faith which was kindled in the breasts of our forefathers, we must go on. We shall, inspired by their faith, overcome someday.

During our meeting in Malaysia this July, 2011, one of the resolutions passed by The Baptist World Alliance was to encourage conventions and union churches, individuals and governments to adopt "The 10 Practices of Just Peace Making" in their leadership, policies and actions. The '10 Point Peace Plan includes support for nonviolent action; cooperative conflict resolution; promotion of human rights; religious liberty and democracy; economic development that is just and sustainable; a reduction in offensive weapons and weapons trade; support of grass-root peacemaking groups and voluntary associations; and strengthening of the United Nations and other international organization.

We endorse this RESOLUTION and our prayer is that these 10 practices be administered through-out the Region.



"In Step with the Spirit"

Baptists Gather in Malaysia

Over 300 persons representing World Baptists met in July 2011 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the BWA Annual Gathering under the theme, "In Step with the Spirit". The BWA general secretary, Rev. Dr Neville Callam, and the president, Dr John Upton, led the Gathering.

In a wonderful setting that encouraged fellowship, the Gathering began with a dinner offered by the Malaysian Baptist Convention (MBC). During the dinner, children from the Kuala Lumpur Baptist Church and Baptist Christians of indigenous tribes in Malaysia welcomed the world Baptist visitors with amazing performances. In greeting the guests, MBC chairman, Isaac Yim, said that the presence of the Baptist visitors would strengthen Baptists in Malaysia.

What followed thereafter was a six-day experience in which there was a range of thoughtful discussions and reflection on plans and reports of

Baptists networking to impact the world for Christ. The BWA Annual Gathering brought together Baptist leaders and delegates in meetings/sessions comprising BWA groups such as the General Council and the Executive Committee; executive sub-committees and divisional advisory committees; women's, men's, and youth departments; regional groupings; and commissions of the divisions of Freedom & Justice, Mission, and Evangelism & Theological Reflection.

A CBF Presence: CBF Members who attended the 2011 Gathering included

President William Thompson, Everton Jackson (EST) and BWA regional secretary; Gillian Francis, Director of Caribbean Christian Publications (CCP) and a member of the BWA Communications Advisory Committee; Yvonne Pitter, president of the CBF Women's Union; Peter Pinder, former EST, his wife Joyce, and representatives from the Jamaica Baptist Union (JBU) – Cawley Bolt, president; Karl Johnson and Merlyn Hyde Riley, general secretary and associate general secretary respectively; Stephen Jennings; Burchell Taylor – a vice president of the BWA; Owen Crooks – chairman of the BWA Men's Department; and Wilma Grandison, president of the JBU Women's Federation (JBUWF) and Karl James of Bethel Baptist Church. Also making connection at the Annual Gathering were former JBU ministers and their



CBF Contingent

wives who now reside in the USA: Delroy Reid and Mrs Reid, and Noel Erskine & Mrs Erskine.

At the Caribbean regional meeting, Neville Callam, BWA general secretary, accompanied by his wife Dulcie, gave a heart-felt appeal for the CBF to encourage the return to membership of inactive groups in the region. Eron

CBF News



The 49th Annual General Conference
of the TCI Baptist Union
July 6-10, 2011

CBF Women's Union Meets in Grenada
July 18-2011.

The 49th Annual General Conference of the Turks and Caicos Islands Baptist Union was held at the Mt Moriah Baptist Church in Conch Bar, Middle Caicos from July 6 – 10, 2011 under the theme, **In Step With The Spirit**. The Theme Scripture was Gal 5:1 - 16 and the theme song was "Keep Step With The Master".

Each day began with Prayer at 6:30 am and featured a **Walk in The Word** Bible Study conducted by Pastor Chad Archbold, Salem Baptist Church. Workshops had the delegates exploring the topics **Under-**

Snapshots from Conference 2011



Rev. Pedro
Williams

Evangelistic Service

standing Worship, led by Rev Derek Hamilton, Bethany Baptist Church, and **Discovering Spiritual Gifts**, led by Rev. John Malcolm, Mt Olivet Baptist Church in South Caicos.

At the nightly Evangelistic services, Rev. Luke Shaw, President Elect of the Jamaica Baptist Union expounded on this year's theme. He called for total surrender as he reminded the Church that the Spirit can't use what isn't fully surrendered. He made a call for a commitment to a life of attentiveness and obedience which will result in a life of love for God and neighbors. He called on the Church to recommit herself to being instruments of God.

Other highlights of this Year's Conference included a Presentation on **The Church's voice in National Issues** by Sis Sharlene Robinson, Youth Director and Chair of the Social Issues Committee and the reception of student Pastor Evan Williams who will be installed as the Pastor for the Middle Caicos circuit of Churches under the supervision of Rev. Derek Hamilton.

In the business sessions the 13 member Churches reported on their activities for the year, as did the various Departments of the Union. Rev. Pedro Williams and Dea. Lewlyn Handfield were returned as President and Vice President respectively. They will be assisted by Dea. Leonard Glasgow (Treasurer), Sis. Dottis Arthur (Women), Rev. Calvert Hamilton (Christian Education and Stewardship), Dea. Audley Higgs (Evangelism), Dea. Willette Swann (Men), Rev Dr Samuel Williams (Executive Secretary), Sis. Sharlene Robinson (Youth), Dr Darren Hall (Music) and Tito Missick (Electronic Media). A record number of resolutions were passed this year. Recognizing the need for the Church's voice, the Conference agreed to make representations on behalf of the people to the Governor, Foreign and Commonwealth's Office and other regional and international Christian Organizations.

Highlights of the closing service on the Sunday included President, Rev. Pedro Williams' challenge for delegates to allow their lives to be transformed, empowered and led by the Spirit.

The spice island of Grenada burst into excitement on Monday, July 18th, 2011 as Baptist women from Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands met for the 31st Assembly of the Annual Caribbean Baptist Women's Union Conference at the Grenadian by Rex Resort under the theme: "**In Step With The Spirit – God's Mercy**". The theme scriptures were Galatians 5:16-18 and Psalm 136: 1-9 & 23-26 (NIV).

At the "spicy" welcoming ceremony delegates and friends were treated to 'Grenada Flavor' through songs, dances and poetry. Greetings were brought by the Parliamentary Representative from South St. Georges, Minister of Ecclesiastes, Hon. Glynis Roberts. The following day, Tuesday, July 19, 2011 started with prayer at 5:30am, and after a hearty breakfast the Official Opening Ceremony began at 9:30 a.m. During the Roll Call, delegates proudly paraded their countries' flags and rose in turn to sing the National Anthems. A praise team, comprising ladies from represented islands led the singing. Deacon Yvonne Pitter, President of the Caribbean Baptist Women's Union chaired the service. Sis. Hyacinth Saunders of Trinidad offered prayer and Sis. Joan Beckford read the assigned scripture passages.

Other highlights included, the Grenadian ladies choir who sang: I Call You Holy and Holy Spirit Rain Down, and remarks from the Minister of Tourism of Grenada the Hon. Peter David who encouraged women to be more assertive and take up areas of leadership in places other than the home. Greetings were also brought by Rev. Royston Isaac, Moderator of the Granada Baptist Association, Rev. Stanford Simon on behalf of the Grenadian Conference of Churches, and Rev. Dr. Gloria Ferguson, President of the Bahamas Women's Union. Rev Moyston reminded the women to help make the region safer through their prayer, devotion, dedication and action and to pray for the men in their lives. Rev Stanford encouraged the delegates to enjoy their stay and use the time to



CBF Women's Union Conference

do God's business. Rev. Dr. Ferguson, using a sporting analogy, encouraged women to step up and bat with all their might. Grenadian youth did an interpretation of the theme in dance.

The tone for the rest of the conference was set by Rev. Everton Jackson, EST for the CBF, who urged all present to embrace the Christian Life – A Life of Conversion, A Life of Consecration, and a A Life of Control. The Celebration ended with the singing of the hymn, O Master Let me Walk With Thee. It was a fitting start to what was to prove a wonderful week of contemplation, fellowship and praise.

The Caribbean—A Mission Force

The following is Part 1 a presentation made by the Rev. Eron Henry, Associate Communications Director of the BWA and pastor of the Jamaica Baptist Union to the CBF Meeting at the BWA Annual Gathering in Malaysia. Part 2 will be published in the next edition of CBF Notes.



The literature is growing that shows that much of the numerical growth and dynamism in ministry in the Christian church is taking place in the Majority or Two Thirds World. BWA statistics indicate that such numeric growth is taking place particularly in Africa and Latin America, as well as in pockets of Asia, where there are great advancements in teaching, preaching and social ministries of the church.

The dynamism in numerical growth is not confined to persons living in countries in the Global South, but also among immigrant communities from these countries who reside in so-called First World countries. As such, in a number of countries, such as in Norway, Netherlands and the United States, significant church growth takes place among immigrants, making up part of what Christians in these so-called First World countries call ethnic churches, a horrible name if there was one.

Some Christians in the Global South see this as mission opportunity, and are beginning to send pastors from the home countries to the host countries to minister to these immigrants. There are, for instance, at least eight Baptist churches comprised primarily of persons of Ghanaian extract in the Northern Virginia area, relatively close to the BWA offices. I have been introduced to at least two such pastors who were sent to Virginia by the Ghana Baptist Convention for specific time periods to pastor in some of these congregations.

The Nigerian Baptist Convention has been sending pastors into the United Kingdom and other countries to minister to Nigerian immigrants.

Caribbean folk are well travelled. We have always been a migrant people, from travelling to work in the sugar fields of Cuba or Costa Rica to working on the Panama Canal or in the banana fields of the United Fruit Company, to going into large cities in the US, the UK, Canada, and elsewhere. But I am not convinced that we have done a good job in seeing Caribbean migrants in other countries as a mission field. Jamaica made good efforts in Panama among migrants there working on the Canal and with the United Fruit Company. But even there I feel that we dropped the ball.

For me, Horace Russell's brilliant book on Terrence Haddon Duncanson, Jamaican missionary to Panama in the first half of the 20th century, ended sadly, almost tragically. Because Duncanson did not believe the JBU and the Jamaica Baptist Missionary Society was committed to the work in Panama, he handed the churches over to the Southern Baptist Convention upon his retirement and return home to Jamaica in the 1940s.

Steve Mantle is a white Baptist pastor in Britain who pastored two Jamaican churches in England. He indicated how Jamaican immigrants were not welcomed into the churches on their arrival in Britain in the 1950s and 60s. Many of these folk were themselves active in church in Jamaica, perhaps having leadership positions in these churches, prior to leaving for Britain. They were lost. The stories I have heard of the Jamaican response to the situation suggest to me that the JBU did not appreciate the gravity of the situation and thus gave a lukewarm response.

Point of all this is that there is a readymade mission opportunity for Caribbean Baptists in countries where there are significant Caribbean immigrants, and Caribbean Baptists need to begin to look seriously at what the Nigerians, Ghanaians, and others are doing, in terms of actively servicing the needs of Caribbean immigrants in other countries. This is frowned on in some quarters in the home country, but such thinking is based on what one well known person among us once said to me, it may be seen as good theology to say that anybody should be able to find a church home wherever they are, but it is profoundly bad sociology.

"In Step" continued...

Henry, BWA associate communications director also addressed the group on "Making the Caribbean a Mission Force". He encouraged Baptists in the Caribbean to grasp mission opportunities among Caribbean immigrants in Europe, North America, and elsewhere.

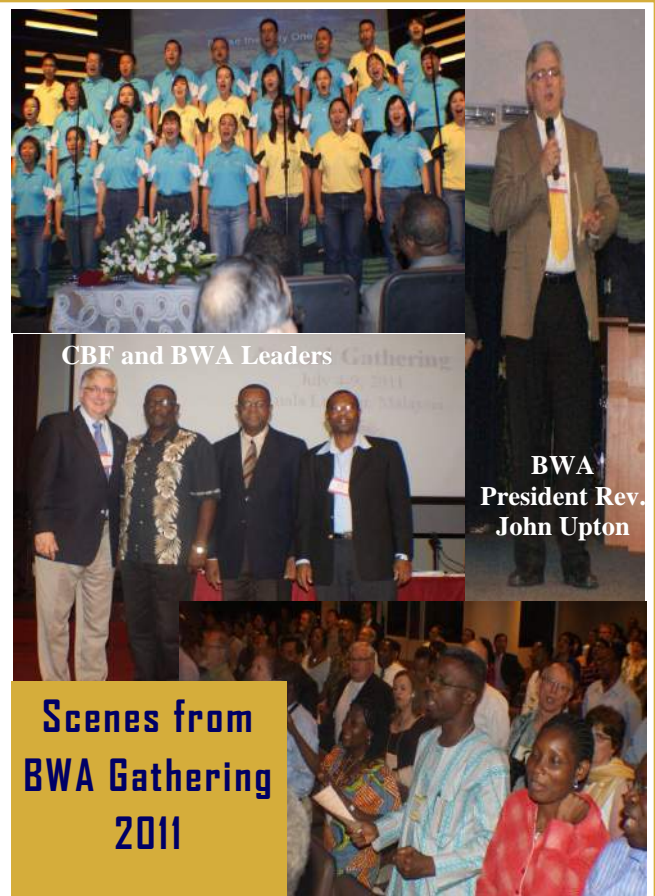
The highlights of the gathering were many. They included: the **BWA's acceptance of four new members** at its General Council Meeting: the Association of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Congo, the Baptist Churches Union Community of Congo, the Baptist Convention of Sudan and the Free Evangelical Baptist Church of the Central African Republic; and the presentation of the **BWA's Human Rights Award** to Wati Aier of India for helping to broker peace between three nationalist groups in Nagaland.

Resolutions passed by the BWA at the Gathering included the following:

- Encouraging conventions and unions, churches, individuals and governments to adopt "The 10 Practices of 'Just Peacemaking'".
- Endorsing the peace agreement signed by three Naga factions in the North-east Indian state of Nagaland in 2009.
- Condemning the violence taking place in sections of the Middle East and calling on Baptists to be engaged in informed and persistent prayer for the whole region," and to be involved in "active solidarity with all the Baptist communities there.
- Expressing concern regarding conflicts in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo due to the struggle for access to and control of the region's vast mineral resources.

The 2012 BWA Annual Gathering will be held in Santiago, Chile.

Thanks to Mrs. Gillian Francis (CCP) for this report.



Scenes from
BWA Gathering
2011



Send us an Email
caribbaptistfell@gmail.com

We will soon have our web
page up.



NEW

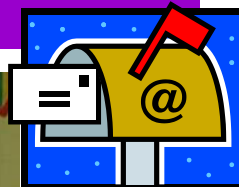
Caribbean Christian Publications (CCP) has published a new *Caribbean Bible Lessons* series! It is called **The Living the Word Series** and the first issue, September-December 2011, is now in circulation.

CCP produces Caribbean bible lessons for Caribbean people. CCP is an affiliate of the CBF. Send them an email at: info@ccpcbf.org or visit their website <http://www.ccpcbf.org> for more information

EST's Postcards



Grenada



CBF Notes...

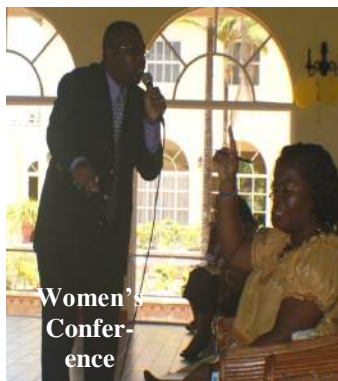
A new way to stay in touch.

It has been a great joy to meet and fellowship with Baptists from different cultures. This has been my experience in recent times. My first trip to Asia was necessitated by the convening of the Baptist gathering in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from July 4-9. The long and tedious journey was quickly forgotten in the face of warm fellowship, insightful and informative workshops and inspiring worship. In giving an account of the stewardship of the CBF to the global body, I gave visibility to highlights from our five year

plan. The focus of CBF over the remaining four years is to deliberately and systematically work towards organic and missional growth among other things.

I had the distinct honour of speaking at the opening session of the Caribbean Baptist Women's Union Conference held in Grenada from July 18 – 22, 2011. This was a thrilling experience as I witnessed first-hand the vibrancy and strength of our Caribbean women. Of a truth, our women continue to make an invaluable contribution to the growth and consolidation of Baptist witness in the region.

While in Grenada I grasped the opportunity to meet with the executive members of the Grenada Baptist Association. This thirty year old association boasts a total membership of 550 with five churches and two missions. Notwithstanding the many challenges, they are conscious of the opportunities for growth and mission enlargement. Our brothers and sisters in Grenada desire our partnership in mission and evangelism and training in order to make a more significant impact on their country.



Women's Conference

On Thursday July 21, 2011, I met with the leadership of Trinidad and Tobago Baptist Association and the Baptist Union of Trinidad and Tobago. It was a time of reminiscing as the senior leaders recalled the glory days of CBF. This kind of nostalgic recollection reinforced the need for Baptist unity and solidarity and led to a recommitment of those present to the support of CBF on behalf of their respective association/union. They also commit themselves to reactivate the fellowship of Baptist groups - a fellowship of five groups of similar beliefs – for fellowship and mission partnership.

It is beyond doubt that the future of CBF looks bright. Let us continue to spread the news abroad that CBF is alive and needs all hands on board.

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- Rev. Everton Jackson, Executive Secretary Treasurer, CBF



Trinidad & Tobago

Caribbean Baptist Youth

Coming Soon



KNUTSFORD COURT HOTEL
KINGSTON, JAMAICA

JULY 18-22, 2012

Cost: all inclusive package - Double occupancy - US\$550
Registration only: US\$100 (before February 29, 2012)