



# CBF Notes



## From the President's Desk A Christmas Message



**Rev. Dr. William L. Thompson**

As inconceivable and as incomprehensible as it seems another year has gone by so very quickly, and another Christmas season is upon us. The past year has been painful, yet eventful and epoch-making. Throughout our religion we have seen the proliferation of unabated criminal activities.

This year our Haitian brothers and sisters were once again challenged this time by the cholera disease.

This year we have had our Red Sea and our Gethsemane experience, but we have also had the presence, companionship and guiding hand of our God, who has promised never to leave his children alone.

I wish on behalf of my family to extend to all the people of the Caribbean especially those of the Baptist persuasion a Christ filled Christmas and the joy of He who once laid in a manger and is now sitting next to our Father in heaven.

It is my desire and prayer that as you celebrate this special season when we commemorate the birth of our Lord and Savior, that we pray for our respective countries and the CBF family that we truly live the Christmas message, which is love in action, by showing our commitment for the past, our care for the present and our hope for the future.

I also wish to thank EST Everton Jackson and the entire executive team for their unflinching support to the work and the people around the Caribbean. What a comforting thought to know that we are truly laborers together with one another and with God.

I shall never forget the magnificent display of solidarity during this past year. Again I wish to say how profoundly grateful I am to each and every one of you.

May Almighty God set His stamp of approval upon the work assigned to CBF and may we have His peace constantly abiding in us with one another in the coming year.

**Merry Christmas!**

### CBF Notes...

A way to stay in touch.

We need your help. Here is what you can do...

- > Distribute this as widely as possible.
- > Post on your church's bulletin board.
- > Send contributions about what is happening at your church.
- > Join our mailing list.
- > Pray for us.

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## The Caribbean—A Mission Force

## Part 2

The following is Part 2 of 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 earlier this year. Part 1 was published in the previous edition of CBF Notes.

*In Part 1 Rev. Henry noted that the literature was growing that showed that much of the numerical growth and dynamism in ministry in the Christian church was taking place in the Majority or Two Thirds World. He suggested that the "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." We pick up from there.*

And this brings me to another area of potential cooperation in mission. Another model that Caribbean Baptists can look at is that of UBLA, the Union of Baptists in Latin America, the Latin American counterpart to the CBF. Baptists in Latin America are cooperating with Baptists in the United States in mis-

sion. UBLA even made a decision that the BWA does not support, but I cite it to show the level of seriousness in their quest to cooperate. Membership in UBLA is no longer confined to geographical location, but can now be based on culture and affinity as well, which means churches in the United States, and potentially

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## From the EST's Desk

# CBF

"Christmas is a time embraced by the Christian community to celebrate the reality of the birth of Christ the Messiah. Following on the advent season with its strong focus on hope, Christmas gives visibility to the message of peace, love and joy, critical components of the fruit of the Spirit possessed by the followers of Christ. As we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, may we seek to strengthen our fellowship as Caribbean Baptists as we demonstrate our love in practical endeavours and community solidarity. Over the last quarter, the CBF continues to experience renewed energy and vitality as deliberate attempts have been made to reengage Caribbean Baptists at various levels.

### CBF Executive Meeting

The CBF Executive members met over two days at its Balmoral office in Jamaica from October 19 to 20, 2011 to receive various ministry reports and make plans for the future. At this meeting, a number of proposals were decided on that will redound to the ongoing renewal of the Fellowship. Among these are:

- Guidelines governing "Friends of the CBF." This policy will allow for individuals and churches that have shown particular interest in the work of the CBF to contribute directly to its budget or render special service to the CBF.



The CBF Executive hard at work

- The development of a Centre for Caribbean Baptist Studies in collaboration with the United Theological College of the West Indies. Among the goals of this centre will be to collect and store documentation in all forms of Caribbean Baptist life and work, history and thought as well as to encourage research into all aspects of Baptist life and work both in the Caribbean region and the Caribbean Diaspora in Europe and North America as well as areas

in Central and South America peopled by descendants of Caribbean peoples.

- A Ministry Development Programme targeting pastors and church leaders in the Caribbean region for leadership development and more effective engagement in mission within the local church. Among the core courses to be delivered through seminars and short residential training are Interpreting the Bible through the Caribbean Experience, Understanding Worship and Conducting Worship, Mission Engagement in the Caribbean, Preaching, Exploring Ethical Issues, Pastoral Care and Counselling, among others.

The Executive also approved an implementation schedule with clearly defined goals, objectives, timelines and outcomes up to 2015. Over this period, the CBF pledges to:

- Resuscitate its website or create a new one
- Construct a prayer calendar to enable the creation of an environment of prayerful solidarity among the region
- Broaden the scope of its communication committee to provide translation for both printed material and presentations at meetings and conferences
- Provide ongoing training for Pastors and church leaders
- Promote the growth and development of Caribbean Christian Publications
- Establish a Social Justice Commission
- Establish a CBF Foundation and
- Reorganize CBF in administrative areas or districts.

### CCP Honoured Pinder and Wood

On October 20, the closing day of the CBF Executive, the Caribbean Christian Publications showered accolades on the Rev. Peter Pinder and the Rev. Vincent Wood who was represented by his wife Mrs. Jacinth Wood for their sterling contributions to the CCP as members of the Board for many years. Both men were lauded by the Rev, Karl Henlin, chairman of the Board for their commitment to the vision and work of CCP.



Mrs. Jacinth Wood receiving a plaque for Rev. Vincent Wood from Rev. Karl Johnson.



Rev. Peter Pinder Wood receiving a plaque from Mrs. Gillian Francis.

The CCP will be welcoming to its staff the Rev. Marvia Lawes on January 1, 2012 as Assistant Administrator who will be understudying the current Administrator, Mrs. Gillian Francis who will not be renewing her contract when it expires August 2012. Let us pray for a

### EST Spoke at Opening Service of Guyana Baptist Convention Assembly

The honour was mine to preach at the Opening Service of the Guyana Baptist Convention Assembly which was held October 14 - 16, 2011. Baptists came together for worship, fellowship and business under the theme: "In Step with the Spirit" under the leadership of their President the Rev. Stephen Goomes. During my visit I held talks with the Executive of the Convention and discussed a number of issues including GBC support of CBF and how the CBF could be of support to the Baptist work in Guyana.

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smooth transition in the leadership of CCP and that the Rev Miss Lawes will acquit herself favourably and satisfactorily.

### Stewardship Month

The month of November was observed as Stewardship month. The CBF circulated a series of Bible studies on Stewardship prepared by the Rev. Dr. Michael Friday as well as a Sermon outline prepared by the Rev. Jonathan Hemmings to member bodies for dissemination to their churches.

### Delegation from the Cayman Islands Baptist Church

I received a delegation from the Cayman Islands Baptist Church comprising of Rev. Randall L.Von Kanel, Pastor and Mr. Malcolm Davies, chairman for International Missions to discuss how their church could be involved in the CBF and how the CBF could assist in the reorganization of their local Association. It was a profitable and productive meeting as both men left with a greater understanding of the CBF and a commitment to be more involved. Let us pledge to pray for the Baptist work in the Cayman Islands and unity among Baptists.



EST and Cayman delegation



EST and the new Executive of the Guyana Baptist Convention



EST addresses the Opening Service



A section of the congregation

### Scenes From Guyana

# EST

## CBF Contiued...

### Looking Ahead

In 2012, there will be three important assemblies of Baptists as outlined:

- The Caribbean Baptist Youth Fellowship will be held from July 25-29, 2012 under the theme **"Sold Out: Fully His"** at the Knutsford Court Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica.
- The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Caribbean Baptist Women's Union will be held from July 18-22, in Nassau, Bahamas
- The CBF Mid-Term Assembly will be held from August 22-26, 2012 in Antigua under the them, **"In Step with the Spirit - Lifestyle Christianity"**

As we look to the future, let us pledge to continue working together for the strengthening and development of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship to the glory of God. God's blessings to all for 2012.

Everton Jackson

## The Caribbean—A Mission Force

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in Europe and Africa, could be part of UBLA.

As an aside, this decision by UBLA holds significance for the CBF. I've been to UBLA meetings where leaders from the Eastern Baptist Convention in Cuba and Dominican Republic Baptists were present. I have never seen these conventions represented in any CBF meeting.

I am not saying that the CBF should be as errant as UBLA in that regard, but I say all that to make a point. Are there ways of cooperation between Caribbean Baptists residing in Europe and North America for instance, and Caribbean Baptists in the Caribbean? What of cooperation between CBF and Baptists in the US, along with a national Baptist union, such as the Guyana Baptist Convention? If that is already happening, it needs to be accelerated.

I was in Haiti in March, and one of the things I discovered was that the Northern Haiti Christian University, owned by the Haitian Baptist Convention, is training more pastors than they actually need, in terms of church vacancies. Jules Casseus, university president, cited this as a problem and concern. Is it feasible for CBF to enter into cooperation with the convention or the university or both for Haitian pastors to serve in parts of the Caribbean, for specific periods of time? This could be arranged as part of the continued training of these Haitian graduates, in much the same way that

Jamaican Baptist pastors serve an additional two years as part of their training after leaving UTCWI.

Cuba is perhaps the country in the Caribbean with the most dynamic numeric growth among Baptists. The growth does not happen by accident, but through much attention to the spiritual disciplines of prayer and study as well as dynamic worship, which we witnessed while there in March 2010. The house church movement is also a significant reason for the growth of the church in Cuba. Can CBF and Cuban Baptists cooperate in mission, drawing on their strengths in the house church movement, and so on?

Caribbean Baptists need not confine themselves to mission only among Caribbean immigrants whether in the Caribbean or elsewhere. The Chekasing Baptist Church Council in Nagaland in Northeast India has more than 300 missionaries in several Indian states, as well as in Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, Bangladesh and other countries. Caribbean Baptists have unique gifts that the world needs. A thing that Brazilian and other Baptists are doing is sending professionals such as teachers and medical doctors to work in other countries. It is seen as part of the mission enterprise.

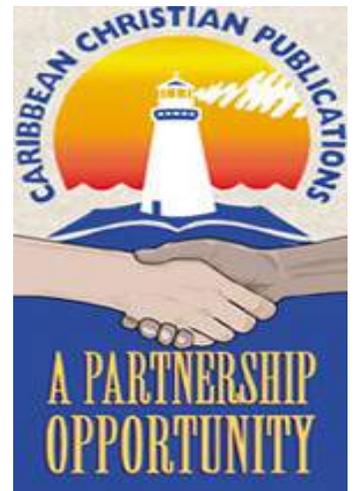
There is no shortage of mission opportunities for Caribbean Baptists, many of

CBF Notes...

A way to stay in touch.



Please note our Email  
[caribbaptistfell@gmail.com](mailto:caribbaptistfell@gmail.com)



Contact Caribbean Christian Publications (CCP) today to see how you can partner with them to ensure God's word reaches everybody in the Caribbean and beyond. Contact them also for your 2011 Vacation Bible School or Sunday School needs. Caribbean bible lessons for Caribbean people. CCP is an affiliate of the CBF. Send them an email at: [info@ccpcbf.org](mailto:info@ccpcbf.org) or visit their website <http://www.ccpcbf.org>.

which include cooperation among Caribbean Baptists themselves.

