



CBF NEWS

A publication of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship Youth Department

JAN.—MARCH 2010

CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean Baptist Fellowship General Assembly held in Montego Bay, Jamaica from March 18–21, 2010 proved to be a rich time of fellowship, under the theme “On being church in the Caribbean”.



The Assembly officially started on Thursday evening with greetings from Rev. Cawley Bolt, President of the Jamaica Baptist Union (JBU) and Rev. Dr. Neville Callam, Secretary of Baptist World Alliance. Rev. Dr. Burchell Taylor (Jamaica) delivered the message, using Nehemiah 1:2–4 and 2:4–5 as his base text. He charged those in attendance to cultivate a culture of daring, a concept of belonging, a concern for rebuilding and the capacity for trusting. With such a challenge we retired



Rev. Dr. Burchell Taylor

to bed and arose early the next morning to Bible study led by Rev. Vincent Wood (Barbados), followed by a thought-provoking presentation by Rev. Garnet Roper (Jamaica). He was guided by the sub-theme “The Church: Imitators or Innovators?” He surmised that the church is called to be both—imitators of Christ and innovative in the presentation of the gospel.

Rev. Dr. Stephen Jennings, Immediate Past President of the JBU, explored “What’s so special about being Caribbean Baptist?” He indicated that we have a heritage of Christ-centred faith. However, we need to become historically aware, theo-politically astute,

culturally assertive and technologically active.

The day culminated with a panel presentation led by Rev. Dr. Glenroy Lalor (Jamaica) on “Strangers in the Midst”, addressing the matter of practicing hospitality.

What a wonderful day we had, worshipping, learning and sharing.

Saturday proved to be

just as interactive, informative and spirit-filled. Rev. Norva Rodney (Jamaica) was our Bible Study teacher and using Lamentations 3 as his text challenged us to remember lessons learnt from past experiences, recognise and rehearse truths gleaned from God’s gracious expression towards us and reaffirm God’s revelation to us.

With the diversity that exist within the Caribbean are we “being a part or being apart”? This was the topic which Rev. Deonie Duncan (Jamaica) sought to elaborate on in her presentation. As she indicated, there are several

factors which cause us to be a part (separate). These include geographical, historical and theological. However, there are factors which cause us to be apart (together) and these include our common experiences (shape, size, setting, slavery, colonization), our new testament ministry (plurality, community), nature of the body of Christ (Triune God). As a community of Caribbean Baptists we need to cooperate through ecumenical partnerships, resource sharing and association-

alism.

Following such riveting presentations it was time to elect the new executive which would guide the operations of the CBF for the next four years. Rev. Dr. William Thompson (Bahamas) was charged with the awesome responsibility. After serving for 15 years as Executive Secretary Treasurer, Rev.



Rev. Peter Pinder

Peter Pinder (Bahamas) will demit office in July and Rev. Everton Jackson (Jamaica) will succeed him.

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They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teachings and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer. All the believers were together and had everything in common.



Bible Quote

Acts 2:42 & 44 (NIV)

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The youths took centre-stage in the evening and hosted a youth rally at the Calvary Baptist Church. Though the turnout was less than expected, those in attendance were treated to dance, drama, song and the spoken word. Rev. Clinton Minnis, President of the CBF Youth Department, made

reference to Star Trek in his challenge to Caribbean youths to “boldly go where no one has gone before”. The evening ended with special guest artiste Mrs. Felecia Skyers-Blake & Company performing original as well as popular songs.

Attendees were transported to a higher place of praise and worship.

We returned to Calvary on Sunday for our closing service. At that time, there was the installation of our new President and Executive Secretary Treasurer. Rev. Peter Pinder delivered the message appropriately titled

“What an opportunity”. Indeed. What an opportunity it was to fellowship together as Caribbean people.



Meet the New Executive

| | |
|---|---|
| President | Rev. Dr. William Thompson |
| Vice Presidents | Sis. Jacinth Wood, Rev. Dominique Dick, Rev. Lincoln Conner |
| Executive Secretary/Treasurer | Rev. Everton Jackson |
| Evangelism/Mission | Rev. Michael Shim-Hue |
| Communications | Dr. Michael Taylor |
| Men’s Dept. | Rev. David Serrant |
| Women’s Union | Sis. Yvonne Pitter |
| Consultants | Rev. Vincent Wood, Rev. Peter Pinder |
| Recording Secretary | Sis. Celia McKoy |
| Caribbean Christian Publications Trustees | Rev. Karl Henlin, Rev. Anselm Warrick, Rev. Karl Johnson, Sis. Stephanie Burrows, Sis. Lisa Rocke, Rev. Trevor Edwards, Sis. Tisha Allen-Jack |



To the youths of the Caribbean

Congratulations to the new youth executives on the professionalism and the work done so far and the vision going forward. I pledge the full support of the parent body for the youth of the region. Baptist youths, be proud of your heritage and unashamed of being Baptist. I am born a Baptist, raised a Baptist and will be a Baptist gone when I die. You will be integral in the future planning of the CBF and will not be left behind.

~ Rev. Dr. William Thompson

Tempted to Touch

The Deliverance Baptist Church of Dominica held its Annual Youth Rally on the 29th of January 2009. The main speaker was Reverend Clinton Minnis. Young people from about eight different local churches attended the annual rally. It was a night of drama, special music, praise and worship and a powerful interactive message from Reverend Minnis.

His Message was entitled “Tempted To Touch”. He delivered a very effective

personal testimony. Minnis gave his life to Christ at a very early age but it was not easy for him to give up some of his bad habits. As a young DJ at the time when God saved him it took a dramatic *incident* to help him come to his senses. Many time times he was tempted to touch- to go back to his old habits. The message was brought alive when Minnis unconventionally used his audience to facilitate clarity and understanding of his message. One could actually

feel the impact this had on the young people since they were glued to their seats listening intently.

During the altar call, many persons went to recommit their lives. Some went to invite Jesus into their lives while others just went to be prayed for. Rev. Minnis has truly been an inspiration to young people on the island of Dominica. I still

hear persons refer to his message from time to time.

~Peter Panthier
 CBYF Director
 (Arts & Performance)



Amidst the struggles...let your light SHINE!

Rev. Minnis visited Barbados the weekend of Saturday 30th to Sunday 31st January 2010. On Saturday, he met with a few teenagers of the Emmanuel Baptist Church and thereafter conducted a leadership session with the adult leaders/mentors. He encouraged the teenagers to commit to the work of the ministry in order to bring their friends to Christ. He acknowledged that all of us have struggles and he shared his personal testimony.



Strategy of Detoxification

He encouraged them to ask God, “*what kind of strategy can you give me to reach the lost for you?*” He emphasized the need of acknowledging Jesus, who wants to become Lord and ruler in our

lives. However, in order for this to be accomplished we need to be de-toxed spiritually, to serve Christ effectively as it takes the power of the Holy Spirit for successful detoxification.

God’s Ambassadors

In the leaders section he spoke from 2 Cor. 5: 11-21 where leaders were admonished in various areas. Understanding they are God’s ambassadors as youth leaders, secondly, knowing their motivation, thirdly evaluating our philosophy and accepting the call of our ministry, embracing a vibrant communication strategy and finally affirming we are not alone in the race

As God’s ambassadors we need to be interested in winning the lost for Christ and because this is such critical work we must work hard. Secondly, when we consider our motivation we must realize sacrifices are to be made to accomplish the tasks

and thirdly, from our philosophy we must evaluate our perspective on the ministry. In addition, we must understand our ministry is about reconciliation and our approach may need to be different from approaches in the past. Then we must understand our communication strategies for example, learn the “lingo” of the teenagers and others we wish to win for Christ. Finally, remember we are not alone for we are God’s partners, his “marketing representatives” and He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us, therefore we must represent our product well. Questions which we must ask in self-analysis are:

- What is our ministry all about?
- Are people into what we’re selling?
- What is the value of our stock?
- Are they accepting our

Jesus?
 On Sunday his dynamic message forcefully focused on letting your light shine and winning friends to Jesus Christ. Rev. Minnis called all teenagers and young adults to come to the altar and pray for spiritual empowerment and willingness to do God’s will this year. Overall, the youth and members of the Emmanuel Baptist Church enjoyed the visit by Rev. Clinton Minnis and look forward to continuing the bond created and working along with him in developing the youth fellowship of the Eastern Caribbean in 2010 and beyond.

~Joy-Ann Wood
 CBYF Director
 (Eastern)

A desire to rebuild

The youths of Trinidad hosted Rev. Clinton Minnis on February 1st, for an evening to meet and discuss issues affecting the youth ministries here in Trinidad and to offer ideas and suggestions on ways to move forward.

It was mentioned to those in attendance that the CBF General Assembly will be held in Jamaica on March 18th to 21st, where discussion on those said issues and suggestions are expected to be raised and addressed. We discussed the possibility of having regional connections for instance a South-East connection and a North-West connection. The vision is to continue to foster a stronger communication with the many friendships that were made

during the last festival and to maintain the connection so as to ignite a desire in other youths who did not have the opportunity to experience it and would now like to do so for the upcoming festival.



One issue that was specific to us (Trinidad) was the rebuilding of our Baptist Union Youth Department (BUYD). Rev. Minnis suggested that we develop a motivation for rebuilding the department. He said that the motivation needs to come from certain things, for instance:

- The love of God
- Reevaluation of our approach
- Reconciliation of our communication strategy

Those, and some other points, were very useful. In fact, on February 20th the BUYD held a meeting to reignite the department and as a result, a committee was formed to start the process.

I hope that Rev. Minnis enjoyed his stay here in Trinidad, even though it was a short one and I pray that God continues to use him in his capacity to motivate and encourage young people and also win souls for His heavenly kingdom.

~Jody Guerero
 CBYF Director
 (Eastern)

CBF YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 26—28
 CBF Youth Weekend (Florida)

JULY Jul 28—Aug 1
 20th Baptist World Alliance Congress (Hawai'i)

We want to hear of your upcoming events. Drop us a line and help us fill out our Youth calendar.

DROP US A LINE

The Caribbean Baptist Fellowship Youth Department

Email: cbfyouth@gmail.com

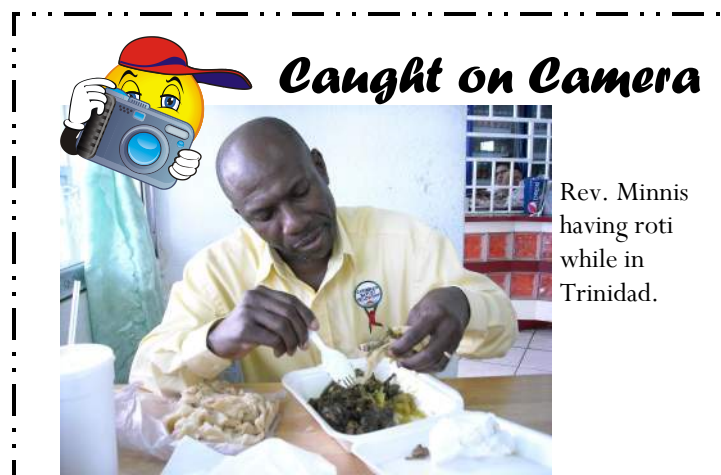
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The Youth Department wishes to express our heartiest congratulations to Minister Deno Cartwright who has been appointed as the new Youth Director of Bahamas. We pledge our prayerful support as you seek to serve God in your new office.



Please pray for...

- ◆ CBF Youth weekends
- ◆ Plans of the Youth Department
- ◆ CBF New Executive

- ◆ Persons affected by earthquakes and other natural disasters