



Happy Easter

Honor the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for us all.

CBF NOTES

CBF Notes...

Caribbean Baptists' way of staying in touch.

We will always need your help in the following ways:

- Distribute *CBF Notes* as widely as possible.
- Forward the *CBF Notes* to your email contacts.
- Post a hard copy of the *CBF Notes* on your church's bulletin board.
- Send us contributions about what is happening at your National body and individual churches.
- Join our mailing list by sending your email address to us.
- Pray for us

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Happy Easter

FROM THE CBF PRESIDENT'S DESK



EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE CBF PRESIDENT

My Caribbean sisters and brothers, I embrace this opportunity with joy to extend Easter greetings on behalf of my wife, Betty. Normally around this time, various activities are held to mark this significant moment in the life of the Christian Church. In some traditions, worship is offered to God on Good Friday in addition to the usual Easter worship on the Sunday following.

Among the significant themes associated with Easter is love. The apostle, Paul, reminds us, God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). This love is not an affectionate emotion or erratic in nature. It is God's redemptive goodwill extended to all despite gender, social class or race.

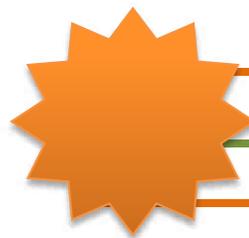
Rev. Dr. Willam Thompson

The ultimate expression of love is the cross, where freedom from bondage to sin and the Old Covenant is attained. Paul reminds us, Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us... (Galatians 3:13).

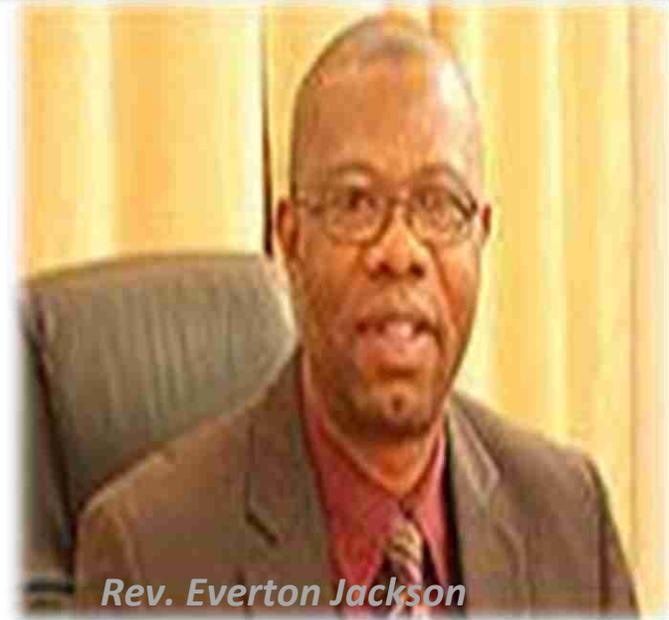
I urge you, my Caribbean family, to make a renewed commitment to love during this Easter season. This, I believe, will minimize, if not eliminate, instances of reprisal, violence and aggression at all levels. When we rise to love at the level of God's love, I am confident that we will be more tolerant with each other, despite our differences. The world in which we live needs to see demonstrated, through Christian living, sacrificial love so that we might all contribute to the creation of a more conducive environment for peace, justice and equity.

May the love of the cross and the victory of the tomb inspire hope in this hopeless world!

William Thompson (Rev. Dr.)



FROM THE CBF EST DESK



Rev. Everton Jackson

EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE CBF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/TREASURER

I bring you Easter greetings from the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship on behalf of the Executive Body. Easter is a very important moment in the life of the Christian community. It is a time when the death of Christ is observed and His resurrection celebrated.

Easter is being observed at a time when the cross seems to have been taken out of the Christian experience. The emphasis being placed on prosperity by some sections of the Christian community seems to have created a lopsided view of the Christian faith. One gets the impression that suffering has no place in the experience of the children of God. If healing does not take place, it reflects the need for more faith. If there is deprivation in terms of financial or material possession, it reveals a need for the sowing of more seeds. If there is persecution and tribulation, it shows up one's faith.

Easter reminds us that the Christian faith holds in tension the cross and the resurrection. Intrinsic to the life of the disciple is the cross, which connotes the idea of suffering and sacrifice. The Christ of passion did not negotiate the cross experience. Instead, He bore the cross in obedience to the sovereign will of His Father. In teaching the disciples on the subject of discipleship, Jesus said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

The cross, however, is not the end of the Christian's experience. The other side of the Easter coin is the resurrection which gives visibility to the theme of victory. This shows that the cross does not have the last word. In predicting His death, Jesus gave the assurance that He would rise again on the third day. The comfort which can be drawn from this assurance is that our suffering days are numbered because the Christ of passion leads us from victory to victory.

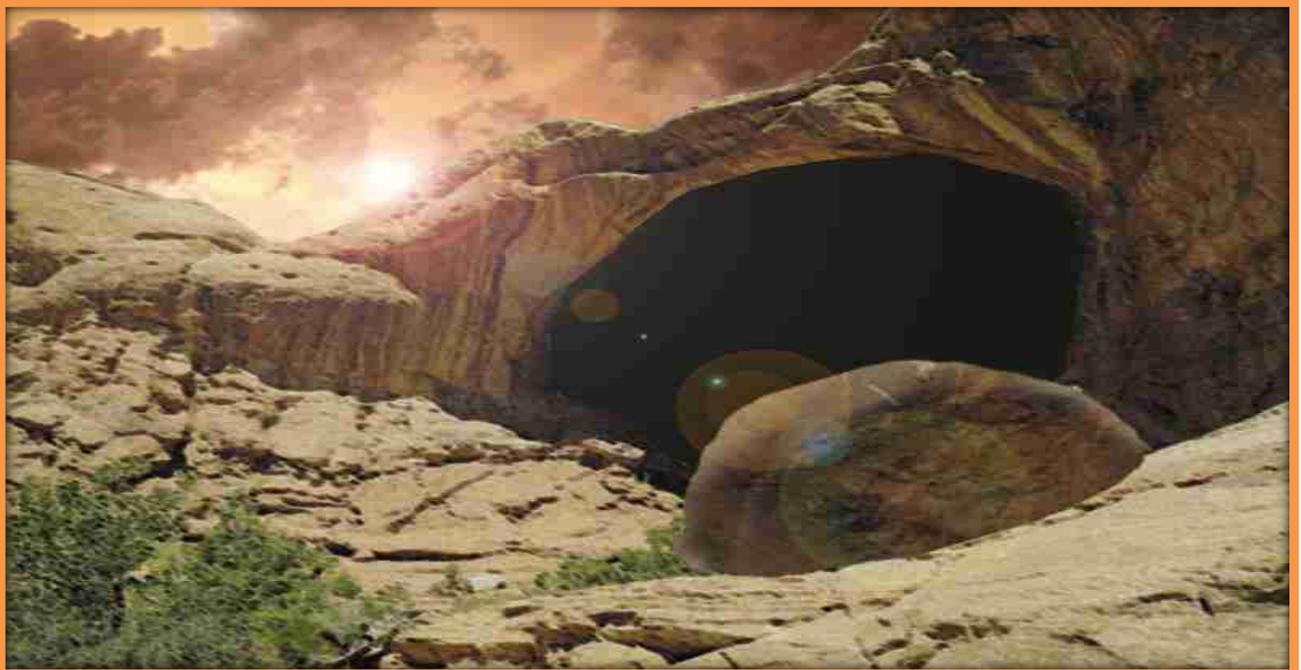
While it is true, therefore, that victory is available to the people of God over undesirable circumstances, it must be understood that the Christian faith embraces both the cross and the resurrection, meaning suffering and victory. As we observe the death of Christ and celebrate His resurrection, let us not be



FROM THE CBF EST DESK (cont'd)

carried away by overemphasizing one over the other as both the cross and the resurrection are essential to the Christian journey.

Everton Jackson (Rev.)
Executive Secretary/Treasurer





FROM THE MEN'S DEPARTMENT

BE RENEWED BY THE RESURRECTION!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CBF MEN'S DEPARTMENT

The joyous refrain that will be heralded from our churches on Resurrection Sunday is in great contrast to the first resurrection morning, which was greeted with distress, uncertainty and, to an extent, doubt. We may never fully understand the confusion with which the early visitors to Jesus' tomb were confronted when they discovered that the stone had been rolled away, revealing an empty tomb. But upon hearing the heavenly messengers: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but is arisen", they experienced renewed hope.

For us, the revelation that Jesus rose from the dead is an accepted fact and key to our redemption; but for the first receivers, the information must have been difficult to accept, for they had watched Jesus die on a cross days earlier, and they knew that death was final. They dared to believe the impossible — for this was something they did not fully understand or could explain — that Jesus, who had died, was now alive. They left the tomb that morning with overwhelming joy, which compelled them to spread the tidings that "He is alive!"

Today, we are challenged by those early visitors to the tomb to believe the impossible in our Christian walk. For many of us men of the Caribbean, and more so of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship, we are challenged by events and attitudes around us, which appear to be hopeless or dead. May the message of Christ's resurrection bring renewed hope and vision that will transcend the issues which confront us, and energize our witness for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Event:

- Plans are in the making for a men's conference in 2016. I encourage men to begin to pray for the Lord's guidance in this.
- Men's groups around the region are encouraged to join the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) Men's Department in observing Men's Day of Prayer on April 25, 2015.

David Serrant (Rev.)

For information, contact Rev. David C. Serrant, President – CBF Men's Department.

Email: serrantd@cwdom.dm Telephone: 767-235-9302

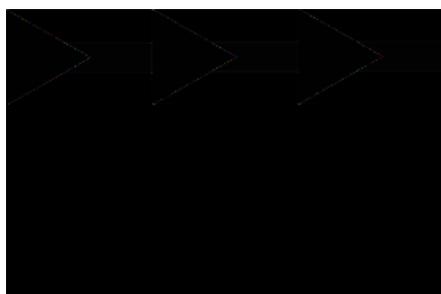
EASTER IN THE CARIBBEAN

EASTER IN PARTS OF THE CARIBBEAN

Thirteen sovereign states and 17 independent territories share space in a body of water known as the Caribbean Sea. Internationally, their peoples are identified as being Caribbean natives; but within the region, we seek to establish our own individual identities. This is done through dialect, accents, food, traditional dress, cultural practices and the uniqueness of each landscape. Member states spend an inordinate amount of their resources marketing their country as the jewel of the Caribbean. But are we really as different as we purport to be?

Easter represents a significant time in the Christian Church. We recall the suffering of Christ as He sought to fulfil His mandate as Saviour of the world. Holy Week, in particular Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday are steeped in traditions in the Caribbean and that is where, if we look closely, we find that we are more alike than we are different. Let us briefly look at Easter traditions in a few of our member states.

The Bahamas



Good Friday is especially somber. Church-goers dress in dark colours and there is an air of mourning as they relive the painful sacrifice of the Saviour. Many churches have a literal hour-by-hour retelling of the story; so be prepared for a long, emotion-filled service. Then... Easter Sunday! The heavy-heartedness of Lent is forgotten as the church bells peal and Christians gather to celebrate the Resurrection. Many churches hold sunrise services at the beach or in other large open areas. Bahamians take delight in dressing in their very best for this most special day. The services are lively, joyous, and often lengthy. Easter Monday is the start of the local beach season. A picnic is the traditional way to spend the day. They are usually either church groupings or family gatherings, and a few are company-sponsored events

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EASTER IN THE CARIBBEAN (cont'd)

Barbados



The smell of Hot Cross Buns mean Easter is here! They are traditionally eaten on Good Friday. The icing cross on the top of the buns signifies the crucifixion. Bajans believe that it is bad luck to go swimming in the ocean on Good Friday. They do not eat red meat on Good Friday, as it is the day of Crucifixion and red meat symbolizes blood. Many eat and enjoy local fish, whether it be *mahi mahi* or flying

fish. Sunday lunches are a large part of the Barbadian culture so you can imagine what an Easter Sunday lunch is like. It is filled with traditional Barbadian cuisine such as flying fish, *cou cou*, peas and rice, stew and much more! Not only is the day about food, it is also about enjoying it with family and, of course, attending church that day. On Easter Monday, there is an Easter Kite Flying Competition at the Garrison Savannah are prizes are offered for the largest to the smallest to the most unusual kite!



Jamaica



Probably the most common feature of Easter in Jamaica is the eating of bun and cheese. Easter buns are made with lots of spices, dried fruits and stout. The dough is shaped in the form of a loaf, which when baked is wrapped in cellophane and sometimes packed in decorative boxes. Another common practice at Easter time is attending church on Good Friday and on Easter Sunday. On Good Friday, congregants generally dress in black to attend the three-hour service which usually begins at noon. The black is symbolic of the death of Christ. On Easter Sunday, however, the

colour of choice is white, in celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Two of the more interesting practices associated with Easter in Jamaica is the setting of an egg to predict one's future and the cutting of the

EASTER IN THE CARIBBEAN (cont'd)

physic nut tree at noon on Good Friday. For the first, the white of an egg is placed in a glass of water prior to the sun rising on Good Friday. As the sun rises, a pattern is formed by the egg white — for instance, of a ship or aircraft or a coffin. Locals believe that this is indicative of what will happen in the future of the person who set the egg white – travel or death. Easter Monday is usually marked by overcrowded beaches as families flock to the shores for a day of fun and frolic.



Trinidad & Tobago



Food is an integral part of Easter celebrations in Trinidad. On Good Friday, the menu is often fish, fresh or salted, served with boiled ground provisions. In contrast, Easter Sunday lunch is elaborate, with hams, baked pork and roast chicken. Hot Cross Buns are also a traditional Easter treat. In many communities, you may also see the traditional beating of the Good Friday bobolee, an effigy symbolic of Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Christ. It is placed at a public location and anyone who

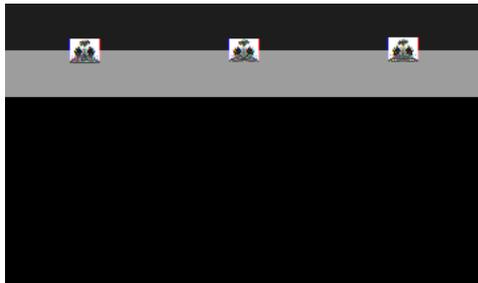
passes is welcomed to “beat the bobolee” with sticks, kicks or slaps. Another Easter tradition is the flying of kites, made easier by the strong breezes at this time of year. Kites were traditionally diamond shaped with wooden cross struts in the shape of a cross and so symbolizing the cross on which Jesus died. Their flying in the sky symbolized His ascension into heaven. Easter bonnet parades and Easter egg hunts are also quite popular.

It is evident here that some traditions are common across countries. While we each seek to establish uniqueness, let us not forget those things which make us who are – **ONE CARIBBEAN PEOPLE** – and which make us truly different from the rest of the world.



EASTER IN THE CARIBBEAN (cont'd)

Haiti



Easter weekend is a time of great celebration. As in some other aspects of Haitian life, it's a combination of Catholic and voodoo tradition. Besides personal reflections and attending worship services focused on the last days of Christ on Earth among the evangelical churches, Haitian Easter observances also include a procession in which Catholic observances and *rara* bands play a central role. (*Rara* bands are groups of people dressed in colorful clothes as they dance and sing in the streets from Good Friday to Easter Sunday.) One of the most important parts of the Easter tradition is the meal. Most of the families in both rural and urban areas eat fish and rice cooked with white beans and beets root on Good Friday. No one, neither Catholic nor Protestant, would put red meat on the table on Good Friday. On Good Friday, generally food is served at noon. The table is covered with a clean white tablecloth purchased or put in service just for the occasion. During dinnertime, boys are often missing, as they are scattered all around, wandering about with their friends and involved in making and flying kite.



WHAT EASTER MEANS (B.E.S.T)

WHAT EASTER MEANS

BETHANY'S EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL TRAINING
(B.E.S.T)

Bethany's Educational and Social Training (B.E.S.T.) Institute is an affiliate of Bethany Baptist Church, which is one of the churches in the Turks and Caicos Islands Baptist Union (TCIBU). A group of primary school students was asked the question: What does Easter mean to you?



Here are some of their responses:

- Easter means a lot to me. Easter means the day of resurrection to me. I celebrate it every year. It doesn't mean about the Easter eggs. It is more. Malachi *(11 years old)*
Easter means the celebration of the crucifixion of Jesus and His resurrection. Maxime (11 years old)
- Easter is one of the best months in the year to me and this is because it is the day after my birthday. Khalesh (12 years old).



WHAT EASTER MEANS (B.E.S.T) cont'd

- Easter means that Christ Jesus was crucified and gave His blood for me and after three days he was resurrected from the grave and went to heaven and sits at the right side of God. Judeline (11 years old)

To me, Easter means when Jesus died on the cross for my sins. This is because we all have sinned and come short of God's glory and Jesus' blood washed all my sins away. Rodiesha (11 years old).

- Easter means it is time to celebrate the resurrection and a holiday and crucifixion and a day to go to church. Tylere (8 years old).
- Easter means to me like when you sad or happy or embarrassed or surprised or when you got trouble. Guinsly (10 years old).



- Easter is when Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and His resurrection. And it shows us how much He loves us. Drihanna (8 years old).

For me, Easter is the best holiday in the year. I like Easter because you can go to Miami and visit your friend. Maybe you like Easter more than I do. Sean (9 years old).

- Easter is when you hide stuff so people will find stuff and when you do not have school. Cameron (8 years old).

WHAT EASTER MEANS (B.E.S.T) cont'd

- **Easter means a tradition and the Sunday before Jesus died and the day when he had his crucifixion and then his resurrection. Miracle (8 years old).**

Because of the resurrection, it means Jesus was crucified. And we as Christians sing songs. It means Palm Sunday. Emmanuel (8 years old).

- **Easter means to me that we have to celebrate the resurrection and we will show love what we get for Easter. Easter means that I like the holiday, and I love Easter. Ernold (8 years old)**



Although students are taught the Easter story and other Bible stories in school, the home plays a vital role in terms of influencing children. In many homes, there is no time set aside for worship or for meeting in church. The time is spent either catching up on chores or cooking lots of food to entertain friends and family and children are left to their own devices. As can be seen by the varied responses, many children think of Easter as a holiday; but, thankfully, many remember that it is a celebration of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Some are even conscious of the fact that He died to save us from our sins and returned to heaven to prepare a home for us to live with Him forever.



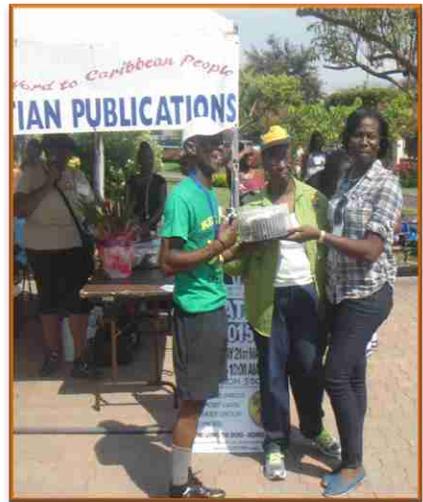
*“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”
So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy,
and ran to tell his disciples (Matthew 28 5-8).*



CCP LAPATHON 2015

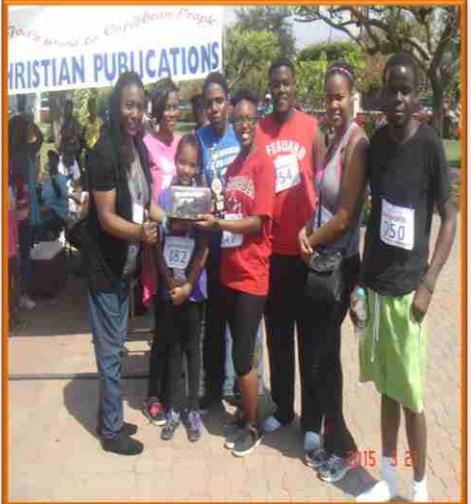
LAPATHON 2015 CHAMPION!

An elated Lenworth Hunter (left), of Bethel United Pentecostal Church, smiles as he is presented with the Champion medal and cake for achieving the highest number of laps at Lapathon 2015, on Saturday March 21 at Emancipation Park. Beryl Roper (centre) - CCP Director, and Natalie Anderson - CCP volunteer, made the presentations. Doing a combination of running and jogging, Hunter completed 59 laps (equivalent to 29.5 kilometres).



Lapathon 2015 was hosted by CCP in an effort to raise funds to assist financing for the development of its new Sunday School curriculum. CCP, which is the publication arm of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship, publishes biblically grounded, educationally sound and culturally relevant Sunday School and Vacation Bible School literature as well as other literature and gospel audio-visual publications to countries in the Caribbean region and the Caribbean Diaspora in North America.

SECOND PLACE WINNER: Beryl Roper, CCP Director, congratulates Calment Kerr of Mamby Park Baptist Church. She presented him with a medal for placing second in Lapathon 2015. He completed 55 laps (equivalent to 27.5 kilometres).



THUMBS UP FOR MAMBY PARK BAPTIST CHURCH!

Erica James-King, CCP Assistant Director & Editor - Adult Publication, gives the thumbs up in congratulatory cheers to Mamby Park Baptist Church after presenting the members with prizes for fielding the most participants in Lapathon 2015. Prizes received by Mamby Park Baptist included a champion trophy and cake .

CCP LAPATHON 2015 (cont'd)



AEROBICS MARATHON WINNER AT LAPATHON

2015: Madgria Lodge, CCP Administrative Assistant, presents a medal and gift certificate to Brian Thomas, of Penrith Full Truth Gospel Church of God, the winner of the Aerobics Marathon. The event was one of the activities held during Lapathon 2015 hosted by CCP on Saturday, March 21, at Emancipation Park. Thomas is champion of the Aerobics Marathon for the second consecutive year.

Rev. Peter Pinder and members of Zion Baptist Church from Freeport, Grand Bahamas, celebrating Baptist World Day.

From left: Danita Carey, Joycelyn Pinder, Rev Peter Pinder, Constance McDonald and Yvonne Lee.





JBU 2014 YOUTH RALLY & CONFERENCE

2014 CONFERENCE & RALLY – JBU YOUTH DEPARTMENT

The Jamaica Baptist Union (JBU) Youth Conference and Rally concluded on November 22, 2014. It was a well-anticipated event to which we all looked forward, as we prepared to celebrate a significant milestone. The event was a memorable one which allowed for creativity throughout the three days under the theme, ‘Living by Faith, Believing, Reaching, Rejoicing.’

The conference began on Thursday, November 20, 2014. The 77 conferees included youth from various churches and Circuits across the island, five Action Team members from the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) in England; and Deno Cartwright (the Bahamas), one of the Northern Caribbean co-ordinators for the Caribbean Baptist Youth Fellowship. We heard greetings from the Baptist World Alliance Youth Department director, Emmett Dunn, and the Caribbean Baptist Youth Fellowship president, Jody McKenna.

At the JBU Conference Centre, in Duncans, Trelawny, on the Thursday evening, we engaged in a time of singspiration, testimony and prayer. The Rev. Merlyn Hyde-Riley gave a short exhortation, challenging us and setting the tone for the conference and youth work beyond.

On Friday morning, we started with a prayer walk and object study. This was followed a few hours later by the business meeting. The meeting sought to highlight minor challenges we faced as youth, and the successes we had. This session allowed conferees to participate in discussion and make comments as well as suggestions about the way forward. Natalie Bender (present treasurer) was elected chair-elect of the Department.

Like previous conferences, workshops catered to the needs of conferees and encouraged the development of skills to aid our participation in our local churches and our Union. Three workshops were held: 1) a general session entitled ‘When Faith Does Not Make Sense’, led by JBU vice president, Rev. Robert Campbell. 2) The other two sessions ran concurrently: a) ‘Succession Leadership’ led by Celia McKoy and b) ‘Under-Utilized Career Path’ facilitated by Keresha Larmond.

The conference closed with the anniversary celebration, an evening of excellence which started at 7:00 p.m. The service was led by the Youth Department chair, Donna-Lee Minott. The service featured the Salem Steel band - which comprised a mixed age group of children and adults, the Mona Male Group and a special instrumental from two female representatives from the BMS Action Team. Rev. Karl Henlin, who captured the attention of all, delivered the preached word. The JBU president, Rev Michael Shim-Hue, was in attendance throughout the conference and the rally.

JBU 2014 YOUTH RALLY & CONFERENCE (cont'd)

On Saturday, we closed the celebration with 'rally' at Ocho Rios Baptist Church in St. Ann. We started the day's activities with devotion which was led by the St. Ann Parish president, Nickoy Brown. The message by JBU vice president, Rev. Davewin C. Thomas resonated with those in attendance.

The competition in the performing and visual arts included dub poetry, chorale singing (mixed), dance (mixed), poster, the regularly featured Bible quiz from the book of Esther, and Baptist history. All zones participated in most of the areas. Zone 2, comprising St. Catherine and Kingston & St. Andrew, won most of the categories, walking away with the First Place trophy. Overall, the performances were of a high standard.

There were many give-aways. A prominent feature of the rally was the effective use of social media for instant upload of pictures highlighting the day's activities. This gave individuals an opportunity to connect with the event in various locations and it demonstrated positive and meaningful use of social media.

The conference and rally climaxed with a concert featuring our island's combined singers, individuals from local churches and the renowned gospel artiste, Kevin Downswell, who ministered in song. The concert allowed for a time of reflection and was a blessing to all.

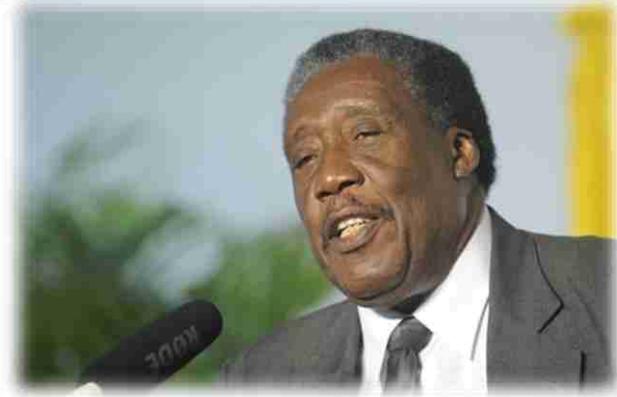
Let us continue to believe, reach and rejoice in the Lord.



FEATURE: CARIBBEAN BAPTIST PERSONALITY

REV. DR. BURCHELL TAYLOR

The Rev. Dr. Burchell Knibb Taylor is as accomplished as he is unassuming. A well-known and very highly respected theologian, he has served the Christian ministry for over half a century. Most of this time he has been Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Kingston, Jamaica where he has ministered since 1970.



This church has been a model in a number of ministry service areas including a long-standing policy and intervention programmes for persons living with HIV and AIDS, the development of a ministry to the homeless, formation of a credit union, extensive church planting, holistic health services and a number of educational programmes.

The Rev. Dr. Taylor holds a Bachelor of Divinity degree from London University, Master of Arts (Theology) from Oxford University and a PhD in Theology from the University of Leeds. He is involved in leading seminars, addressing conferences, presenting papers and leading Studies in Bible and related subjects, both locally and internationally.

He has served as:

- Baptist chaplain to the University of the West Indies,
- A Vice-President of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA)
- the immediate Past President of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship (CBF)
- a member of the Jamaica Baptist Union (JBU) Executive
- Part-time Lecturer – United Theological College of the West Indies

Married to Ann, now a retired educator, they have three adult sons, who have distinguished themselves in their chosen careers. The Rev. Dr. Taylor has been a committed writer. Two publications which are currently available are:

- Saying No to Babylon – Reflections on the book of DANIEL
- Living Wisely: Reflections on the Wisdom Books – Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes from the Margins [most recently published]

He was awarded the Order of Jamaica – Commander of Distinction (CD) in October 2000 for Eminence in the field of Theology. Dr. Taylor enjoys reading, and cricket and savours the pleasures of grand-parenting.

RETIREMENT OF REV. JOSE RODRIQUES

GREETING FROM THE CBF ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF JOSE NORAT RODRIQUEZ

The Caribbean Baptist Fellowship (CBF) joins with the American Baptist Churches International Ministries (ABCIM) in paying tribute to the Rev. Dr. Jose Norat Rodriguez on the occasion of his retirement as Director for Iberoamerica and the Caribbean. During his over two decades of ministry in this region, we can attest to the fact that he served with unswerving commitment, uncompromised faith and sustained integrity.

Through his instrumentality, there have been various missional interventions particularly in Haiti, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Jamaica, among other territories. The Caribbean region has always benefitted from the solidarity of ABCIM through various means facilitated by the representation of Norat. As he goes into retirement, the CBF wishes Norat God's richest blessings and pray that he, along with his wife, will use the time for solitude and renewal.

The greeting is extended on behalf of the president, Rev. Dr. William Thompson, the executive and member bodies of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship.

Everton Jackson (Rev.)
CBF Executive Secretary/Treasurer

CBF WOMEN'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Turks & Caicos Islands Baptist Union

Women's Missionary Band
27th Annual Women's Conference --- April 7 – 10, 2015
Mt Lebanon Baptist Church
Bottle Creek, North Caicos.
Theme: "In Step with the Spirit – Fulfilling God's Purpose."
Guest Speaker: Miss Yvonne Pitter, President – CBWU

Jamaica Baptist Women's Federation

Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 8:00 A.M.
Venues: Madge Saunders Conference Centre, Tower Isle, St. Mary.
Theme: "Faith is the Victory."
Patron: The Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, O.N. M.P.
Contribution: JA \$2,500/ 24 US

Proceeds in aid of the Garland Hall Flatlets, Anchovy, St James

CBF GENERAL ASSEMBLY – BIBLE STUDY

CBF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014

BIBLE STUDY SESSION 3 (FINAL) IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT: FREE AT LAST

We all struggle with issues—inner battles that we all fight, things from which we all wish we could be delivered and habits which sometimes cause us misery and guilt. Romans chapter 7 describes such a man, caught up in conflict, a war taking place within, our struggle against thoughts of a self-condemnation, fear, compulsions, hopelessness and insecurity. In Romans 7:24, the writer cries out in misery and frustration: “O wretched man that I am, call shall deliver me”. In other words, how can I be free? Where is the freedom for which I long? Notice that the freedom is neither in a tape nor in a book, not in religion, ritual or law but in the person of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The writer goes on, in chapter 8 (which I believe is the greatest chapter in the Bible), to describe the keys to freedom from some of these self-destructive inner struggles.

- 1) **We must remember every day what Jesus did for us.** Jesus removes us from the guilt of sin so that any believer who is bound by shame and guilt must remember Romans 8:1-4. Jesus took the guilt and shame on Calvary's cross. There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ for they walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. Walking by the Spirit causes us to know the freedom from guilt and condemnation.
- 2) **Ask the Holy Spirit to control your thought life.** Human beings act out what they think. Our actions are based on our thoughts. To change my actions, I must change my thinking. Romans chapter 8: 5-6 says that there are two kinds of mindset - a mindset controlled by self that leads to the distraction and the mindset controlled by the Spirit that leads to life, freedom and peace. One of the keys to freedom, therefore, is to have God's thoughts, God's perspective. We may not be able to change circumstances but we can have God's perspective with the help of the Holy Spirit.
- 3) **Realized that we have a new power.** Romans 8:9-11. Believers who walk by the Spirit have the ability to say no to self-destructive thoughts and temptations. Before the Holy Spirit came into our lives, there were things to which we could not say no. We yielded to some natural habits, desires and compulsions. Upon conversion those desires and compulsions were not taken away. Rather, we were given a new power to say no to those compulsions, which were not of the Spirit.



CBF GENERAL ASSEMBLY – BIBLE STUDY (cont'd)

Verse 12 says we do not have an obligation, we do not have a constraining power to do what the flesh compels us to do. Thank God.

- 4) **When I'm afraid I turn my attention to God, not to my fear** (Romans 8:14-19). The Spirit of God sets me free from the spirit of fear. He causes me to turn my attention to my Father and away from my fear. God's Spirit does not make us afraid; but rather, the book Romans says, God has given us a spirit that causes us to cry out, "Daddy!" The Spirit causes us to run to our Father in times of fear. The Spirit reminds me that I am a family member. Second Timothy 1:7 tells us that the Holy Spirit is not a spirit of intimidation but a spirit of love, power and self-control. He gives us a level head and a humble heart in times of fear.
- 5) **Focus on long-term instead of not immediate circumstances.** Romans 8:17-18 tells us that we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, and that these present sufferings, trials and miseries are only for the short term. As Christians, we are focusing and expecting greater blessings in the future. This perspective helps us to handle the short-term pain and hindrances which come our way. We look not only at the things that are seen but also at the things which are unseen. We will be rewarded for all the times of suffering that we go through. We will be rewarded for living for Jesus even when it costs us our lives.
- 6) **Constantly remind yourself that God is good and in control.** Romans 8:19-25 describes how sin has damaged the entire world. Everything is suffering, everything has lost its original purpose. We suffer, creation suffers, even the Holy Spirit groans. Life will never be without pain, suffering and difficulty; but in all of these, I must remember that the Holy Spirit is praying for me (v. 26). God is using everything from my good (v. 28). God is on my side cheering me on (v. 31) and God will give me what I need (v. 31b)
- 7) **Keep trusting that God will never stop loving me.** Romans 8:35-39 reminds us that God never lets go of us under any circumstance — not in problems, persecution, famine, danger, troubles, sickness. Even in death, we are in His loving hands.

Thank God that we are not condemned, that He has destroyed the dominion of sin and that He has fulfilled the law in our lives. May the Holy Spirit give us godly thoughts, change our mindset, remind us that we have the power to say no and that when we go through present trials, we can be reminded that our God is a good God and that He is in control of our lives.



NEWS FROM MEMBER – BODY: TURKS & CAICOS

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS BAPTIST UNION

NORTH CAICOS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



NCBA choir
(left)

Each quarter the North Caicos Baptist Association meets at one of the four churches on island for all day worship and celebration. Nightly services are held during the week preceding the Sunday of the event. On Sunday, March 29, 2015, the Association met at Providence Baptist Church in Whitby for the first quarterly meeting of the year.

The service was conducted by Deacon Llewelyn Handfield who is the Leader of the

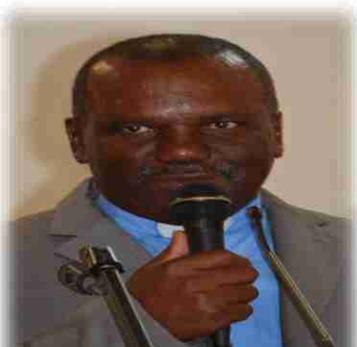
Providence congregation and also President of the North Caicos Baptist Association and President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Baptist Union. The sermon was delivered by circuit pastor, Rev. Calvert J. Hamilton who has served this circuit of churches for more than thirty years.

The theme for the week was "Blessed is He who Comes in the Name of the Lord" and the theme Scripture came from Matthew 21:1 - 11.

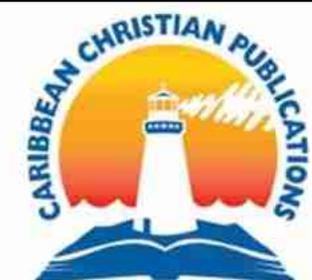
The afternoon session is a celebration of praise and showcase of talent by all the youth and adult groups from all four churches, the North Caicos Baptist Association Choir and guests from other churches.



*Llewelyn Handfield
President, Turks and Caicos
Islands*



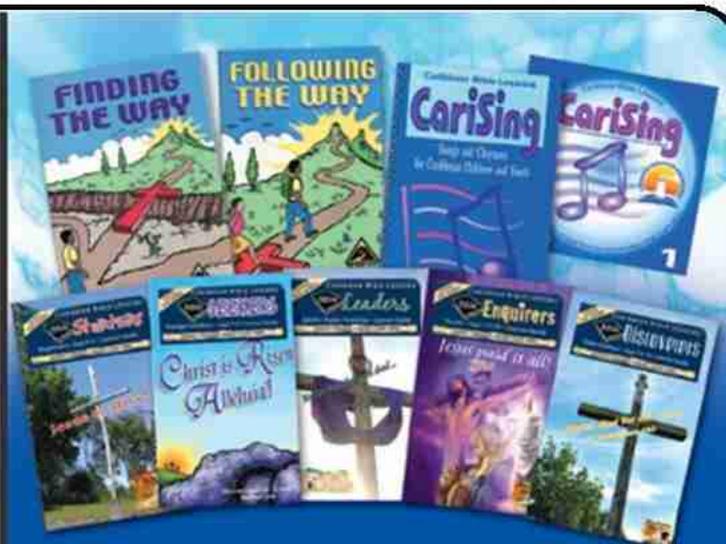
Rev. C.J. Hamilton



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UPCOMING

Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



- ✚ CBF SUNDAY (JUNE 28, 2015)
- ✚ TURKS & CAICOS BAPTIST UNION EVENT (JULY 8-12, 2015)
- ✚ BWA BAPTIST WORLD CONGRESS- DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA (JULY 22-26, 2015)
- ✚ ST. GEORGE'S BAPTIST CHURCH 40TH YEARS ANNIVERSARY (August 2015)
- ✚ ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES JOINT CONVENTION (OCTOBER 18, 2015)
- ✚ CBF EXECUTIVE MEETING- GUADELOUPE (OCTOBER 21-23, 2015)