



# CBF Notes

## HEAR THE SPIRIT

### A Wind of Change is Blowing

This is not the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) of our grandparents. There is a wind of change blowing through the BWA and it caught up the four thousand Baptists from 105 nations gathered for the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress for 5 days this summer.

The recently concluded 20<sup>th</sup> Congress held in Hawai'i from July 28 through August 1, 2010, will be remembered as a watershed gathering when seeds of change, sown in programmatic and personnel changes years earlier, were shown to have taken root, and the blossoms of which became evident at the global gathering of the Baptist family. It was very clear from the 2010 gathering that the BWA has entered a new phase of its existence marked by new thinking about its purpose and role as a global entity in a very rapidly changing world. It was very clear, from early into the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress, that this gathering was going to be a solidly purposeful meeting anchored on a new vision for the role of such coming-togethers. It was very clear that the Spirit's wind is blowing through the BWA and, yes, it filled the Hawaiian Convention Centre.

### Inclusion

From the opening celebration through the final benediction, the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of the BWA was one of inclusion. Bridging ethnicity, language, skin shade, sex, and age, there was an unmistakable attempt to affirm the identity of Baptists alike giving primacy to competence over connections. From the opening celebration on the Wednesday night to the final benediction on the Sunday morning, the main stage preached commendably the message of inclusion. Morning speakers hailed from Argentina, Canada, Australia and the USA. Nightly speakers hailed from the UK, Jamaica, India, and South Africa. Celebrants in music, drama and song included the Children's choir of Korea, the Redeemed

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### From the EST's Desk



I am grateful to Almighty God for the opportunity to serve His cause as Executive Secretary/Treasurer for the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship. This for me is a humbling experience considering that I am walking in the footsteps of a stalwart like the late Rev. Azariah McKenzie

*Recently there was a changing of the guard in the CBF. Rev. Everton Jackson took over as Executive Secretary/Treasurer from a CBF stalwart, Rev. Peter Pinder. Here is a greeting from the new EST. Read more about Rev. Pinder on Page 2.*

and my predecessor the Rev. Peter Pinder. I wish to pay tribute to these brothers who through many sacrifices set the foundation for the CBF. The vision of our founding fathers and mothers forty years ago was for Baptists in the Caribbean region to unite for mission and evangelism, relief and development, training and stewardship as well as sharing resources for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. This vision remains the same and is even more urgent at a time

when the Baptists in the region are challenged to take greater responsibility for the funding and execution of the mission. The withdrawal of significant support from external mission centres has created a glorious opportunity for the Baptists in the Caribbean region to pool our efforts and resources and work in partnership as we take on the challenges of the time. There is much to be done in the areas of mission and evangelism, relief and develop-

### CBF Notes...

A new way to stay in touch.

CBF Notes is a new publication of the CBF, produced by the Communications Department. The aim is to highlight the work of the CBF and its member churches and to simply stay in touch.

We will 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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ment and theological education among other areas. As we move into the future, I am looking forward to the support and co-operation of all the participating bodies.

God bless you.

*Everton Jackson*

## More from the 20th Congress

### Caribbean in Hawai'i

#### Caribbean Coming into its Own

There was definitely a Caribbean presence at the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) recently held in Honolulu, Hawai'i from July 28- August 1<sup>st</sup>. Led by a 130 strong Jamaican contingent, there was also sizeable representation from 8 other Caribbean territories – Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Turks and Caicos. The Caribbean was in the house!

#### Caribbean meets in Hawai'i



But it was more than merely being there. Caribbean Baptists contributed in a variety of ways to the Congress programme, beginning with the exploits of Jamaican preacher Karl Johnson who boldly proclaimed the word at the Thursday night's main celebration. Focus groups allowed for thought provoking exploration of topics relevant to our faith. Caribbean contribution to the focus groups included Burchell Taylor contributing on **A Balm in Gilead**, Deonie Duncan contributing to **Stewardship and Hospitality**, Jonathon Hemmings contributing to **Pastoral Leadership Amidst Change**, Devon Dick contributing to **Baptist at 400**, and Michael Taylor contributing to **Dominion over Every Living Thing**.

Then there was the Rev. Dr. Burchell Taylor's (Jamaica) contribu-

tion to the bible study guide (day Three) and Rev. Peter Pinder's (Bahamas) leadership of a bible study group. There were Caribbean readers, liturgists and prayers from the main stage (Bahamas, Jamaica, Haiti), Caribbean participants in the Living Water closing celebration (Jamaica and Grenada), and a Caribbean singing group from Trinidad and Tobago who rocked the place with regional rhythms. There was also active Caribbean participation in the Emerging Leaders Network, at the Men's Rally, Women's Rally and at the World Youth meeting. On the Thursday afternoon, Caribbean delegates also met for update, discussion and discourse under the chairmanship of the new Caribbean Baptist Fellowship (CBF) president, Dr. William Thompson (Bahamas).

As an organization, the BWA also paid tribute to a stalwart of Caribbean representation – the Rev. Peter Pinder (Bahamas), for whom this congress marked his last as Secretary/Treasurer of the CBF and as a Regional Secretary of the BWA (see report below). Rev. Everton Jackson (Jamaica) was interviewed and accepted by the BWA as an able replacement for Rev. Pinder. Other Caribbean nationals who will offer service to the BWA over the next five years include Rev. Dr. Burchell Taylor (Jamaica) and Rev. Victor Gonzalez (Cuba) who were installed as vice presidents of the BWA. Mr. Owen Crooks (Jamaica) will also serve as president of the BWA Men's movement. There are also several Caribbean representatives who will provide guidance through their involvement in BWA Commissions and Committees.

One cannot be sure to what one should attribute the seemingly increased Caribbean presence at the congress or expanded contribution to the BWA. Many things maybe... Whatever it is, the Caribbean region is coming into its own – taking its place as a viable contributor to the life and work of the BWA.

### A Changing of the Guard

It was a time for nostalgia and fond memories but also a time for reflecting on change and new possibilities. The 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Baptist World Alliance will be remembered as a moment when a baton was passed marking the end of an era and the beginning of another. The Rev. Peter Pinder, pastor of the Zion Baptist Church in Freeport Bahamas had for 15 years served the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship (CBF) as the Executive Secretary/Treasurer. In this capacity he was also a member of the BWA Executive, serving as a regional secretary. The Rev. Pinder had himself taken over from a stalwart of Caribbean representation at the Baptist world level – the Rev Azariah McKenzie.

In paying tribute to Rev. Pinder at a special luncheon partly in his honour, Rev. Emmett Dunn, BWA staff worker, noted that Rev. Pinder *did not seek to fill the shoes of Rev. McKenzie, rather he walked in his own*. He also noted that Rev. Pinder will be missed for his congeniality, his Bible Studies, and his general contributions to the executive. At the same function, the General Secretary of the BWA introduced Rev. Pinder to those gathered and presented him and his wife with a plaque from the BWA in honour of his years of service. The Rev. Pinder replied indicating persons who meant much to him because of their contribution in shaping and supporting him.

Earlier in the week during the general council, just prior to

the congress, the Rev. Everton Jackson (Jamaica) was also interviewed and elected by the BWA's personnel committee for the post of Regional Secretary, replacing Rev. Pinder. Rev. Jackson also succeeds Rev. Pinder as the Executive Secretary/treasurer of the CBF. Rev. Jackson was officially welcomed to the BWA executive from the main stage during one of the nightly celebrations and participated in the various activities of the executive committee during the congress.

The contributions of the Rev. Peter Pinder at the committee level to both the CBF and BWA will undoubtedly be missed, but no doubt he will continue to serve in other ways. Both organizations owe him a debt of gratitude for his years of service. The CBF will in October hold a special service and celebrations in honour of Rev. Pinder in Freeport, the Bahamas.

Thank you Rev. Pinder for your service. Well done good and faithful servant.

*If we wish to know more about the special functions being planned by the CBF to honour Rev. Pinder, don't hesitate to contact the CBF at [caribbaptistfell@gmail.com](mailto:caribbaptistfell@gmail.com).*



## Reports



The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Conference of the TCI Baptist Union was held at the Salem Baptist Church, Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos Islands from July 7 – 11, 2010 under the theme, “Reaping the Harvest: Enlarging the Kingdom”. The Theme Scripture chosen was taken from Mt 9:35 – 38 & Luke 10:1 – 3 and the theme song was “My House Is Full”. The Assembly featured daily prayer and bible study sessions conducted by the Rev. Calvert Hamilton, plenary sessions with Pastors and delegates from the thirteen churches of the Union, evangelistic services with the Rev. Everton Jackson – Executive Secretary/Treasurer, CBF, workshops for men, women, youth and children and special presentations by Miss Sarah Quant on Budgeting in tough times and the Rev. John Malcolm on evangelism. The Assembly elected the

following persons to serve in leadership positions: President – Rev. Pedro Williams, Vice President – Dea. Lewllyn Handfield; Treasurer – Dea. Leonard Glasgow; Women’s Director – Sis. Dottis Arthur; Christian Education and Stewardship Director – Rev. Calvert Hamilton; Evangelism Director – Dea. Audley Higgs; Men’s Director – Dea. Willette Swann; Youth Director – Sis. Sharlene Robinson. In the Closing Service the incoming President, Rev’d Pedro Williams charged the Conference from Mt 28:16 – 20 to answer the urgent call to evangelize the world. The 48<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the TCIBU ended with a Grand Gospel Concert featuring Bishop Washington Williams formerly of the Cooling Waters of the Bahamas among other local artists.



### Haiti Baptist Convention

The Haiti Baptist Convention [HBC] had its 46<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Pastors’ Retreat from July 14-16, 2010 under the theme “Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you” [1 Peter 5:7]. Over one hundred and ninety Pastors and delegates along with invited guests gathered on the Campus of the Northern Haiti Christian University (UCNH) in Limbe for what was considered a “very successful Assembly,” according to Rev. Emmanuel Pierre, General Secretary. As was expected, the earthquake that devastated Port – Au – Prince on July 12, 2010 was among the main focus at the Assembly. A Post Traumatic Intervention Training was provided for one hundred and forty Pastors and seminary students by a group of professional counselors

from Mercer University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The objective was to equip church leaders to be better able to offer post traumatic counseling to parishioners and others who are mourning the loss of relatives, friends and church buildings among other things. In addition, there were times of prayer for the Haiti crisis. The sermons and bible studies were all geared towards providing hope, comfort, consolation and challenge to all in attendance. Other highlights included the amendment of the HBC’s constitution to accommodate a shift from a two year term to a three year term for Executive members, as well as election of new leaders. The new executive is comprised of: Rev. Gedeon Eugene, President; Rev. Ludner Cardichon, Vice-President; Rev. Barnabas Francois, Advisor; Rev. Ruben Thoby, Advisor; Rev. Jose Simeon, Advisor; Rev. Joel Dorsinville, Treasurer/Consultant; Rev. Emmanuel Pierre, General Secretary;. The Caribbean Baptist Fellowship was represented by the Rev. Everton Jackson, Executive Secretary/Treasurer who was one of the evening preachers and the Rev. Michael Shim-Hue, the Director of Mission and Evangelism. Other guests to the Assembly included the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship represented by the Mercer’s team of counselors led by Dr. David Lane, the American Baptist Churches in New Jersey, USA, represented by Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer and Rev. Edgar Nicolas, The Alliance of the Haitian Baptist Churches of USA represented by Rev. Duvaes Cineus and Rev. Luckner Lorient, and the Texas Baptist Convention represented by a delegation of four pastors lead by Rev. Robert Shehane.

### 2010 BWA WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Women’s Department of the Baptist World Alliance held its leadership conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, July 24-27, 2010. Using the theme “In Step With the Spirit”, thousands of women from the 5 continental unions comprising Africa, Asia, the Caribbean,

Europe, Latin America, North America and South West Pacific spent four days in business sessions and exploring issues relating to poverty and abuse among women. The conference opened with a banquet on Saturday evening. Greetings came from President of the BWA, David Coffey, and General Secretary, Neville Callam, both of whom praised the Women’s Department for its creative leadership among Baptists worldwide. Dorothy Selabano, President of the Women’s Department, reminded the women in her presidential address that by walking in step with Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit they can influence the world. Sunday’s sessions focused on poverty. Daunting facts and moving stories gave perspective to the reality of how some women around the world are confronted with poverty. The conference learnt that 2 billion women and children live in poverty, 600 million women and children go hungry each day and 290,000 children under the age of six years die every day owing to lack of good nutrition. Women contemplated how they can help relieve poverty by becoming the hands and feet of Jesus. Stories from every continent highlighted how women are helping to lessen the effects of hunger in their communities. The women were reminded that poverty wears many faces and the greatest mistake they can make is to do nothing because they think they can only do a little. Abuse and the state of women in the world was the focus on Monday. Statistics presented revealed that every nine seconds a woman is abused. Some women are brought up to think that abuse is normal because they have been abused all their lives from infancy into adulthood. Women were told that abuse in the home is not alien to Christians. Many abusers and the abused include church leaders at the pastoral level as well as the laity. Women were implored to reach out to the abused and the abuser while encouraging their churches to put programmes in place to help the affected. The conference was marked by enriching worship through music, inspiring Bible study and thought provoking presentations. A well-received exercise was the daily interpretation of the theme through drama by a group of five women from the United States known as “Flash Points.” Their use of the creative arts added meaning and concreteness to the theme “In Step With the Spirit”. The conference came to a close on Tuesday afternoon with the installation of new officers and greetings from the BWA President-Elect, John Upton.

# Pictures from Hawai'i

CBF Notes...

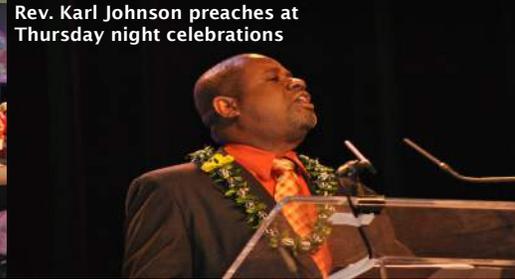
A new way to stay in touch.



Rev. Neville Callam speaks to Caribbean delegates



Rev. Dr. Burchell Taylor leads a focus group



Rev. Karl Johnson preaches at Thursday night celebrations



*Continued from front page*

singers from Trinidad, and the St. Paul's Baptist Choir from the USA. Liturgies and readings were done by representatives from many of the 105 countries and in the native languages of those countries. Perhaps, however, at no time was the message of inclusion louder than at the installation of the new BWA Executive on the Saturday morning. Incoming President John Upton (USA) will oversee a new look executive, striking for its diversity.

## ***Preaching and Teaching***

It may well be, however, that this congress will be remembered for its revisioning of such gatherings as occasions for sound teaching marked by exposition and challenge for every attendee. The unpacking of the theme "Hear the Spirit" was inspired and was conveyed as much through the powerful morning and nightly messages as through the daily devotional and bible study guides specially prepared for the Congress. Proclamation, Liberation, Action, Transformation were themes resonating through the conference centre. Focus groups further challenged, calling Baptists to give serious thought to serious topics. There can be little doubt that the diversity of the contributors to the bible studies, focus groups, and from the plenary speakers made for rich eye opening interpretations of the main theme and sub-themes, which were often grounded in the unique circumstances and contexts of each contributor. The availability of printed and online resources from this congress will also no doubt provide fodder for many congregations in the months to come.

## ***Ecumenism***

One can only believe that this congress will also be remembered for its ecumenical embrace. From the main stage Baptists welcomed, acknowledged and received greetings from other brothers and sisters of faith including the Lutherans, Mennonites, Seventh Day Adventists, representatives from the World Council of Churches, Roman Catholics and the Chinese Council.

Whereas one cannot anticipate or predict how the spirit will move we must always strive to remain attuned to its ripples and to act on its promptings. The BWA seems to be doing exactly that. It is therefore up to us to remain committed in our support of the BWA. Over the next five years, the BWA will be guided by the theme 'In Step with the Spirit'. Though not perfect in its entire execution, if the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress is a harbinger for what is to come, one can only imagine what, under the Spirit's continued guidance, the 21<sup>st</sup> Congress in Durban, South Africa will be like. There is no doubt, however – a new wind is blowing. It is the wind of change.

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

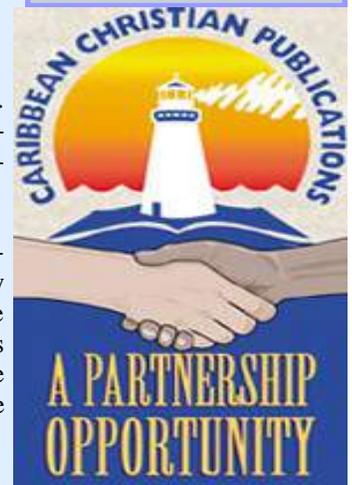
## **Dates to Remember**

### **October 27-28**

CBF Executive Meeting & Think Tank

### **October 28**

CBF Appreciation Service for Rev. Peter Pinder. Zion Baptist Church (Freeport, Bahamas)



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 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>.