

Nov
2020

Caribbean Baptist Fellowship

CBF NOTES

**CBF WOMEN
GOT U COVID COVERED**

**RESTORE HOPE
FOR A SECURE FUTURE**

St Kitts BWA Ready

**MEET THE NOT SO
NEW EXECUTIVE**

SANTANA MOVES

EST NOTES

A DECADE OF RENEWAL

**Leadership is
DOMINIQUE**

Our Mission

The Mission of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship is to encourage and facilitate the coming together of Caribbean Baptists at national and regional levels for worship, and for shared witness and ministry. To this end the CBF works to provide its member bodies with opportunities to be inspired, motivated, encouraged and equipped for service; and to be an agent through which they can pool and channel their human and financial resources towards carrying out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and expressing in word and deed the love of God for every person within the Caribbean region and beyond.



Dominique Dick, President



Everton Jackson, EST

For the first time, in the history of the CBF, a president from a French speaking country, has been called to serve.

Our President, Dominique Dick hails from Guadeloupe, a French overseas region, which is an island group in the southern Caribbean Sea. Resembling a butterfly, its two largest islands are separated by the Salée River. Hilly Grande-Terre Island has long beaches and sugarcane fields. On Basse-Terre Island, Parc National de la Guadeloupe encompasses Carbet Falls and the volcano La Grande Soufrière. Smaller islands include Marie-Galante and La Désirad.

President Dick also serves as the leader of the French Federation of Baptists, which began in 1975 with American missionaries from the Southern Baptist mission. Today the Federation boasts 15 churches with 1,500 members spread across the churches. Its mission is to work for the communion and the evangelization of the country, train and equip men and women for the ministry, to be the light and the salt of the earth, so that Christ can be seen through the churches.

CBF caught up with President Dick for a little fireside chat, as he prepares himself to take over the reigns of leadership. You may eavesdrop on this conversation on pages 10 and 11, titled **Leadership is Dominique Dick**.



Bernadette Duncan, Vice Chair

BOARD OF CHURCH

Jurell R Campbell

Nevein R Brown

Jurell R Campbell

**COVER PHOTO : A SON RISES IN
GUADELOUPE**

EDITOR'S EPISTLE

Dorrett R Campbell

As one who is passionate about regional integration, I look forward to serving the CBF, a potent vehicle through which the CARICOM integration movement is being advanced and sustained. I hope my service will help in some small way to improve the quality of life of the Caribbean peoples .

What a time to usher in a new Executive - smack in the middle of a seemingly unending pandemic! It is what it is. We live and function in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) environment; and we have to make the most of the times, as Paul exhorted.

Before March, the things that seemingly divided us as Caribbean peoples were the Wide Sargasso Sea and exorbitant prices for air transportation, a plague of the Caribbean. Now there is COVID -19, which threatens to erect both physical and social barriers between the peoples of the Caribbean.

But we are a resilient set of people, who know how to seize opportunities that invariably present themselves in crises. We know that we are not a people who know how to keep our physical or social distance; touching, hugging and interacting are simply a part of our Caribbean culture. We are social and spiritual beings wired to interact, to exchange ideas, to depend on each other and to look out for one another.

While we have learnt to adapt, we recognize that for our survival and the survival of our churches and our Fellowship, we have to find ways to keep the communication lines open. Communication in this context requires clarity, creativity and a whole heap of compassion.

It is against this background that the CBF has seen the need to ensure that the Communications Committee is re-activated and functioning. While not yet fully formed, the Committee has a chair; and a vice chair .



**COPING WITH COVID
COMMUNICATION
IS KEY**

We intend to reach out to our member bodies impressing upon them the importance of serving in this ministry, so that we have the entire Caribbean covered.

The CBF Notes is one of the tools through which we aim to keep the Fellowship abreast of events, activities and other pertinent information that may impact not just the Fellowship collectively, but each member body.

We want to use this medium to care, hear and share, note and report your stories and view your activities through exciting pics, even while we continue to sustain both our traditional website and our social media pages.

This is our post Assembly edition of CBF Notes. We sincerely hope that you find it useful and a blessing.

We would love for you to connect with us at cbfcommunicationsgroup@gmail.com. Send us your stories or story ideas and we will follow up and publish.

EST NOTES ...

Everton Jackson

Sisters and brothers, in a months' time my contract as EST will come to an end. As I look back, all I can say is to God be the glory. Together, we have strengthened the foundation of the CBF spiritually, administratively, missionally and numerically.

This year stands out as a moment of history in more ways than one. In the first place, it is the first time in our existence that we are convening a General Assembly on a virtual platform. While it is a historic move, it is not one for which we are so proud because of what has necessitated this new initiative. The entire world has been plunged into a crisis as a result of the coronavirus. Globally, over 41-million have contracted this virus, while over 1.1 million have died.

The global economic recession that is on the horizon will undoubtedly lead to untold suffering as the gaps between the rich and the poor widen. Over the past seven months or so, churches have had to make radical changes in both their liturgical and administrative life. The church community is not only defined as gathered and scattered but also as virtual.

Information and empowerment sessions

In helping the churches in the Region to respond appropriately to these unrepresented times, the CBF disseminated as early as March, information detailing protocols to which we should adhere; as well as a prayer, signaling our solidarity and identification with the affected peoples of the Region.

A series of webinars were also hosted with the aims to (1) exposing our churches to a variety of online platforms that can be exploited for ministry delivery during these challenging times; ((2) sensitizing our churches to creative approaches to evangelism; and (3) providing ideas for youth and young adult ministries.



**A MOMENT OF HISTORY
A DECADE OF RENEWAL**

Support from BWA

The CBF is grateful for the practical way the Baptist World Alliance stood in solidarity with the region during the initial stage of the coronavirus outbreak. Many CBF member bodies who are also member bodies of the BWA benefited from a grant of a thousand US dollars which they used in a variety of ways in responding to the impact of the coronavirus. We were also privileged to participate in the **BWA Standing Together at Pentecost** worship experience; an event that attracted hundreds of Baptists from around the world on various virtual platforms.

Since the onset of the coronavirus, we have had two executive meetings; two meetings of the nominations committee; one very important interview as well as other small meetings, all virtually.

... EST NOTES REASONS TO BE PROUD

The truth is, it is not that we could not have used the digital platforms before, but we are always reluctant to try new things, to move from the familiar to the unfamiliar and from the known to the unknown. What the coronavirus has done, is to accelerate our utilization of technology to achieve maximum benefit.

As we look to the future, there is no doubt that technology will have to play a significant role in how the CBF is organized for ministry. This could be a real blessing in disguise, given our financial woes as a region.

CBF 50th Anniversary

A moment of history, yes, as we exercise our technological creativity in order to navigate the choppy waters of COVID - 19. But a moment of history as well, as we pause after 50 years to reflect, evaluate and make projections for the future. It was in 1970 that we came into being as a regional fellowship of Baptists.

Therefore, this year marks 50 years of existence for the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship. We were well on our way to a time of nostalgic recollection and thanksgiving to God when our plans were halted by the onset of COVID - 19. It would have been a trek back to Jamaica - the birthplace of CBF - for a time of celebration, worship and fellowship. All the plans were in place to ensure a hallelujah time; hotel booked, theme chosen, song composed, programme finalized, and speakers identified.

However, as a result of the global pandemic, the Executive had no choice but to postpone the celebration to October 2021 at the same venue. The Executive further decided that we should not allow the year to pass without marking this momentous milestone; and so, in our closing worship on Thursday,

October 22, we had a soft observation of the 50th anniversary.

Membership in BWA

As we take note of 2020 as a moment of history from both sides of the coin - the negative and the positive - we cannot overlook the joy of our Baptist sisters and brothers in St. Kitts, whose association, in July became a member body of the Baptist World Alliance at their virtual General Council meeting. We say congratulations to the leaders and members of the St. Kitts Baptist Association. They have joined St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Islands, Grenada and the Connection Baptist Churches in Haiti, all of who became members of BWA during this quinquennium.

Reason to be proud

We have a good reason to be a proud Region, not only because our Region has recorded significant numerical growth over the past five years in comparison to other regions, but also because the first BWA General Secretary of African descent came from this Region in the person of Neville Callam. As a Region we are proud of the stewardship of Neville as well as Eron, both from Jamaica. And now we look to what the first, First Vice President of BWA from the Caribbean in the person of Karl B. Johnson will bring to the table.

Pastoral Leadership

Three years ago, 19 students from Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Grenada, Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines met in Trinidad and Tobago to commence a certificate course in Pastoral

Ministry, jointly sponsored by the CBF and the Northwestern Baptist Theological Seminary located in the Cayman Islands. This was in response to the growing need for trained pastors in the region. We are proud to report that in August of this year, 15 of the 19 students successfully completed the program.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Glenroy Lalor who was instrumental in developing the programme; Rev. Anslem Warrick; Pastor Randall L Von Kanel along with Santana Morris for managing the delivery of the programme. This is an initiative that I hope will continue as we ensure that the Region benefits from trained pastoral leadership.

Baptist Gatherings

The introduction of **Baptist Gatherings** in the countries where we have met for executive meetings have cemented relationships in countries like Antigua, Guyana, Barbados and Haiti. We have witnessed the resuscitation of dormant member bodies like Barbados Baptist Alliance, St. Vincent Baptist Association, Belize Baptist Association, Trinidad and Tobago Baptist Association. We welcomed new member bodies such as Guyana Baptist Missionary Church - Lott Carey, San Andres Baptist Association and Haiti Connection of Baptist Churches.



CBF WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP



DICK



WARRICK



MINNIS

For the first time in the history of the 50 year-old Caribbean Baptist Fellowship (CBF), a president has been elected from a French-speaking Caribbean country.

The newly minted president, Rev Dominique Dick was installed on Thursday, October 22 at the closing celebratory service of the unprecedented virtual General Assembly. Rev Dick is from Guadeloupe, an island group in the southern Caribbean Sea, which forms part of the French overseas region. He is now tasked with the responsibility of leading this dynamic organization for the next five years.

Dick is the pastor of two churches in Guadeloupe and the president of the French Federation of Baptists. He holds an associate degree in Theology from the Barbados based Biblical Institute and has been a Christian since he was 12 years old. President Dick has been married for 25 years and shares two children with his wife.

NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TREASURER
Meanwhile, Trinidadian pastor, the Rev Anslem Warrick has been elected as Executive Secretary Treasurer to replace Jamaica's Everton Jackson, who demits office in December.

Warrick brings to this leadership role, diverse experiences garnered since his ordination to Christian Ministry in 1999. He currently serves as Senior Pastor for the Trinidad based St. John's Baptist Church; General Secretary for the Baptist Union of Trinidad and Tobago (BUTT); Trustee on the Caribbean Christian Publications Board; Vice Chair of the CBF Theological Committee; member of the CBF executive and a Vice President of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA).

His service has been underpinned by a BA in Theology from the University of the West Indies; a Diploma in Ministerial Studies from the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTC) and a Post Graduate certificate in Foundations of Management from Henley

University, UK. The President will be supported by three vice presidents Rev'ds Clinton Minnis, Brenda Harewood and Johnathan Hemmings.



HAREWOOD



HEMMINGS



CBF EXECUTIVE 2020-2025

In addition to the Presidium and Executive Secretary Treasurer , the remaining members of the Executive are as follow. Note that the Chair of Committees first to be listed are the persons who will attend Executive meetings:

RECORDING SECRETARY

Ms Celia McKoy, Jamaica

COMMITTEES

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP

- ◆ Mrs Penny Forde, Turks and Caicos Islands
- ◆ Rev Bentley Robinson, Cayman Islands

COMMUNICATIONS

- ◆ Ms Dorrett Campbell, Jamaica
- ◆ Ms Bernadette Duncan-Richards, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

DISASTER RESPONSE AND HUMAN NEEDS

- ◆ Rev Sylvester King, Grenada
- ◆ Mr Haynesley Benn, Barbados

MISSION AND EVANGELISM

- ◆ Mr Leonard Glasgow, Turks and Caicos Islands
- ◆ Rev Ignacio Barrera, San Andres Island

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

- ◆ Rev Trevor Edwards, Jamaica
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Cecil Richards, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

DEPARTMENTS

- ◆ **Youth Department** – Ms. Joy-Ann Wood, Barbados
- ◆ **Women’s Department:** Mrs. Karlene Warrick, Trinidad and Tobago
- ◆ **Men’s Department:** Rev Ricky Newball (San Andres Islands) and Rev Stephen Ferguson (The Bahamas)

CARIBBEAN CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman: Rev Karl Henlin, Jamaica

- ◆ CBF President
- ◆ EST
- ◆ Director – CCP
- ◆ Rev Ricky Newball, San Andres Island
- ◆ Dr Cheryl Strachan, The Bahamas
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Brenda Harewood, Guyana
- ◆ Mrs Bernadette Richards – Duncan, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- ◆ Rev Trevor Edwards, Jamaica
- ◆ Rev Merlyn Hyde Riley, Associate General Secretary, Jamaica
- ◆ Rev Victor McLeod, Trinidad and Tobago

BWA VICE PRESIDENTS

- ◆ Rev Karl B. Johnson (First Vice President) Jamaica
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Joel Dorsinville, Haiti

CONSULTANTS

- ◆ Rev. Dr. William Thompson , The Bahamas
- ◆ Ms Yvonne Pitter, Jamaica



RESTORE HOPE FOR A SECURE FUTURE

William Thompson

The Christian Faith that we embrace is a faith that inspires hope because it speaks of God who is the total embodiment of hope. The hope that I am talking about is not blind optimism or uncritical reflection on reality.

Outgoing President of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship, Rev. Dr.

William Thompson has exhorted the Caribbean Christian community to keep hope alive in order to experience a secure future.

Thompson was addressing the closing service of the CBF General Assembly on October 22. He premised his address on the debilitating effects of the corona virus on the global economy, the Caribbean Community, the church and especially the quality of life of the Caribbean peoples.

He noted that more than 41-million cases; and more than one million deaths had invaded the global space.

Against this background, Rev Thompson emphasized that hope was seemingly in crisis, but hastened to remind his audience that with God all things were possible. Therefore, hope could be restored only when the people of God put their faith “in the God of things impossible.”

Many churches, he explained, had to adjust to a decline in income, a reorganizing of their ministries and readjusting to a new normal in terms of utilizing the virtual platforms for worship and the delivery of other forms of ministry.

“Creativity has become the order of the day, as we struggle to find new ways to remain relevant as a church community. What is evident is that with so many things

happening all around, hope seems to be in crisis and as a result the future is in a state of ambivalence. But our response cannot be one of hopelessness and despair,” the outgoing president emphasized.

Thompson opined that restoration of hope required active patience that further necessitated the adaptation of all the necessary tools to effect the change desired while looking to God for guidance and leadership.

“I know how difficult it is to engender patience in a technological age that is geared towards speed ... but this is not a sprint relay,” the outgoing president stated.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

REV. DR. WILLIAM THOMPSON



Rev Thompson added that a call to patience is not to be perceived as a call to passive resignation; but a call to active patience means that we employ all the necessary tools to effect the change desired, even while looking to God for His guidance and leadership.

According to Thompson, the Church has to demonstrate confidently, an openness to divine intervention, even when the reality seemed hopeless. This kind of defiant optimism, he added would help to reverse the negative experiences.

“We do not know when the scientists will manufacture a vaccine to fight this deadly virus, but until then, we must keep hope alive, confident that the one who

is the architect of the future will lead us from victory unto victory.”

“I implore you to wait actively upon God as you chart the course for the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship for the next five years.” Thompson exhorted.

With gratitude

Rev Thompson acknowledged the work and worth of the team with whom he worked. He singled out the outgoing Executive Secretary Treasurer, Rev Everton Jackson whom he stated had brought new life and energy to the CBF.

“Today, we are stronger than we were a decade ago due to his unswerving commitment and efficient leadership.”

The outgoing president also mentioned the work of the Administrative Services Manager, Santana Morris and noted that she too would be moving on come December.

He welcomed the incoming Executive and reposed confidence in their ability to continue the work of the CBF for the next five years and beyond.



Leadership is DOMINIQUE DICK

CBF Notes welcomes newly minted CBF president, Dominique Dick, who hails from Guadeloupe. This is the first in the history of the CBF that a president is elected from a French speaking Caribbean country. We joined him for a little fire side chat, after his virtual installation, during the closing service of the General Assembly, on October 22 .

CBFN. Congratulations Rev on your call to service at this level. How do you feel about serving at such a time as this?

DD. It is with much humility and gratitude to CBF, which is our big family, that I have accepted this great challenge to serve as the president, especially in these unique moments: COVID-19, Installation on a digital platform, CBF 50th Anniversary, CCP's activities, which will be on hold due to financial reasons. But I know one thing, is that when God calls God's servants, He equips them. I firmly believe that it isn't man who leads, but it is a united team with a vision, who makes the work advance.

I am very proud, and it's with great humility and fear that I take up this challenge. I am from a French background and I will have to adapt myself in a lot of areas, but I am very fond of the English culture. Confucius said: "Choose a job you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life"

CBFN. What is your vision for the CBF?

DD. My vision, is to mobilise member bodies to engender greater interest in the Fellowship. We have diverse riches in our different regions, if only we would come together to win a large number of people for Christ. May this family be strong by its unity, in order that our engagement may be real. We must continue to train others to serve, make the words CBF have its full meaning and impact in each union of churches around the Caribbean.

CBFN. What are some objectives you would like to achieve during your five year tenure as President?

DD. First of all, I would like to see the member bodies in action in their regions and find ways to grow together as one family. Secondly, I would like have more exchanges in the pastoral ministries. The final objectives will be defined with the team.

... LEADERSHIP IS DOMINIQUE DICK

CBFN. What are some the challenges you envisage in leading the CBF over the next five years?

DD. I foresee quite a few and have summarized them as follow:

- ◆ To bring people together, to focus on the vision. COVID-19 has changed a lot of things. Today we must live differently. And that's where we will need to work to bring the member bodies on the projects.
- ◆ We must continue preparing for CBF's 50th anniversary celebration in Jamaica in 2021.
- ◆ Solutions must be found on a long-term basis to boost the viability of the Caribbean Christian Publication (CCP).
- ◆ We need to put up strategies to bring the men together .
- ◆ Look for ways and means to increase CBF financial situation.
- ◆ We must wake up the different leaders around the regions. Keep meetings every three months in order to support them; and request a report.

CBFN. How do you think your leadership will help to tackle these challenges?

DD. I simply believe that God asks of us that we start and He will provide manna every morning. I don't want to speak of the mountain, but to the mountain. I am convinced that leadership doesn't depend on one person, but on a united team, with a vision.

CBFN. How have your experience and training prepared you for this level of service so far?

DD. I am convinced that God's calling over my life goes beyond skills. I had a normal school curriculum, I was trained to be painter and decorator, I have a theological degree from Barbados Bible School. I've been pastoring for twenty-five years, I am also an evangelist and missionary in Africa with MAEVA-SEV. I also own a car rental business.

I have been president of the Baptist Federation in Guadeloupe for eight years and again, I am taking up another four years mandate. All these ministries allowed me to gain experience and maturity in leadership, which I expect to put at CBF's service.

CBFN. Tell us a little about the French Federation of Baptists

DD. Our Federation began in 1975 with American missionaries from the Southern Baptist mission; men

were trained and equipped. Today we have 15 churches with a number of 1,500 members spread across the churches. Our mission is to work for the communion and the evangelization of the country, train and equip men and women for the ministry, to be the light and the salt of the earth, so that Christ can be seen through the churches.

CBFN. To what extent do you think your presidency will impact your own Federation?

DD. For the first time that a French person is occupying this position, it is a source of pride for Guadeloupe. The impact on our Federation and other unions of churches is considerable; meaning that our exchanges will be more important and the language will no longer be considered a barrier. It is a sign of completion towards something better.

CBFN. Tell us a little about your family. Will your involvement as President impact them and if so how do you plan to address this challenge?

DD. I have been married for 25 years, father of two daughters, I am also in the process of adopting two children in Cameroun. My wife is a health manager in a clinic. We are a family at God's service and we like to undertake projects. I consulted my wife and children before taking my decision for the presidency, they are proud of God's choice for my life and they are supportive of me.

CBFN. Thank you so much for your time Rev President. We have no doubt that God has called and equipped you for this leg of the journey. We look forward to a more comprehensive conversation with you even as we look forward to working with you. We will continue to pray for and with you.

DD. Thank you very much. It has been my pleasure.

REACHING THIS FAR BY FAITH ...

A proposal to launch an evangelistic thrust called the “Crusade of the Americas”, the brainchild of Dr. Rubens Lopez of Brazil, received the blessing of the Baptist World Alliance at its 1965 Congress in Miami, Florida. The theme of the Crusade, held from 1966 to 1969, was “*Christ the Only Hope*”. It provided the first organized opportunity for Caribbean Baptist pastors and leaders to meet and interact during the country-to-country exchange of preachers. To facilitate continuing fellowship and cooperation beyond the Crusade, God used the Jamaica Baptist Union and the Caribbean area leaders of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention of the USA.

The Consultation

In 1968 the Rev Azariah McKenzie, General Secretary of the Jamaica Baptist Union, wrote to Baptist groups across the Caribbean, inviting them to send representatives to a “Baptist Regional Consultative Conference” to be held in Jamaica, June 4-6, 1969. The purpose was to devise “some plan by which Baptists from the area might work together more closely for mutual help and for the extension of God’s Kingdom”. Attending were 37 leaders from 14 countries, representing about 200,000 Baptists. Participants decided to organize a regional body to be known as the Caribbean

Baptist Fellowship that would operate under specific guidelines adopted at that meeting.

The Convention

After that, things moved rapidly. In April 1970, the inaugural meeting of the CBF was held at the Florida Baptist Conference Center at Lake Yale. Baptists from the Bahamas, Bermuda, Cayman Brac, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St Kitts, Trinidad and Tobago, and the US Virgin Islands, enrolled as the 13 founding members. Azariah McKenzie was elected president, and the Rev. Dottson Mills, FMB missionary serving with the JBU, was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

Three months later, a letter signed by the two officers was delivered to the BWA Congress meeting in Tokyo, Japan, requesting that the CBF be recognized as a regional fellowship of the BWA. The request met with little opposition, and resulted in the CBF becoming the third BWA Fellowship after Europe and North America, and ahead of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The Constitution

A formal constitution, adopted at the 1972 CBF general assembly, would be amended repeatedly until the present constitution came into effect in 2012. In time, twelve standing committees were established, some of which soon



ARTHUR EDGAR



Delegates, Haiti convention, 2019

disappeared from the roster. Among the more productive were the following:

The Committees

The **Evangelism Committee** under leaders like Bob Harris of Bermuda, Winston Clemetson of Jamaica, and missionary Al Gary of Guadeloupe, this Committee promoted regional evangelism thrusts and evangelistic partnerships with Florida and Virginia Baptists.

A DECADE OF RENEWAL

Arthur Edgar

The Committee worked with the CBF-appointed task force led by Rev. Vincent Wood to stage a successful Cricket World Cup evangelistic outreach effort in 2007 under the theme, “*Jesus Christ the Living Water (Free): Drink and Thirst no More*”.

The Christian Education and Stewardship Committee was most active under the leadership of missionaries, Rev. Ron Wilson and Charlotte Davis. They held training conferences and seminars for Sunday School, Church Administration, Music, Vacation Bible School, Stewardship, Prayer Life, and Family Life.

By 1981 the Women’s Committee became the Caribbean Baptist Women’s Union (CBWU), a department of the CBF, having its own executive, constitution and budget. The CBWU continues to be a pace-setter in the life of the CBF. Much credit is due to a succession of able leaders like Louise Maderios of Bermuda, Dame Doris Johnson and Marina Sands of the Bahamas, and Rubye Gayle of Jamaica.

The Youth Committee has had notable successes, especially in staging Caribbean Baptist Youth Festivals and participating in BWA Youth conferences. In 1998 its chairman, Rev. Donald Lawrence was elected president of the BWA Youth Department.

Other notable leaders were Dr Michael Taylor of Jamaica, and Rev. Clinton Minnis of the Bahamas.

The Men’s Department functioned intermittently depending on leadership. Charles Blake and Richard James, both of Jamaica were among the more effective leaders.

The Mass Communications and the Literature and Publications Committees played a pivotal role in the life of the CBF. Mass Communications became the CBF Media Centre, operating from its own facility built in Nassau in 1979, led by missionary, Michael Searcy and his assistant Bob Bernhardt. It relocated to Florida in 1989. The Media Centre released many audio and audio-visual products for radio and television, which addressed issues and events relevant to the Caribbean. It also trained member bodies and churches to use these media effectively in ministry.

The Literature and Publications Committee named an Administrative-Editorial Sub-Committee in 1973, charged with the task of producing Sunday School lessons to be called Caribbean Bible Lessons. An editorial office, established in Jamaica in 1974, published the first regular issues for four age - groups in October 1976.

The arrival of missionaries, Dr Morris Wright, a curriculum



Burchel Taylor, recognized by the BWA



YOUTH GATHERING. ST KITTS. 2019

specialist, and his wife, Joyce, in 1977, marked an important milestone in the development of the literature. Dr Wright recommended a name change to Caribbean Christian Publications (CCP). Thanks are due also to Rev. and Mrs Clifford Graham, FMB missionaries, Rev. Samuel Vernon of Trinidad, Mr. Karl James of Jamaica, and the volunteer editors and writers.

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Arthur Edgar

A great leap forward for the CBF was the decision taken at a special Assembly in July 1980 to employ a full-time officer to serve as the Executive Secretary-Treasurer (EST). The president of the Fellowship, Rev. Azariah McKenzie was unanimously approved for this position. Mr. McKenzie began his tenure in 1981, working from his home in Jamaica until he retired in 1995.

The EST would now ensure that decisions of meetings were executed, necessary correspondence done, meetings properly planned, budgets drafted and monitored, and communications with member bodies and the BWA efficiently conducted.

The CCP relocated

Another important decision was to approve the relocation of CCP from Jamaica to El Paso, Texas, to the premises of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House, the printers and distributors of the Bible Lessons. Approval was also given to employ Arthur and Linett Edgar as the first full-time Caribbean national editors. After Dr. Wright resigned, Mr. Edgar became director of CCP in 1984 and served until 2006.

The 1980 Assembly also decided to elevate the CBF Media Centre and CCP to the status of agencies, each with its own Board of Trustees, staff and operating budget. In 1989 both

agencies came together in Hollywood, Florida, in a purpose-built facility named the Caribbean Baptist Communications Centre.

Caribbean Christian Publications, under successive directors, Arthur Edgar, Gillian Francis and Beryl Roper has continued to fulfil its responsibility by publishing “Biblically grounded, culturally relevant and educationally sound” Bible Study and other religious literature used by Baptist and other evangelical faith communions across the region.

Counting the cost

Perhaps you are wondering how a small, financially poor body like the CBF could afford these major undertakings. For that we are greatly indebted to our partner in ministry, the FMB (now the IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). Its regional leaders, starting in 1968 with Drs Charles Bryan and Bill Graves, provided considerable human and financial resources, including a generous annual block grant to the CBF, from which it financed its operations. In most years, the FMB financed over 90% of the CBF budget. But that structure, built on the shaky foundation of dependence, began to collapse in 1997.

Changing Course

In that year, the IMB underwent a “radical paradigm shift”, referred to

as its “New Directions Mandate”. The Board changed from supporting national bodies to an aggressive evangelistic and church planting movement, focused on unreached people groups and worldwide lostness. The grant to the CBF declined from US\$215,000.00 in 1998 to zero in 2008, while at the same time Caribbean missionaries received new assignments.

These changes affected the CBF in the following major ways:

- ◆ The CBF Media Centre was turned over to the IMB in 1998;
- ◆ The EST became a part-time officer;
- ◆ Most of the committees became dormant;
- ◆ CCP was repatriated to Jamaica in 2003.

The CBF, having long desired to own a headquarters building in the Caribbean, hastened to realize this dream before they exhausted the funds that was saved for that purpose. In 2003, a building on Balmoral Avenue in Kingston, Jamaica, was purchased and renovated. CCP moved into the building in October 2003. It was dedicated on April 25, 2004 as the “Azariah McKenzie CBF Building”. The dedication plaque was unveiled by Mrs Marion McKenzie, whose husband was too ill to attend. The Jamaica Baptist Union officers, and professionals they recommended, rendered invaluable service in the relocation process.

A review of this 50-year history reveals both challenges and strengths. The following challenges stand out:

- ◆ An overdependence on external sources for funding and personnel;

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

- ◆ Failure of most member bodies to support CBF generously and consistently;
- ◆ Failure to adequately serve the Spanish, French, and Creole-speaking member bodies.

However, we thank God for the strengths of the Fellowship. Among these is a resilience that overcame the funding crisis, challenges of travel and communications, and the limited resources of member bodies.

Thousands have benefitted from its programs and products, and have been inspired by the opportunities afforded by the CBF for Christian fellowship and the advancement of the cause of Christ together.

The Fellowship has been blessed with gifted and dedicated leaders. Foremost among them are the ESTs: Azariah McKenzie, Peter Pinder, and Everton Jackson; and the seven Presidents: Azariah McKenzie - Jamaica, Vincent Wood - Barbados (for two separate terms), Charles Smith - The Bahamas; V. A. Cadette - Trinidad; Lambert Mills - Antigua; Burchell Taylor - Jamaica; William Thompson - The Bahamas (for two consecutive terms).

Also deserving of mention are their fellow labourers: Winnie Thompson, Beryl Gibbs, Helena Cooper, Santana Morris, and Edna McKoy who served as recording secretary for 23 years.

The CBF has also benefitted from its parent body, the BWA. In 2008 the Alliance chose as General Secretary Neville Callam, of Jamaica, the first non-European or non-American to serve in that office. Wendy Ryan of Trinidad and Eron Henry of Jamaica served as leaders of the Communications Department.

Joining the BWA administration this year as director of Integrated Missions is our current EST, Everton Jackson. We have also provided Vice Presidents, preachers and presenters at congresses and annual gatherings, and also members of committees and commissions.

The last decade can be aptly described as a decade of renewal. It has witnessed a resurgence of interest among member bodies. Some dormant members have been resuscitated and new ones added.

Courting the future

The CBF looks to a future marked by greater unity and new leadership, as it goes forward under the 50th anniversary theme, *“Reaching Thus Far by Faith: The Journey Continues”*. The past 50 years have given abundant evidence that the CBF was established by a move of God. We are assured that though challenges will arise, the future of the Fellowship is secure. “Thanks be to God. To God be the glory”.



BUTT GENERAL ASEMBLY 2019



GUYANA BMC GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019



BARBADOS BAPTIST ALLIANCE ASSEMBLY
2019

Karlene Warrick, TNT

CBF WOMEN GOT YOU

Whom He calls, He equips, sends and supports. We are chosen, appointed and anointed by God for service to women and men .

During the year 2019 -2020 the theme on which women of the Caribbean focused was "Arise, Shine - Through Service."

The COVID-19 pandemic upended our ministries and organisations in days. Planned events were cancelled or postponed. It was necessary to refocus quickly, and change gear to mitigate and navigate the immediate impact to our members now and in the not too distant future.

The department had to refocus on ministering to those in need. We provided care hampers, meals, digital devices and school supplies to assist children with virtual learning . We also provided support for the repairs of a home for one needy family.

TRAINING INTERVENTIONS

Emphasis was placed on capacity development for women and as such the Union engaged in a series of training interventions that included entrepreneurship to re-tool and re-skill women who had lost their source of income. Training was provided in the cultivation of short crops and the making of ice cream and pastry. The women who participated in the cash crop initiative also donated vegetable packages to vulnerable families.

New officers participated in a six month leadership development program, while member bodies also benefitted from training in digital citizenship to build their capacity to manage digital platforms.



DAY OF PRAYER

The CBWU observes each November as Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer (DOP); and in 2019 the material was prepared by us under the theme, "**When we Rise up - He Shines through Service.**" This was well received by the sisters in all the Continental Unions. All funds received through this DOP were forwarded to the Women's Department.

The CBWU also observes its own DOP in June each year. The material is written by various Islands, using the Women's Department theme. The funds received by each Island is sent to the Treasurer. Funds are used to assist with projects and general budget.

However, this year because of the pandemic, it seems not all the Islands were able to observe the CBWU DOP.



We are encouraging all Islands who did not get to implement the DOP to do so when it is convenient.

EMPOWERMENT

In some member states, projects are carried out to assist women and their families. Some of these projects were started in the last five years. Islands can submit project proposal to CBWU for funding. Two Islands - Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada - benefited from the BWA Women DOP in November 2019 and will receive funding in short order. The Union continued to realise the strategic objective of financial empowerment and entrepreneurship for our sisters by supporting projects and providing for spiritual, physical, economic and social needs of women in the Caribbean.

COVID COVERED

Sisters in each member state are encouraged to reach out to the needy and vulnerable. Special attention would be paid to children and women who are being abused.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

The 38th General Conference and 40th Anniversary was hosted by our newest member, San Andres. We met at the Sunrise Beach Hotel from July 17 - 22, 2019.

The conference which was rated one of the best, saw more than 200 sisters in attendance. The hospitality of the sisters of San Andres was superb and although they speak Spanish most of the sisters could understand our English.

The entire Conference was a blessing and we want to again thank the sisters

for hosting such a memorable conference.

The CBWU continue to connect with most of the women of the Caribbean. There are a few member states that we need to get on board and be more active. The new CBWU President will follow-up with these states.

Thanks to the women of the Caribbean for the tremendous support they gave to the outgoing President. Indeed, we were a good TEAM. We can proudly say, coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, working is success.

We will continue as a Women's group to do ministry to the women of the Caribbean and beyond. We pray that God will continue to use us to bring the women of the Caribbean together.



Care packages prepared and distributed to the vulnerable



CBF NEWS & NOTES

SANTANA MOVES

We note with regret that our Administrative Services Manager, (ASM) Santana N. Morris has decided to heed to her second calling as an educator and will officially demit office in December 2020.

Santana joined the CBF staff in 2013 as administrative assistant. She came at a time when her administrative and technological knowledge and skills were needed. Serving with unswerving commitment and sustained integrity, Santana was promoted in 2018 to ASM.

At the General Assembly, EST Jackson, outgoing president William Thompson and BWA Secretary Elijah Brown all lauded Morris' worth and work.

According to EST Jackson, she has worked tirelessly to get the CBF where it is now. Her affable personality and endearing spirit made it easy for executive members to work with her.

Santana kept all of us on our feet with timely reminders and pertinent information. On behalf of all of us, I thank you Santana for your hard work and commitment to the CBF, Thompson said.

She has assumed a position of lecturer at the College level in Jamaica and so we wish her all the best in her new position.

We also pray for her success as she pursues her PhD degree at the University of the West Indies.



CBF NEWS & NOTES

SKBA BWA READY!



CBF notes that the St Kitts Baptist Association (SKBA) has gained membership in the BWA. The Association's application for membership was approved during the 2020 virtual General Council held in July of this year.

The St Kitts Baptist Association, which was established in 1964, has 600 members in three churches and has convention offices located in Basseterre, St Kitts. The Association is led by President Lincoln D. Connor and General Secretary Michael Penny, along with other officers.

According to the BWA, the Association complied with the requirements for the application process, submitting supporting documents such as statement of faith, organizational history, and documentation of their membership within the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship (CBF), one of six regional BWA fellowships.

At the virtual induction ceremony, President Lincoln Connor expressed pleasure at his Association becoming the 241st member body of the BWA. He noted that membership in the BWA is a reflection of the diversity of God's kingdom as envisioned in Revelation 7:9.

"As a local gathering, we believe there is scope for greater impact as we collaborate and fellowship with our brothers and sisters across the globe," Connor said.

CBF Executive Secretary/Treasurer also expressed his satisfaction, noting that "the Baptists of this Caribbean country have had a long history of holistic service, ministering to both the spiritual and material needs of its congregants and members of the wider community."

"I am sure that in becoming a member of the global Baptist family, they will make themselves available to partner with the worldwide Baptists in integral mission," Jackson added.

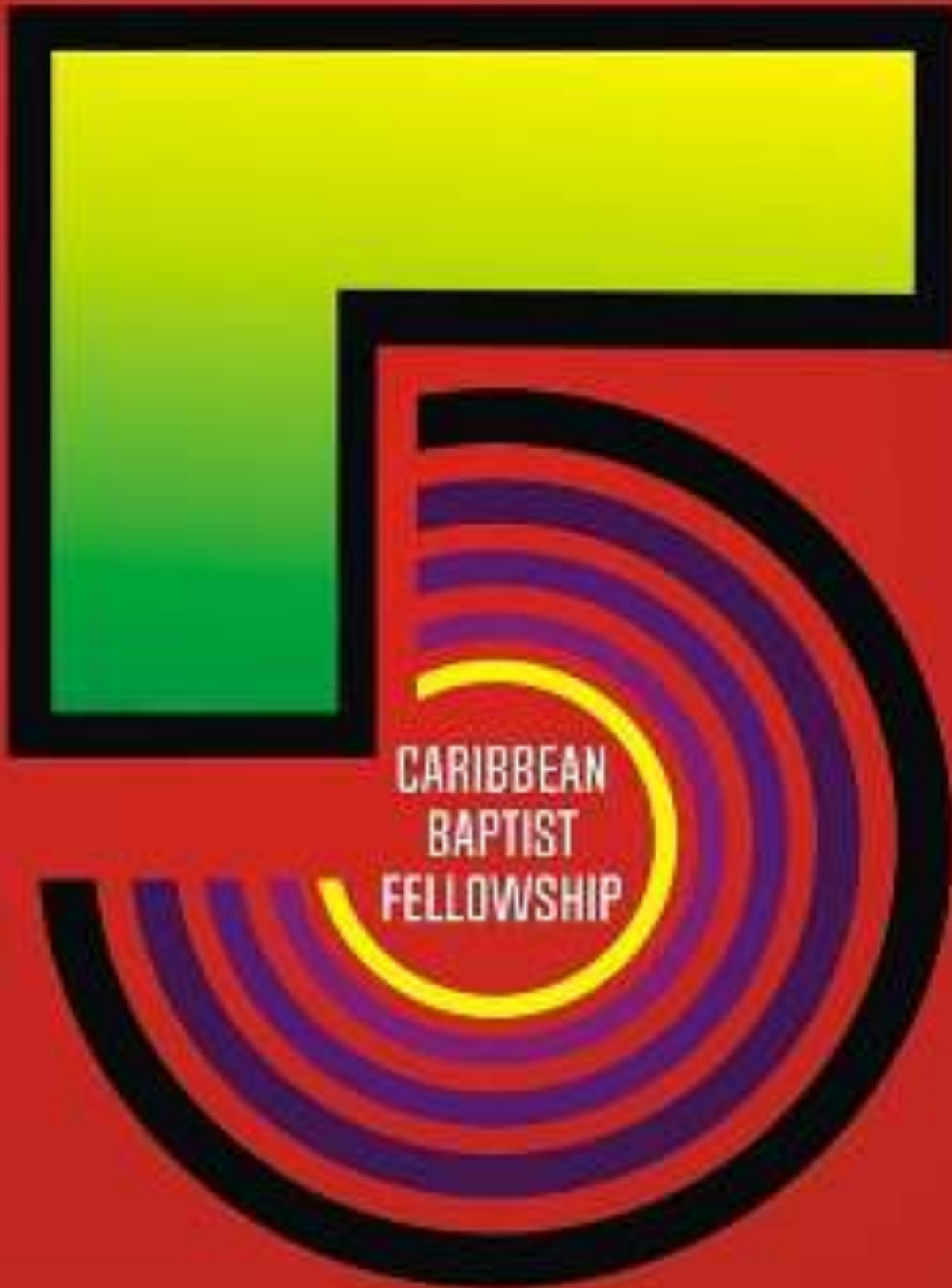


BWA General Secretary, Elijah Brown noted that God was growing the global Baptist family, which now spans 126 countries and territories.

"We look forward to partnering together with St Kitts Baptist Association in our mission to impact the world for Christ," Brown concluded.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

REACHING THIS FAR BY FAITH-
THE JOURNEY CONTINUES



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