

January- June 2012  
Volume 1, Issue 1



# CBWU CONNECTION

## Message from the President— Yvonne Pitter



President—Yvonne Pitter

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Baptist women of the Caribbean and all my sisters in the Lord, I greet you in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we begin yet another year, I wish that your dreams would materialize as you seek to fulfill God's purpose for your lives.

Women of the Caribbean, we are in a ministry designed to proclaim the good news to women. Let us radiate His light into the dark corners of women's experiences until that great day comes, when every woman, man and child will know the glorious grace and goodness of our God. Let us remember as children of God to bear His life to those who are dying; share our bread with those who are hungry and proclaim His ability to empower those who are powerless.

Our vision as the Caribbean Baptist Women's Union (CBWU) is to enable women in every island to grow in effectiveness and solidarity, thereby impacting our region and the world for Christ.

One of the strategic objectives of the CBWU is to develop a Newsletter as a medium through which we can share the happenings in each of our islands, exchange ideas, encourage and learn from each other as we strive to become more like Christ. It is to this end that we are circulating our first bi-annual Newsletter – "CBWU Connection." I hope that you will find its contents to be useful and informative.

As this is 'our' newsletter, I am asking that my sisters submit items of interest such as jokes, Bible cross-words, helpful hints, studies on biblical female characters, health and nutrition tips pertaining to women to the Media Chairperson.

Let me use this medium to remind each President to ensure that the ladies in your respective territories are knowledgeable about the CBWU's Strategic and Operation Plans for the years 2011-2013.

Let me also remind you that we will meet for our CBWU Annual Conference from July 18-23, 2012 in the Bahamas. Please encourage as many women as possible to attend. We are looking forward to a great time in the Lord!  
*Yvonne Pitter*

*See more on Sis. Pitter on back page*



Deacon Goldene Simon

### Antiguan Deacon Goldene Simon

- Ordained on 6th Nov. 2011
- Serves under the leadership of Rev. Mark Azille
- Accepted the Lord 36 years ago
- Works as Missions and Evangelism Director

## Goldene Simon—First female Baptist Deacon in Antigua

History was made in Antigua on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2011, when Sis. Goldene Simon was ordained as a Deacon. It is the first time ever in the Baptist Community in Antigua, that a woman was elected to serve as a Deacon, under the Leadership of Rev. Mark Azille, Pas-

tor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church. A dynamic woman of God, Deacon Simon accepted the Lord as her personal Saviour 36 years ago and she has never been the same since then. Deacon Simon is the Missions & Evangelism Director at the Mount Zion Baptist Church,

and she also teaches the Adult Women Sunday School class. Some of her hobbies include listening to music, reading, cooking and crocheting. Deacon Simon holds an Associate Degree in Theology.

## Building Relationships— a review of the Grenada Baptist Union

The year 2011 was an outstanding year for the women’s ministry with the individual groups doing their various activities in their respective communities. As an association we visited the mental institution to celebrate the birthday of our sister who lives there. It was a memorable occasion .

Our biggest event was the planning of our annual CBWU Conference which took place at the Grenadian by Rex Resort from July 18<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> under the theme “In Step with the Spirit, Gods’ Mercy”.

We celebrated a week of activities in the month of October under the theme “Building Relationships” in which we learned that relationships are very fragile, hard to form, harder to maintain and very easy to destroy. During that week many activities took place including the appreciation and enrolment service, social get together, discussions on building relationships, prayer breakfast and an all-night of prayer with the 2011 BWA Day of Prayer.



**GBU members “Building Relationships”**

### A bit of Humor

**Sunday morning attendance swelled as the tension between the two built.**

#### HUMOUR: CHURCH FEUD

There was a feud between the Pastor and the Choir Director of the Hicksville Southern Baptist Church. It seems the first hint of trouble came when the Pastor preached on “Dedicating Yourselves to Service” and the Choir Director chose to sing “I Shall Not Be Moved”. Trying to believe it was a coincidence, the Pastor put the incident behind him. The next Sunday he preached on “Giving.” Afterwards, the choir squirmed as the Director led them in the hymn “Jesus Paid It All”. By this

time, the Pastor was losing his temper. Sunday Morning attendance swelled as the tension between the two built. A large crowd showed up the next week to hear his sermon on ”The Sin Of Gossiping.” Would you believe the Choir Director selected the song “I love To Tell The Story.” There was no turning back. The following Sunday the Pastor told the congregation that unless something changed, he

was considering resignation. The entire Church gasped when the Choir Director led them in the song “Why Not Tonight.” Truthfully, no one was surprised when the Pastor resigned a week later, explaining that Jesus had led him there and Jesus was leading him away. The Choir Director could not resist: “What A Friend We have In Jesus.”

*Submitted by: Antigua Baptist Association*

### Our plans are in His hands- The Bahamas



In the Bahamas the majority of the churches start the year with weeks of prayers, fasting, revivals and settings goals. Consequently, the women held The Intercessory Prayer Revival for two nights leading into National Baptist Annual Crusade from January 22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. The Seminar on the "Status of Women" scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> will climax with a "Mode Luncheon".

A significant feature of the agenda for 2012 is the hosting of the CBWU July Conference . Plans are on-going and they look forward to welcoming all Caribbean women to the Bahamas. *Rev. Dr. Gloria D. Ferguson.*

#### A Riddle for you...

Can you answer all seven questions with the same word?

1. The word has seven letters
2. It preceded God
3. It is greater than God
4. It is more Evil than the devil
5. All poor people have it
6. Wealthy people need it
7. If you eat it, you will die

*See answer on back page*

## The Empowered Woman

*The Empowered Woman, she moves through the world with a sense of confidence and grace. Her once reckless spirit now tempered by wisdom.*

*Quietly, yet firmly, she speaks her truth without doubt or hesitation and the life she leads is of her own creation.*

*She now understands what it means to live and let live.*

*How much to ask for herself and how much to give.*

*She has a strong, yet generous heart and the inner beauty she emanates truly sets her apart.*

*Like the mythical Phoenix, she has risen from the ashes and soared to a new plane of existence, unfettered by the things that once that posed such resistance.*

*Her senses now heightened, she sees everything so*

*clearly.*

*She hears the wind rustling through the trees; beckoning her to live the dreams she holds so dearly.*

*She feels the softness of her hands and muses at the strength that they possess.*

*Her needs and desires she has learned to express. She has tasted the bitter and savored the sweet fruits of life, overcome adversity and pushed past heartache and strife.*

*And the one thing she never understood, she now knows to be true, it all begins and ends with you.*

*A [poem by Sonny Carroll submitted by the Grenada Baptist Union (GBU)*

Empowered women of the GBU



## Women of Courage— Baptist women of Belize

The past year has been filled with many challenges but so much more blessings. To more effectively minister to the people of our country, our Association is divided into four regions, the Northern, Central, Western and Southern Regions. As president of the women's ministry of our association, I work along with a representative of each region. They are: Sister Maggie Escalante; Sister Lydia Brown; Sister Yolanda Cowo and Sister Veronica Pop. All our National and Regional activi-

ties are bilingual - Spanish and English. However when we have national activities special presentations are also done in Ketchi Maya and Garifuna. We love the fact that we speak different languages because it makes us unique and reminds us that the LOVE of Jesus for us and our love for Him binds us together and breaks any barriers. Our last activity was our Annual Baptist Women's Conference. This was held on the 8th October 2011 and it was hosted by the Northern Region.

Our guest speaker was Sister Martha Brady!!! We prepared for 200 women but Our Mighty Lord had a surprise for us that left us in awe!! WE HAD A TOTAL OF 241 BAPTIST WOMEN PRESENT!!! The highest attendance that we have ever had at such an event was 176 women. GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME! Some of these ladies started to travel from midnight so that they could be there on time and reached back home until nearly midnight again!! We praise Him for these ladies' faithfulness towards Him. *Marlenie Gonzalez*

**Women travelled from midnight to midnight to attend this event.**

### Recipe Corner

#### Banana Guava Pie

- 1 1/2 c Sliced bananas
- 1 1/4 c Guava nectar
- 1/2 c Sugar
- 1 tb Lemon juice
- 1/4 ts Salt
- 3 tb Cornstarch
- 3 tb Cold water
- Baked pie shell

Combine guava nectar, lemon juice, sugar and salt. Bring to boil over low heat. Mix cornstarch and water to a smooth paste and stir into mixture. Stir until thickened and clear. Cool. Combine with bananas and pour into baked pie shell. Serve with whipped cream.



CBWU CONNECTION is produced by:  
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### Fast Facts on our President—Yvonne Pitter

**Hobbies:** Dominoes, word search, reading, Scrabble and Boggle.

**Achievements as President::**

- Revision of the Constitution
- Developing a Strategic and Operation Plan
- Introducing a TEAM approach to gain more involvement of the territories.

### Reminders from the Secretary of Promotions:

- To work on our Strategic Plan implementing some of the activities planned. Send reports of the successes to the President and to the Media Chairperson.
- Our **Annual Conference** will be held in the Bahamas from July 18 -23 2012 ,(5 nights), at the Breezes Hotel. Registration is US 60.00 for early registration and US65.00 for late registration. Early registration ends February 29, 2012.
- The cost for the hotel (in USD) is as follows:  
Single Occupancy        \$875 per person  
Double Occupancy        \$675 per person  
Triple Occupancy        \$625 per person  
1<sup>st</sup> Payment is due the end of February  
Final payment is due the end of April.
- Remember to send in your project proposal .If you have not yet send in your offering for CBWU and BWA days of prayer please do so as early as possible. Send same to our Treasurer Dr. Clover Jarrett.
- If you have not sent in your membership fee remember it is: US 200.00 for 100 churches or less  
US 300.00 for 101 churches up to 200.  
US 400.00 for 201 churches and over.

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### *The Caribbean Baptist Women's Union*

**Mission:**

To foster and celebrate unity in Christ and promote fellowship among Baptist Women in the Caribbean and worldwide; win souls for Christ and work towards greater social and community involvement through prayer, witness and service.

**Vision:**

Caribbean Baptist Women in every island working together, growing in effectiveness, solidarity and impacting our region and the world for Christ.

**Answer to the Riddle :NOTHING!**

NOTHING has 7 letters.  
NOTHING preceded God.  
NOTHING is greater than God.  
NOTHING is more Evil than the devil.  
All poor people have NOTHING.  
Wealthy people need NOTHING.  
If you eat NOTHING, you will die.

### Executive Members of CBWU

President	Yvonne Pitter - Jamaica
Vice President	Avra Bernard - Trinidad
Secretary	Dottis Arthur - Turks & Caicos
Treasurer	Clover Jarrett - Jamaica
Secretary of Promotion	Marjorie Fletcher - Jamaica
Vice President at Large	Sabrina Pinder - Bahamas
Vice President at Large	Sheriann Munro – Grenada
Immediate Past President	Marina Sands - Bahamas

### Committee Chairperson

Media/Newsletter	Karlene Warrick -Trinidad
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