

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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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Rev. Dr. William Thompson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Special days are normally observed with varying degrees of celebrative activities. This is evident in the lives of individuals, nations and institutions. Among the special days on the Christian calendar is Whitsunday or Pentecost, the seventh Sunday after Easter.

Pentecost for the Jews meant a time of Harvest celebration as well as the commemoration of the giving of the law to Moses on Mt Sinai. The Jews deliberately decided not to have another festival until 50 days after the Passover.

The significance of the day for the Christian Church, however, does not lie in the celebration of harvest or the commemoration of the giving of the law to Moses but in the descent of the Holy Spirit. During the earthly ministry of Jesus, He promised that the Spirit would come to God's people as a gift. While John records the fulfilment of this

promise in Jesus breathing on his disciples, Luke describes the descent of the Holy Spirit in a more spectacular manner on the day of Pentecost. Despite the difference of perspective by John and Luke, it is of interest that both agree that the fulfilment of the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit is a post-resurrection experience. It is the view of many that the promise made by Jesus to institute the Church was also fulfilled on this day with the descent of the Holy Spirit. The Jews were the first to be incorporated by the Spirit into the Body of Christ, followed by the Samaritans and the Gentiles. Membership in the new community of God's people was no longer determined by keeping the law of Moses but instead by incorporation by the Holy Spirit.

As Baptists, we embrace this new order regulated by the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, we are being transformed, enabled and empowered to live victoriously in this post-Christian age.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'W. Thompson', written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Rev. Dr. William Thompson
President

FROM THE EST DESK



Rev. Everton Jackson

Three upcoming events are of interest to the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship:

1) CBF Sunday

June 28, 2015 will be observed as *CBF Sunday*. Churches are asked to give visibility to the work and ministry of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship on this Sunday. A message, penned by the CBF president, will be sent to each church with the hope that it will be read aloud in worship. Churches are encouraged to receive a special offering on this day, to go towards the CBF budget.

2) BWA Congress

The 21st Baptist World Congress will be held in Durban, South Africa, from July 22-26, 2015 guided by the theme: "Jesus Christ, The Door." Baptists from all over the world will gather over these days for worship, Bible study, fellowship and business. A number of persons from the Caribbean have already registered for this every-five-year event. Among the persons from the Caribbean who will be actively involved in the Congress are the Rev. Dr.

Anthony Carroll (Bahamas), Rev. Dr. William Thompson (Bahamas), Rev. Everton Jackson (Jamaica), Rev. Karl Henlin (Jamaica), Rev. Johnathan Hemmings (Jamaica), Rev. Anslem Warrick (Trinidad & Tobago), Rev. Merlyn Hady-Riley (Jamaica), Rev. Karl Johnson (Jamaica), Rev. Norva Rodney (Jamaica), Dr. Lisabeth Crossman-Nugent (Jamaica) & Rev. Clinton Minnis (Bahamas).

At the Congress, Rev. Dr. Burchell Taylor from Jamaica and Dr. Victor Gonzalez-Grillo from Cuba who served as regional vice-presidents will be replaced by Rev. Anselm Warrick from Trinidad and Tobago and Dr. Jules Cassius from Haiti. On behalf of the CBF, I express gratitude to our two brothers for representing the region over the last five years.

3) CBF Executive Meetings and Baptist Gathering

The CBF executive meetings and Baptist gathering will be held at the Blue Season Hotel, Prospect, Guadeloupe, from November 11-12, 2015. Over these two days, the executive and ministry groups will meet, culminating in a 'Baptist Gathering' on Thursday night, November 12. The travelling days will be November 10 and 13, 2015. The officers, however, will arrive on November 9 for their meeting on Tuesday November 10.

A special invitation is extended to non-executive members to attend, particularly to share in the ministry group meetings as well as in the Baptist Gathering. I encourage as many Baptists who find it possible, from the Caribbean and the Diaspora, to attend these meetings.

I encourage you to pray for the Turks and Caicos Baptist Union as they prepare for their General Assembly scheduled for July 2015 as well as for Rev. Neville Callam, the BWA General Secretary, and the BWA staff, as they plan for the 2015 BWA Congress.

Rev. Everton Jackson
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

CARIBBEAN BAPTIST PERSONALITY: JACINTH WOOD, A PAST CBF VICE-PRESIDENT



Sis. Jacinth Wood

Jacynth Wood, neé Coppin, was born in Trinidad and Tobago. She migrated to Barbados where she received her secondary education. On leaving high school, young Jacinth worked at the Royal Bank of Canada for four years before going to New York to further her education. She studied Investment Banking after working in New York for a while.

While in New York, Jacinth met and married the Rev. Vincent Wood in 1974. Their union produced two children, Brian and Joy-Ann. After they were married, they returned to Barbados where Rev. Wood became the pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Bridgetown. Mrs. Wood returned to banking and was also involved in many ministries of the church. She taught Sunday School and started a young women's group.

In 1977, Jacinth was selected, by one of the missionaries serving in Barbados, to attend her first North American Baptist Union (NABU) Women's Conference in Freeport, in the Bahamas. She said that the experience was very educational for her. As the president of the Women's Union of her church, she became more involved. She became a member of the NABU Executive and attended many of its meetings. Her first NABU Women's Conference with Baptist World Alliance (BWA) was in 1995 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where the BWA Congress was held. She said that was also a great experience for her, as she met with women from all over the world.

After that, she acquired a great love for women's work in ministry and started attending the Caribbean Baptist Women's Union (CBWU) meetings under the leadership of Sister Rubye Gayle. Many of the meetings were held in Bible Town, Boca Raton, Florida. Sister Wood recalled that at that time, the delegation was small and the women were motivated to get involved. In 2001, she was elected secretary of the CBWU under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Marina Sands; and during her second term of office, she was elected Vice-president and served until 2010.

She served as one of the Vice-presidents of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship for one term, from 2011 to 2014. Sister Wood says, "I thank God for the privilege of serving in such a capacity, as this has made me more dedicated to serving Him and His church, as I keep walking in step with the Spirit daily."



ROAD TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY: JOHN MATTHEWS



John Matthews

Baptist Minister's Son - On the Road to Harvard University.

For many, receiving a college education locally, let alone internationally, is merely a pipe dream; but for John Matthews, son of the Rev Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Matthews of Jamaica, his dreams were made a reality when he landed among scholastic stars who set out to achieve a degree at the prestigious Harvard University. The path to greatness was one Matthews often travelled, learning from an early age to balance education with entertainment. “Growing up, I was afforded lots of liberties. My parents weren’t strict, as I was a very goal-oriented individual, but they did ensure that I followed the right path. They knew that they didn’t have to push me and implement strict rules, as I had a certain level of intrinsic motivation that propelled me to complete what needed to be done within a timely manner. Essentially, once I completed what needed to be done, I was allowed to do whatever I wanted. I appreciated the fact that I wasn’t as restricted as some of my peers, and I believe that this helped me later on in life

to be able to maintain a proper work or social-life balance.”

Despite this nontraditional freedom, he noted that his parents still instilled within him a strong sense of discipline, morals and a strong faith in God. All this would not have been possible without his foundation grounded in family support. They are very understanding of his goals and assist in pushing him in the right direction.



High School

High school brought forth newly found possibilities, allowing him to mature academically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally. “Attending Campion allowed me to develop the character that I have today, and has helped to hone my leadership skills and abilities. I always held education in high regard; however, I really started to take an extraordinarily vested interest in education and began operating at an exceptional level of excellence in fourth form.” What stood out for him in high school was sitting the Caribbean Advance Proficiency Examination (CAPE). Normally, one takes four or five subjects. Matthews decided to push the limit a bit and sat six at each unit, exceeding the expectations of many, setting in motion a high standard for himself as it related to high school life. He also got active outside of school by being highly involved in church and volunteering at University Hospital of the West Indies, among other institutions of care.

“Always keep your eyes on your goals and use the thought of achieving”

ROAD TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY: JOHN MATTHEWS



Recreational Activities

All work and no play would have made John a dull boy; and so for fun, he explores his palate as a food enthusiast, visiting restaurants with friends. He also enjoys watching television, listening to all genres of music, hanging out with friends by hosting barbeques, going to the beach, and hitting up the paintball scene and, recently, he has developed a love for dancing and swimming. His advice to those wanting to follow his footsteps is: “Always keep your eyes on your goals and use the thought of achieving said objectives to propel you towards your target and motivate you when you feel as if your resolve starts to wane. It is also imperative that you have a strong support system comprised of similarly focused peers, members of a faith, and mentors to keep you grounded and help you to weather the challenges that you may be confronted with. Also never be afraid to take risks and go for what you want. Ignore the naysayers, and always put your best foot forward no matter what.”

The fastidious, exploratory, open minded, daring, and passionate John Matthews is already on the right track as he sets sails to Harvard. *This Article was adopted from the Jamaica Gleaner.*



HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY TO CCP



Several happenings during the year 1975 have made their way into the annals of history. These range from the trivial to the profound. Who remembers these happenings/events which took place in 1975?

- The invention of the Rubik's cube - that small, hand-held game which befuddled, fascinated and engaged old and young alike? Sometimes, it took days; but, oh, such sweet victory to have solved the cube puzzles by aligning all its parts!
- In that year also, the bloody, long-running Vietnam War ended.
- International Women's Year was launched.
- Margaret Thatcher defeated Edward Heath to become leader of the British Conservative party.
- The lanky, gentlemanly African-American tennis player, Arthur Ashe, became the first black male to win Wimbledon.
- Closer to home, in Guyana, the Georgetown Agreement was signed, creating the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) grouping.
- A good many of us, perhaps, heard of Bill Gates for the first time in November of 1975, as he launched Microsoft (Microcomputer software). Indeed, as they say, the rest is an indelible part of history where both Mr. Gates and Microsoft are concerned.

Birth of Caribbean Christian Publications

The year 1975 was also seminal in the history of Sunday School literature ministry for and within the region. Caribbean Christian Publications (CCP) came into being as a direct result of a decision made in 1972 by the newly formed Caribbean Baptist Fellowship to pursue seriously the production of Caribbean-oriented Bible lessons. The Rev. Samuel Vernon, while serving in Trinidad and Tobago, chaired an editorial-administration committee in

that regard, the "Literature and Publications Committee". The committee's recommendation for "indigenously produced Bible study materials that would be biblically and theologically sound and evangelical in approach" was approved by the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship in 1974 and a decision made for the setting up of an editorial office in Jamaica.

The office was opened in Kingston in 1975 when Rev. and Mrs. Clifford Graham, Christian Education missionaries (Foreign Mission Board), were transferred from Guyana to commence literature production. They worked under the guidance of a core committee.

From their efforts, the first free promotional Caribbean Bible guides were released for use in January of 1976. Regular production commenced in October 1976; so while 2016 will mark the 40th anniversary of the literature coming into use, the editorial office came into being a year earlier, in 1975.

A core committee made up of volunteer Jamaican editors, chaired by Roderick Karl James, was named to work with the Grahams to identify writers and editors. The Rev. Mr. Graham, however, suffered ill health shortly thereafter and he and his wife returned to the United



Mr. Rev. Karl James, chaired core committee for producing Bible study literature

States. While there, they continued to work with others in preparing the material. It was shipped to the region where users were being identified through the tireless efforts of Rev. Sam Vernon, Clifford Graham, and Melvin Smith of the Bahamas, among others.

The editorial office was relocated to El Paso, Texas in 1980 under the directorship of Dr Morris Wright. That was to better enable CCP to supervise all stages of the literature production and distribution process and to take advantage of the relatively new computer technology available at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso.

CHRISTIAN

HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY TO CCP (CONT'D)

In 1987, it was decided to relocate from El Paso to Florida to put the editorial office closer to its Caribbean roots and to speed up distribution. At the same time, there was a need to move the CBF Media Centre from the Bahamas. With the assistance of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, much assistance was given to this massive undertaking. The office in El Paso closed in anticipation of the completion of the new facility in Hollywood, Florida but this was delayed by overruns. Parkway Baptist Church offered temporary accommodation – again, Rev. Sam Vernon to the rescue, he being pastor of the church. The new centre was officially opened on January 16, 1990. Rev. Mickey Searcy of the International Mission Board (IMB), formerly Foreign Mission Board, headed the CBF Media Centre while Rev. Arthur Edgar who had succeeded Dr. Morris Wright as CCP Director in 1984, headed the CBF literature ministry. The IMB and CCP continued in partnership.

The Rev. Azariah McKenzie served as president of the CBF



As the years went by, there was a growing desire to truly go back home to the Caribbean. There were other realities as well, among them the pending reduction, and finally the cessation, of financial and human resource support from the IMB, which was moving in other directions.

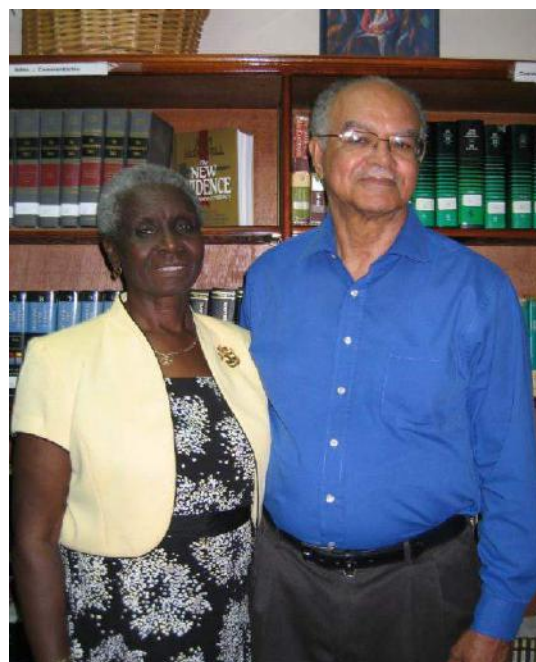
A relocation committee, under the chairmanship of CBF vice-president, Rev. Karl Henlin, spearheaded the property search and the eventual purchase of property at 27 Balmoral Avenue in Kingston. After refurbishing, the official opening and dedication of building, aptly named the CBF-Azariah Mckenzie Building”, took place on April 24, 2004. The Rev McKenzie had led the “CBF with distinction from its inception in 1970 to his retirement in 1995, and was one of the leaders who held the dream of having a literature ministry for the Caribbean.

CCP has continued to build on the legacy of countless women and men who worked tirelessly over many years to build on the dream. Indeed, the organization has been “watered and nurtured” by the sterling contribution of these stalwarts of the faith.

The local directors who have served the organization are:

- Rev. Arthur Edgar, 1980 - 2006
- Mrs. Gillian Francis, 2006 - 2012
- Mrs. Beryl Roper, 2013 to Present

May those who now serve, strive to be so faithful.



Rev. Arthur Edgar & Mrs. Linett Edgar: First fulltime Caribbean nationals on the CCP staff. Served CCP for 30 years as volunteers and then staff until their retirement in 1976.

YOUTH LEADERS RETREAT

BY: Gifford Marshall

CBF Youths
County
Highlights
2015



GUYANA BAPTIST YOUTH CONVENTION

The Baptist Convention of Guyana Christian Education Youth Department held its second annual youth leaders retreat on January 16– 18, 2015 at Camp Madewini, under the theme “Modelling Biblical Leadership”.

The retreat, which is the first of many exciting youth events planned for 2015, saw the participation of over 50 youth leaders from Baptist churches across Guyana. Retreat activities included worship, interactive sessions and workshops on evangelism, stewardship and leadership potential planning. Our next leadership retreat is scheduled for January 15-17, 2016. We are inviting our counterparts in the Caribbean territory to join us in this purpose-driven experience.



*Excited youth leaders
from all the territories
of Guyana*



CHRISTIAN YOUTH LEADERS RETREAT (cont'd)

JAMAICA in 2015

By: Derri-Ann Palmer

Jamaica Baptist Union Youth Department Calendar 2015

🎬 January

1. **10** - JBUYD National Executive Meeting

🎬 February

2. **08** – BWA Sunday
3. **18 - 22**- JBU 165th General Assembly
4. **19** – JBUYD Sectional Mtg./Baptist Blitz

🎬 March

5. **07** - JBUYD Executive Meeting

🎬 April

6. **11** - Camps Personnel Retreat Pt. I

🎬 May

7. Young Adults Retreat
8. **09** – Camps Personnel Retreat Pt. II
9. **23** – JBUYD Executive Committee Meeting

🎬 June

10. **06** – Camps Personnel Retreat Pt. III
11. **14** – BWA Youth Day of Prayer

🎬 July

12. **06-11**- Intermediate Camp
13. **13-18** – Junior Camp



14. **22-26** – 21ST BWA World Congress, Durban, South Africa

15. **July 27-August 1** – Youth Camp

🎬 July/August

16. **Aug 5-8** – Spiritual Empowerment Conference

🎬 September

17. **26** – JBUYD Executive Committee Meeting

🎬 October

18. **10** – JBUYD Zone Eliminations
19. **25** – Sunday School Exams

🎬 November

20. **19-21** – Nat'l Youth Conference & Rally

GADELOUPE in February 2015

17th February, Guadeloupe hosts the annual Baptist young people's meeting in Guadeloupe.

All are invited to share in this exciting experience.

CHRISTIAN TCIBU WOMEN'S MISSIONARY BAND 2015

27TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

TCIBU
WOMEN'S
MISSIONARY
BAND

APRIL 7-10, 2015



Theme: In Step with the Spirit - Fulfilling God's purpose.

The conference was very well attended with delegates from all of the churches within the Turks and Caicos Islands Baptist Union (TCIBU) and regional delegation of Executive members from The Caribbean Baptist Women's Union (CBWU) which included President Yvonne Pitter, Treasurer/Promotional secretary, Marjorie Fletcher; and Vice President at Large, the Rev. Sabrina Pinder. A delegation from the Bahamas accompanied Rev. Pinder.

On Tuesday final registrations were conducted followed by the opening service.

Our Director, Sis Buella Hamilton, declared the conference open. Sister Whitlean Williams conducted a soul-stirring service and the Rev. Dr. S. Goldston Williams, Executive Secretary of the TCIBU, brought the evening's message.

The women enjoyed early morning prayer meetings on Wednesday and Thursday. Worthy

of note is the spiritual encounter throughout the meditation on the Word. Workshops were conducted throughout the day on the following topics: *Beauty: Emitting on the inside – Radiating on the outside, Achieving Success Through Teamwork, Unity among Women and Fulfilling God's Purpose As a Wife/Homemaker.*

On Thursday, elections of officers were held; hence the new officers for the year 2015-2016:

President: Deaconess Winifred McIntosh
Vice President: Sis. Commonceta Campbell
Secretary: Sis. Susan Musgrove
Asst. Secretary: Sis. Betty Dean
Treasurer: Sis. Claudette Malcolm
Public Relations: Deaconess Claudia Smith
 Sis. Lucille Lightbourne
Chaplin: Deaconess Colmelita Handfield
 Sis. Buella Hamilton continues her tenure as our Director.

TCIBU WOMEN'S MISSIONARY BAND 2015

On Friday morning, a prayer breakfast was held in honour of our past Director/President, Sis. Colmelita Handfield, who served the women's Missionary Band in various capacities since its inception.

There was overwhelming support of the event from all sectors of the community. Rev. Sabrina Pinder was the keynote speaker.

Deacon Lewlyn Handfield, husband of the honouree and President of the TCIBU, was in attendance at and remained for the duration of the conference.

On Friday evening the conference climaxed with the director's round up and the "Calling of the Churches" which took the form of a grand concert.



*Director Sis Buela Hamilton
TCIBU Women's Missionary
Band (Left)*



*Deaconess Yvonne Pitter,
President CBWU (Right)*



*Incoming President
Deaconess Winifred McIntosh*



*President Sabrina Pinder, Vice President at
Large CBWU and Sis. Colmelita Handfield*

TCIBU WOMEN'S MISSIONARY BAND 2015



TCIBU Women's Missionary Band



TCIBU Women's Missionary Band Executive Officers 2015-2016



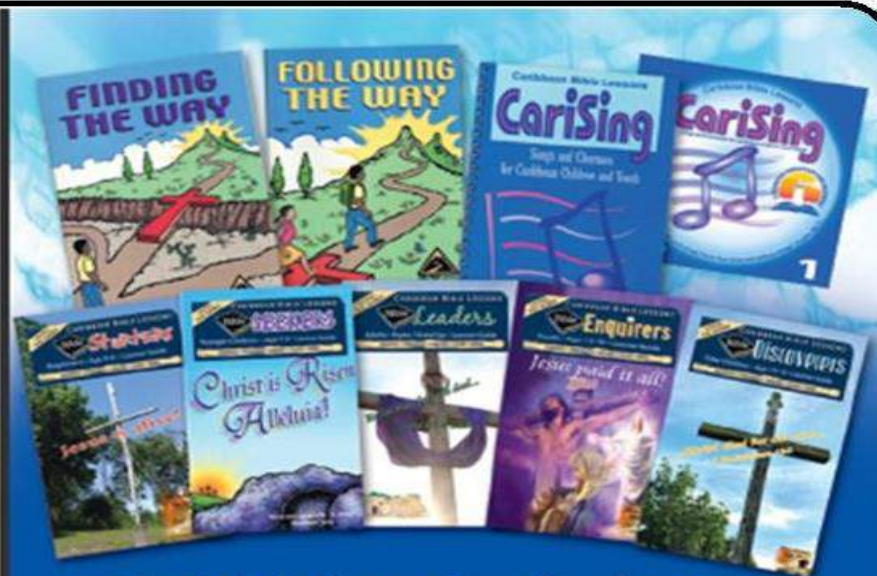
Presentation by Sis. Betty Dean and Sis. Agnes Swann, PRO TCIBU Women's Missionary Band



*Beaming the Light of God's Word
to Caribbean people*

CARIBBEAN CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS
Producers of

CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS



*Faithful to the Scriptures
Relevant to the Culture*

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UPCOMING

Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



- ✚ CBF SUNDAY (JUNE 28, 2015)
- ✚ TURKS & CAICOS BAPTIST UNION GENERAL ASSEMBLY (JULY 8-12, 2015)
- ✚ BWA BAPTIST WORLD CONGRESS- DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA (JULY 22-26, 2015)
- ✚ ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES JOINT CONVENTION (OCTOBER 18, 2015)
- ✚ ST. GEORGE'S BAPTIST CHURCH 40TH ANNIVERSARY (NOVEMBER 6-8, 2015)
- ✚ CBF EXECUTIVE MEETING- GUADELOUPE (NOVEMBER 11-13, 2015)
- ✚ NORTH AMERICA BAPTIST GATHERING (JANUARY 7 & 8, 2016)

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