



ISSUE 4, VOLUME 6

CBF NOTES

ASH WEDNESDAY EDITION



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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Rev. Dr. William Thompson

My Sisters and Brothers:

“Suffering” is one of the themes normally associated with the Lenten/Easter season. James, the half-brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem church states: **“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”**

The author wrote this epistle to encourage the believers with the certainty that those who meet trials with faith and wisdom will experience joy. A close reading of the book reveals that the development of this general theme takes on the form of a written sermon highlighting the eternal benefits of meeting trials and temptations with faith and wisdom. Therefore, suffering is considered an integral part of the Christian journey. This is so because God’s people who have been convicted of sin, righteousness and judgement; converted and incorporated by the Spirit of God into the body of Christ are in the company of the Christ of Passion. This is what discipleship means.

As such, disciples of Christ are expected to take up their cross and follow the example of their master and teacher, Jesus Christ. This exposes the children of God to sufferings of varied kinds. The cross which is a symbol of suffering and sacrifice is the crux of Christianity. However, suffering is not the sum total of the Christians’ experience as the resurrection gives assurance of victory. In the face of suffering, God’s people must never lose sight of the resurrection. Our theme should always be – **“We shall overcome.”** Those in the company of the Christ of Passion should resist the temptation of wanting to give up or surrender. Always remember how the suffering Saviour remained resolute even when it was clear that death was inevitable. I encourage Caribbean Baptists in the same way, as James did encourage his readers, to consider it pure joy when face trials of many kinds.

I greet you my Baptist family on behalf of my wife Betty and pray that God may strengthen you during this season as you endure the cross confident of victory.

Shalom!

William Thompson (Rev. Dr.)
President

FROM THE EST'S DESK

FROM THE EST'S DESK

I am pleased to bring you brief updates on the activities of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship since the last publication of our Newsletter NOTES in September 2016.

CBF EXECUTIVE MEETING AND BAPTIST GATHERING

Representatives from thirteen Caribbean territories met in Barbados for the CBF executive meeting and Baptist Gathering from October 26-29, 2016. The territories represented were:

Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, St. Kitts, Grenada, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica and Guadeloupe. Manuals developed by the Jamaica Baptist Union on Disaster Preparedness and Response, Ministering to Persons living with Disabilities and the Care of the Environment were shared with participants. Reports were received from the committees and departments of the CBF. Among the decisions taken were: to expedite the implementation of the theological training programme already crafted for church leaders; expand the production of Sunday School literature by Caribbean Christian Publications for French/Creole and Spanish speaking territories and a drive to resuscitate dormant member bodies and recruit new members for both CBF and BWA. Men, women and youth were mobilized for special meetings on October 25 before the start of the executive meeting.

A special feature of the Baptist Gathering held on the night of October 27 was the honouring of Rev. Vincent Wood for his sterling contribution to the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship, Caribbean Christian Publications and Baptist World Alliance. The Rev. Mr. Wood was hailed as an erudite Caribbean Baptist leader, having served as President of CBF, chairman of the Board of Trustees for CCP and member of many committees at both the level of CBF and BWA.



Left- Rev. Wood, Rev. Dr. Thompson,
Rev. Jackson

A portrait of Rev. Everton Jackson, a man with short hair, wearing a grey suit jacket, a teal shirt, and a patterned tie. He is sitting in a black office chair.

Rev. Everton Jackson

FROM THE EST's DESK

The Caribbean Baptist Fellowship will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2020. A committee has been put in place to make plans for this historic moment. Chairman is Rev. Karl B. Johnson, General Secretary of the Jamaica Baptist Union.

SPECIAL VISITS MADE BY THE EST

❖ Visit to Haiti, October 7-10, 2016

On a visit made to Haiti to assess damage associated with the passage of Hurricane Matthew, the EST capitalized on that opportunity, to meet with the leadership of the Missionary Evangelical Baptist of South Haiti. Apart from expressing the solidarity of the regional and global family of Baptists with the people of Haiti, the EST discussed with the leaders, a tripartite relationship consisting of the JBU, CBF and MEBSH in the training of Sam Reginald Dorelien, a ministerial student at the United Theological College of the West Indies. There was great appreciation for the partnership and the

❖ VISIT TO SAN ANDRES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY

The EST visited and participated as guest speaker in the San Andres Island General Assembly held from January 18-21, 2017 under the theme: **“Hand in Hand with Jesus – Belonging, Becoming and Blessings.”** Greetings were expressed to the executive body and delegates of the Association on behalf of the CBF and BWA.



EST, Rev. Jackson Assisting in Haiti Disaster Relief

hope that the partners involved would consider facilitating post graduate studies for Sam Reginald Dorelien who will complete his studies this year. The Baptist leaders expressed the view that they would like for him upon his return to Haiti to play a critical role in developing and teaching in a training programme for church leaders.



Rev. Everton Jackson Preaching in San Andres Island

FROM THE EST's DESK

It must be noted that this association is not a member of the CBF or BWA. However, at the assembly, the delegates voted to become a member of CBF in the first instance.

HURRICANES AND DISASTER RESPONSE

The month of October, 2016 was a very active period in the Caribbean hurricane season. Hurricanes Matthew and Nicole left a trail of damage in the territories traversed.

Hurricane Matthew, for example, claimed one life in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, four in the Dominican Republic and over one thousand in Haiti. The nature of the devastation varied from territory to territory. However, all the countries impacted by Matthew, for example, Cuba, Haiti and the Bahamas, among others, and Bermuda by Nicole, experienced infrastructural damage, loss and damage to roofs, loss of agricultural produce and animals.

A visit was made by the EST to Haiti at the instance of the Baptist World Alliance, to conduct an assessment of the damage done and to recommend the channel through which relief was to be sent. Based



Damage By Hurricane Matthew in Haiti at one of the Missionary Evangelical Baptist Churches.

on the assessment done, it was ascertained that 200 of 300 Baptist churches affiliated to the Missionary Evangelical Baptist Church of South Haiti were damaged. In addition, 150 schools were damaged by the hurricane. Various equipment, school and church furniture were damaged as were houses and public facilities.

In view of the fact that the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew was confined mainly to the southwestern part of Haiti and the MEBSH has relief machinery in place, it was recommended that relief efforts be channelled through them. The CBF is grateful to BWAid for the assistance provided for Haiti to date.

FROM THE EST'S DESK

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

1. Youth Festival

The eleventh Caribbean Baptist Fellowship Youth Festival will be held in San Fernando, Trinidad and Tobago from July 19-23, 2017 guided by the theme: **"I Stand for....Jesus."** More than 400 Baptist young people from the Caribbean and the Diaspora are expected to attend.



2. Women's Conference

The women's conference of the Caribbean Women's Union will be held from July 19-24, 2017 in Antigua under the theme: **"Arise, Shine through Unity."** Over 200 women from the across the Caribbean and Diaspora are expected to attend.



3. CBF – Mid – Term Assembly

The mid- term assembly of the CBF will be held in Nassau, Bahamas from October 25-29, 2017. Plans are underway to mobilize member bodies to make this a priority on their agenda for 2017.



CONCLUDING REMARKS

It is encouraging to see the renewed interest being shown in the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship by member bodies. Every effort is now being made to urge member bodies of BWA to fulfil their financial and other obligations to the global family. Conventions/Unions/Associations which are not members of BWA are being encouraged to consider membership.

In concluding, I am grateful for the support received from our President, the Rev. Dr. William Thompson and Administrator, Miss Santana Morris. **To God be the Glory!**

PICTORIAL OVERVIEW FROM OUR EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD IN BARBADOS, 2016





CBF YOUTH DEPARTMENT

CARIBBEAN BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Status Report to the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship

This report highlights all the major activities that took place for the last reporting period in 2016 and we will also share our major upcoming activities for 2017.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

The various Baptist Associations continued to be active in Trinidad and Tobago in 2016 and have great plans for 2017, especially hosting the region at the 11th Caribbean Baptist Fellowship Youth Festival.

BAPTIST UNION YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (BUYM)

- **YOUTH PILGRAME (October 9, 2016)** – Youth from across the country gathered at St. John's London Baptist Church, Port of Spain to collectively say "WE ARE THE CHURCH". Reminded that the church is not the building but the people, no matter our age, as youth and young adults we have to know who we are and make the changes we want to see. One of the highlights of the day was our Church History competition. Youth presented colourful display about the unique facts and history of their various churches.
- **Carnival Camp (February 24-28, 2017)** – The youth will spend five days in fellowship, praise and the word under the theme "WE ARE THE CHURCH – Time to Take a Stand".
- **2017 VBS Camps** - typically these are held at different dates during the July and August vacation at various churches. This year many of these camps may happen in August to facilitate the 11th CBF Youth Festival.



CBF YOUTH DEPARTMENT

CBF YOUTH FESTIVAL 2017

We are eagerly awaiting and making preparations to ensure that every attendee at the upcoming conference will encounter God in such a powerful way that all will truly declare “I Stand for JESUS”. Countries, economies, families and our very churches must experience a real change that is expected to be birthed from this conference.

We ask for the continued prayer from all countries for this conference, that the perfect will of God might be done.

Early Registration closes on March 31, 2017.

JAMAICA

Camps 2016

There were three hundred and eighty (380) campers overall and fifty-eight (58) staff members who were a part of Camps 2016. The increase in number of campers is due, in part, to the sponsorship by the Orphans Organisation, who sponsored thirty-seven (37) campers from across the island. Our deepest gratitude to them for the investment in the youth.

CONFERENCE AND RALLY 2016

Conference 2016

The theme for our annual conference and rally that was held in November 2016 was “*Living the Sacrificial Life: Speak it, Believe it, Live it*”. The conference was held at the Jamaica Baptist Union Conference Centre (Nutshell) in Duncans, Trelawny and we had 94 persons in attendance. We had our opening service where the word was delivered by Rev. Frantz Camille (Warsop Baptist), our

business meeting, training workshops and a bonfire session.

In the Business Meeting, reports for the previous year were presented by the Chairman and the Treasurer. There was also the election of a chair-elect in the person of Delano Mighty (Giblatore Baptist). A presentation was done by Rochelle Reid James (Vice Chairman, Young Adults) and it was entitled “*The*



CBF YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Journey". Some interesting points were shared and persons were also able to "release" any baggage they had been carrying. There were two concurrent workshops entitled "*Youth Leaders: Your Issues Live*" and "*Rebuilding Your Youth Ministry*". These were also well received

by the conferees. The Conference ended with a bonfire where there was a time of praise, worship and prayer, as well as a brief exhortation.

RALLY

The Rally was held at the Ocho Rios Baptist Church under the theme: "*The All or Nothing Edition*" and just over 800 persons attended from across the island. Promotion of the event was commendable. The day's activities started with the devotional exercise followed by the introduction of the Chair-elect. The uniformed groups shared in the collection of the offering and underwent an inspection. It was a pleasure to have our uniformed groups on display this year.

Kingston & St. Andrew and St. Catherine (Zone 2) was the overall winning Zone, competing in Chorale Singing (Mixed), Chorale Speaking (Juniors), Bible Quiz (Mixed), Dance – Drama (Mixed), Deejay (Open), Short Story (Seniors), and Camp Mural (Open). Persons serving as camp volunteers for 10 years and over were recognized and an award was given to Marvin Tinglin for his years of artistic service to the Jamaica Baptist Union Youth Department (JBUYD).

UPCOMING MAJOR EVENTS FOR 2017

Jamaica Baptist Union (JBU) General Assembly

The 167th JBU General Assembly/ Believers' Convention will be held February 22 – 26, 2017 in Montego Bay. The youth department will be involved in all aspects and is currently seeking persons to make themselves available to serve as Youth Delegates and Stewards. It is expected that there will be a delegate from each of our 12 parish associations. The Sectional Meeting will take the form of a mission blitz in various communities in the environs of Montego Bay. A youth booth will also be mounted for the duration of the conference as we seek to provide information about our upcoming activities.

Baptist World Alliance (BWA) Youth Day of Prayer

The BWA Youth Day of Prayer is usually observed by the Jamaica Baptist Union Youth Delegates and it is one of our main activities June 2017.

Camps 2017

Annual camps will be held in July and for individuals between ages 9 – 20.



CBF YOUTH DEPARTMENT

The dates for our camps planning retreats are: April 8, May 13, and June 3, 2017.

The dates for Camps 2017 are:

- Intermediate (age 13-16): July 10-15
- Junior (age 9-12): July 17-22
- Youth (age 17-21): July 24-29

CBF Youth Festival 2017

Jamaica is highly anticipating the CBF Youth Festival that will be held in Trinidad in July this year. Some persons have already registered and we are making every effort to get tremendous support from Jamaica.

Conference and Rally 2017

Plans are currently being put in place as we anticipate an even greater Conference and Rally for 2017. We intend to circulate the correspondence to all churches by April 2017.

The Bahamas

Some of the events planned for 2017 include:

Immersion Retreat for Teens - January 27-28 (Adventure Learning Centre Camp)

iLead: Innovation and Change Empowerment Weekend - March 10-11

Summerfest: Reloaded - July 17-18

Caribbean Baptist Youth Festival - July 19-23 (followed by Youth Trip July 24-25)

National Royal Ambassadors /Girls Auxiliary Month - September 2017

Grenada, Guyana, Dominica, Barbados, Guadeloupe, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Turks & Caicos Island are all planning on attending the Youth Festival in July. We are also expecting attendance from the San Andreas Islands and the United States of America.

In His Service,

Jody Mc Kenna

President – Caribbean Baptist Fellowship Youth Department



CBF YOUTH DEPARTMENT

How can I budget?

Items	Remarks
Registration Fee	Early registration—US\$100 Late Registration—US\$120
Airport Shuttle & Ground Transport	These cost have been factored into the registration fee as follows: Airport Shuttle to and from the Hotel. Ground Transport one trip daily to and from your hotel to the conference venue and back.
Other Transport	Transportation outside of what has been specified above will be at your own cost. Transport in an around San Fernando is approximately US\$2.00.
Food	Whilst most of the hotels have breakfast included in the package you can budget as below: Breakfast: US\$3 - 5 Lunch: US\$5 - 10 Dinner: US\$5 - 10 Food purchased from your hotel may be a bit more costly.
Hotel Accommodation	Single - US\$116.00 - 129.00 Double - US\$58.38 - 75.00 Quad - US\$35.00 - 48.00 All prices are per person, per night as negotiated with the hotel options and are subject to be changed by the hotel. Some prices are subject to 10% tax and 10% service charge.
Tours	US\$30.00 and up.
Souvenirs	Conference memorabilia and Local Crafts can be purchased from as low as US\$4.00

What should I bring to the conference

Items	Remarks
Packing	Be mindful of the packing restrictions on travel for liquids, flammable substances and other dangerous good.
Bible, Notepad, Pen or Pencil	:-) we'll say no more.
Toiletries	Anything for your personal hygiene that may not be available at the accommodation where you are staying.
Appropriate Comfortable Clothes	We are a Caribbean Country but it is a Christian Conference so please pack accordingly.
Comfortable Shoes	We will be having a march through the Streets of Port of Spain so please walk with comfortable shoes.
Special Medication	For those of you who need. Also let us know if there are medications you cannot take when you register.
A Participative Spirit	All sessions are interactive... they will be as great as you make them.
Local Mission Project	You will be advised closer to the festival date to walk with a donation to assist with the chosen mission project.

Who can I contact for further information?



cbfyouthfestival@gmail.com



868.752.8656 or 868.354.7471



868.675.5039



Caribbean Baptist Fellowship Youth



www.caribbeanbaptistfellowship.com/youth

This information is provided for planning purposes only. Prices are subject to change given the exchange rate and finalized negotiations.



11TH Caribbean Baptist Fellowship Youth Festival

19th - 23rd July, 2017

INFORMATION LEAFLET

Answers to some questions you may have





CBF YOUTH DEPARTMENT



When is the next Festival?

19th - 23rd July, 2017

Where is it?

San Fernando, Trinidad and Tobago

Where can I register?

Registration forms will be available on the CBF website and the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship Youth Facebook Page from May 23rd, 2016.

Send completed forms to cbfyouthfestival@gmail.com

With the subject: Festival 2017 Registration and your name or if a group, the church name or Fax to 868-675-5039

Do I need a Visa?

Persons from most Caricom and Commonwealth countries can enter visa free for 90 days but please check www.immigration.gov.tt/Services/Visas.aspx for more information

What is the fee for Registration?

Early Registration US\$100.00 on or before 31st March, 2017
Late Registration US\$120.00 on or after 1st April, 2017

What is the Theme of the Festival?



1 Stand for ... Jesus
1 Peter 5: 6-12

When will I collect my registration package?

Registration will take place from 11am - 5.30pm on Wednesday 19th July, 2017 at the festival venue.

How do I know if I have been registered?

Once you have submitted a registration form and made your payment you will receive a confirmation email within two days, letting you know of your registration.

Opening:

The festival will officially begin on **Wednesday 19th July, 2017 with an opening ceremony, beginning at 7pm.**

Closing:

The Festival will officially close after the closing ceremony on **Sunday 23rd July, 2017 at 12 noon.**

What if I need help with accommodation?

A list of available accommodation options close to the conference venue will be provided on the CBF youth webpage and the CBF Youth FB Page with the contact information to make the bookings.

What if I need help with tours?

Our official tour operators are **NISSI TOURS**
Director: Jefferson George - 868-346-8520
Tour Operator: David Charles - 868-290-9264
Email: reservations.nissitours@gmail.com
Facebook: **NISSI TOURS** Trinidad
You can contact them directly to arrange tours.

Can I get any assistance with flights?

If your group is between 25 to 50 persons or more and you would like to charter a flight you can send us an email (cbfyouthfestival@gmail.com) with the group leader's name and contact information, country and size of the group and we will pass you the relevant information.

Are meals a part of the registration cost?

No. However, food stations will be set up at the festival venue for purchase. Fast food outlets are also in close proximity to the festival venue.

What do I get in my registration package?

Once you are registered for the festival you will receive a name badge, conference booklet, conference bag, notepad, pen, t-shirt, souvenir and pamphlets/ brochures about Trinidad and Tobago.

If I am only registered for one/two days, will I receive the registration package?

No. Persons registering for part of the festival shall only receive access to the event, name badge, pen and writing material.

Can I purchase a T-shirt if I am not registered for the full festival?

Yes. A limited number of T-shirts and other conference memorabilia will be available for sale at the festival.

Do I need to walk with anything special?

Yes. Please see the table on the back of the leaflet for other things to bring.





ST. KITTS BAPTISTS CELEBRATE 54 YEARS

ST. KITTS BAPTISTS CELEBRATE 54 YEARS

“One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts” Psalm 145:5 (NIV).

ST.KITTS BAPTISTS celebrate fifty four years on March 5th, 2017. By the providence of God, the Antioch Baptist Church was organized as the first established Baptist Church in St. Kitts-Nevis on Tuesday, 5 March, 1963 with Rev. Dr. William Connor O.B.E (now deceased) as the first pastor. The church was organized with 21 born-again believers including Urban Penny (deceased), Kelvin Jones (Pastor of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in St. Kitts), Spencer Walwyn (St. Croix) and Lambert Mills who is well known in Caribbean Baptist circles.

In 1964, the Antioch Baptist Church started a mission in Lodge Village about 6 miles from Basseterre. In 1976 the mission was organized into a new church—Mount Carmel Baptist.

Antioch organized another mission station in the village of St Paul’s in 1965 which was eventually organized into the Calvary Baptist Church—now Calvary Baptist Tabernacle. Antioch administered the Calvary Baptist Church, for fifteen years from 1965 to 1980 when the church was handed over to Pastor Calvin O Hazel at the beginning of 1981.

The founding pastor Dr. William Connor died on November 11th, 1990. Pastor Kelvin Jones, a pioneering member of the Baptist Movement in St. Kitts and who at the time was serving as pastor of the Mt Carmel Baptist Church, was called as the pastor of the Antioch Baptist Church, he served simultaneously as pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church.

Pastor Lincoln Connor was ordained and installed as the third pastor of Antioch Baptist Church on Sunday 26 May 2002. Pastor Connor is a graduate of Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Georgia and Dallas Theological Seminary. He serves as senior pastor of the Antioch Baptist Church and is supported by an enthusiastic staff. Currently, the Antioch Baptist Church is constructing a new facility with anticipated dedication in the summer of 2018.

St. Kitts Baptist Movement was a founding partner in the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship.

There are currently seven Baptist Churches on St. Kitts and three on the sister island of Nevis.

FEATURE: GRENADA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



GBA

By Vonnie James

INTRODUCTION

The Grenada Baptist Association (GBA) is one of the gospel vehicles that God established in Grenada; Caribbean, to challenge, call and consecrate people back to Himself. Affectionally called the GBA, this body operates on a biblical framework this is embodied in its vision, mission and motto.

Its vision:

To be a national and highly trusted model of relevant and transformational Christian leadership, evangelism and service.

Its mission: To provide leadership, training for spiritual development, to foster oneness among member churches and missions in communities.

Its motto: We serve the whole man.

The Association is led by a *Moderator* (President/General Secretary). The current Moderator is Pastor Vonnie James of the Rose Hill Baptist Church. The *Vice-Moderator* is Rev'd Stanford Simon of the St. George's Baptist Church.

NATIONAL MINISTRIES:

Evangelism-Led by Assistant Pastor Harrison George-Grand Anse Baptist



Pastors from the Grenada Baptist Association



Members of Grenada Baptist Association

FEATURE: GRENADA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Christian Education-Led by Sis. Alison Greene-St.George's Baptist
Women-Led by Sis-Roslyn Phillip-Grand Anse Baptist
Men-Led by Rev'd Kenneth Dubissette-Emmanuel Baptist
Youth-Led by Sis. Nadia E S Mark-Emmanuel Baptist
Aid and Development-Led by Rev'd Stanford Simon-St.George's Baptist
Communications-Led by Pastor Vonnie James-Rose Hill Baptist

Baptist Work and Witness in Grenada, West Indies-History

Media has played a defining role in the birthing and establishing of the Grenada Baptist Association. During the year 1972, Leon Edwards, a prisoner on death row at 'Her Majesty Prison (HMP), Richmond Hill, St.George's in Grenada encountered a rebirth. Through listening to a religious broadcast by Baptists from the USA, he responding to a call to surrender his life to the Lord.

Mr. Edwards subsequently wrote letters to Baptist leaders in the USA and Jamaica, seeking support for the country of Grenada to establish more Christian work and witness through a Baptist presence.

The General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, Rev'd Dr. Neville Callam eloquently puts it like this, "A four-person team comprising representatives of the Jamaica Baptist Union and the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and led by former BWA Regional Secretary, Azariah McKenzie, spent nine days conducting a general survey of Grenada, leading to an affirmative response to Edwards' appeal."

Consequently, August 9, 1975, the Southern Baptist Convention (USA) assigned missionaries to Grenada. Unfortunately, on October 20, 1975, Leon died in prison under what some dubbed, questionable circumstances.



Pastor Vonnie James & Other Baptist Members

FEATURE: GRENADA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Notwithstanding, his death the work continued. The Foreign Mission Board (FMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention, now the International Mission Board (IMB) led by Rev. Dr. David Platt, became a major vehicle that drove the gospel message in Grenada. In time, Grenada Baptists as a denomination was incubated.

Corporate worship services began at the St. George's on chapel on Tyrrell Street, on December 7, 1975. Missioner Manget Herrin served as pastor. Subsequently, the St. George's Baptist Church gave to the Grand Anse Baptist Church (1981). Clarence Henry became the pastor for the Grand Anse Baptist followed by Royston Isaac.

Current Baptist Work and Witness in Grenada

Today the Grenada Baptist Association has as its members, five established congregations and one mission. They are: Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grand Anse Baptist Church, Grand Bacolet Baptist Church, New Life Baptist Mission, St. George's Baptist Church and Rose Hill Baptist Church.

The organization continues to seek creative, Christlike ways to engage in various aspects and expressions of ministry as expressed in the purpose of the organization, found in the organization's constitution, i.e. GBA Constitution of May 6, 1995.

Over the years, a vibrant and impactful dental ministry led by Missioner Dr. Carter Davis became a flagship ministry of the Baptist movement. On the artistic side, a Baptist choir was led by Mrs. Charlotte Davis. These ministries served the Church and the wider Grenadian community well. Years later, the Grenada Baptist Association emerged.

Other pastoral leaders who served the local Baptist congregations throughout Grenada Baptist history included Kenneth Wellmon, Osbert James, Stanford Simon, Delroy George Sittol, Edgar Henry, Sperry Binda, Kenneth Dubissette, Kenneth Moore, Vonnie James and Harrison George.



Members of the Grenada Baptist Association

FEATURE: CARIBBEAN BAPTIST PERSONALITY



Ms. Nadia Marks

Nadia E.S. Mark is a diligent and God-fearing young woman. She has a passion for Christ. Her ministry expressions include youth leadership, sign language and dance, just to name a few. She attends the Emmanuel Baptist Church, led by Rev'd Kenneth Dubissette. She is also the Youth Program Leader at the Grenada Baptist Association, affectionately called, 'GBA'.

'Nades' is an administrator by gifting, and people within and outside of the body of Christ recognizes her as a skilled organizer and planner. Nadia demonstrates great leadership skills in her current role as President of the Youth Arm of the Grenada Baptist Association (GBA).

She brings a deep spirituality to the Baptist Unity, an attitude of determination like Nehemiah (Nehemiah 4:6), a spirit of peace (Matthew 5:9) and also a meditative-reflective approach to life and ministry. Like Mary, as found in Scriptures, she ponders spiritual issues (Luke 2:19). Like the Bereans, she searches the Scriptures to see if what was espoused was true (Acts 17:11).

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

She led the Youth Ministry at the Emmanuel Baptist Church during the years 2003 and 2015. She has been serving as Church Secretary since 2008.

At the national level, she served the Grenada Baptist Association as Recording Secretary during the years 2009-2010. Further, she served as Co - Chairman of the Grenada Baptist Association Music & Worship Department during the years 2011 – 2014. While serving in this capacity, she also took on the role of Secretary of the Grenada Baptist Association's Youth Department during the years 2012 – 2014.

Her godly leadership capacity and enthusiasm saw that she became the Director of the Southern Region of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship (CBF) during the year 2014. While she continues to serve in this position, she also became the President of the Grenada Baptist Association's Youth Department (2015) and the Secretary of the Inter-School Christian Fellowship (ISCF) in 2015 respectively. She continues to serve in these and other portfolios to this period, 2017.

FEATURE: CARIBBEAN BAPTIST PERSONALITY

HOBBIES

Ms. Mark enjoys reading, arts and crafts, singing, dancing, hiking, coin-collecting and sudoku. She teaches dance, sign language and Sunday school at her local church; the Emmanuel Baptist Church. While attending school, she served Christ by engaging students through extra-curricular activities such as choir engagements, Guides/Rangers and through a Young Leaders' Programme that her institution pushed.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Nadia holds an Associate of Arts in Theological Studies from the Miami International Seminary, Grenada Centre aka 'GITE'; Grenada Institute for Theological Education (2009 – 2011). She also holds an Associate Degree in Business from the Theophilus Albert Marryshow Community College (TAMCC), where she attended from 2003 - 2005. She is an alumnus of both the Anglican High School (AHS), in St. George, (1998-2003) and the Woburn Methodist School, in St. George, Grenada (1993-1998), respectively.

Miss Mark also participated in a number of educational and personal development initiatives including, a level two course of study at the Christian Deaf Ministry Grenada, a Virtues/Values Initiative – training and practicum through the Grenada Institute for Theological Education, and a Servant Leadership one year program at the National Leadership Training Academy (NLTA., St. George's Baptist Church) 2011 - 2012.

Her honors include a Certificate of Distinction from the Anglican High School/Republic Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Young Leaders and a Certificate of Merit from Hankey's Computer Services.

She is the Office Manager at *Strategic Alliance International*, a shipping and customs brokerage company in Grenada. She has been there since 2006. She actively supports the Grenada Baptist Association, led by Pastor Vonnie James (Moderator/President) of Rose Hill Baptist Church and assisted by Rev'd Stanford Simon (Vice-Moderator/Vice-President) of the St. George's Baptist Church.

Submitted by: Pastor Vonnie James

REV. DR. CALLAM TO BE HONOURED



Rev. Dr. Neville Callam

REV. DR. CALLAM TO BE HONOURED

Washington, DC (BWA), The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) will host two events and establish a special fund to honour General Secretary Neville Callam for his decade long service.

Callam announced his intention to retire from the position come December 31, 2017.

A Jamaican, he is the first black person and the first from the Global South to lead the international umbrella organization for Baptists. He was elected in Accra, Ghana, in July 2007.

A dinner will be held in his honour on Thursday, July 6, 2017 during the Annual Gathering in Bangkok, Thailand, and a special event will be held in the state of Virginia in the United States in October, 2017.

In addition, the Callam Unity Fund is being established to strengthen the bonds of oneness and unity among Baptists and the wider Christian community.

Contributions to the Callam Unity Fund may be made online at www.bwanet.org/give. Online donors may select "Callam Unity Fund" from the campaign dropdown menu inside the donation system.

For cheque donations, persons should write "Callam Unity Fund" on the memo line. Send cheque to:

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405 North Washington Street
Falls Church, VA 22046, USA

HON. SHARLENE CARTWRIGHT-ROBINSON



Hon. Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson

Interview with Premier, Hon. Sharlene Cartwright Robinson

Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson was recently elected and installed as the Premier of the Turks and Caicos Island, being the first female to hold the auspicious post. We had an opportunity to engage with the Premier and this is what she shared with us.

Q: Please share briefly with our readers in the Baptist world, your academic journey to the present time.

A: I am a former student of the Iris Stubbs Primary School and the Marjorie Basden High School both located on the island of South Caicos where I grew up in the Turks and Caicos Islands. I was top student for both institutions when I graduated in 1983 and 1988 and nationally as well in the local Common Entrance Exam and External Examinations. I pursued an Associated Degree at the College of the Bahamas, a Bachelor of Law degree from UWI and a Certificate of Legal Education from Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica.

Q: What led you to pursue a political career?

A: I am not sure about this as I never set out to pursue a political career. Appointments offered me by the former Chief Minister, Hon. Derek Taylor and my Party, placed me on a political path which began as early as 1999 (a few months after graduating from Law School) when I was offered the position to serve in the Legislative Council as the Government's appointed member. My desire to serve and make a contribution where I was asked, squarely set me on the path. I accepted positions to serve within my party as well as nationally.

Q: How did your Christian beliefs influence you during your campaign?

A: My beliefs shaped my party's campaign. My team knew and accepted the standard to not sow seeds of bitter discord or hatred, or to attack anyone personally. Offering a message of hope with plans that were realistic and not political gimmicks or lies was the cornerstone of

HON. SHARLENE CARTWRIGHT-ROBINSON

the campaign. We offered no alcoholic beverages, nor did we play vulgar music or entertained vulgar speeches or content. It was an uplifting, honest and positive campaign based squarely on issues.

Q: We assume that you would not be able to continue a very active life in your church and union. The history of your involvement with the CBF Youth Department is well documented. How do you think your church life will be affected by your post as Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands?

A: I will continue to serve in whichever capacity I am called, especially in the Usher Ministry (where I still hold the post of Director) and with the youth of my Church and Union. I believe to abandon my role in Church or attendance to Church will be an act of disobedience to God as my talents and gifts must still be used for my local Church.

Q: Please share with our readers, a little about your personal life. How have marriage, having two beautiful daughters and your early life experiences contributed to the path that your life has taken? How could it be affected?

A: I have been married to my greatest supporter for the past 17 years. He has been the greatest adviser and encourager that anyone in my position can hope for. We were friends for 9 years before we dated and only recently talked about how God brought us together for this time. My daughters are 9 and 12 years old and are both at formative stages in their lives. I maintain an open dialogue with my daughters and this is important. We all keep each other grounded and nights are set aside for family time. This is how the campaign was managed as well, with built-in family time with Church attendance as a family every week. It is so important to maintain these times in order to ensure that my family life does not suffer. With my travel schedule at times, we maintain contact through all the various means of communication. My extended support structure is strong as well.



The First Family. Hon. Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson with her husband, Lorne, and daughters, Ashlar and Laci.

HON. SHARLENE CARTWRIGHT-ROBINSON

Q: What advice would you offer to other Caribbean women who are thinking of a career in politics and leadership?

A: I encourage them to not lose who they are first and foremost. If they are mothers and wives and Christians especially, stay in your role and never neglect them. It is so important to keep balanced in all roles.

My second bit of advice is to never engage in any manipulating or devious plots to ascend in the arena. Let their work clear the way. No one ever focused on my being a woman; I worked and earned the respect of my party colleagues over 17 years of political life. There is no shortcut to earning a person's respect and women must never try to bypass the process. This process gives you the experience and the exposure.

Q: What are some precautions they should take and what do they need to know to be equipped for the journey?

A: Women in leadership roles or aspiring to these positions, should reach out to each other as the climb is still a difficult one. This is mainly to be encouraged by each other and to help as a guide. Find a mentor, establish a strong prayer life: find a prayer partner or partners (I also appointed intercessors). This is critical.

The other major bit of advice is to read and read everything that they can find; it all will become useful. And if nothing else is taken away, take the point of blocking out 'nay sayers' and negative talks against or around them. It is so important to guard your hearts and minds so that your mind and heart will not give in to malice and eventual unforgiveness (the major blessing blocker).

PROVIDENCE'S 10TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT



Participants at the Providence's 10th Annual Women's Retreat

The women of the Providence Baptist Church in Withby, North Caicos hosted their 10th annual Women's Retreat on January 27th to 30th, 2017, under the theme "Influential Women Rooted and Grounded in Christ". The Retreat got underway with a worship service Friday evening with the speaker being Sis. Colmelita Handfield, President of the Women's Group, and Chaplin for the Turks and Caicos Baptist Union Women's Missionary Band.

The retreat continued on Saturday morning with the women transported to the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Conch Bar, Middle Caicos, where a prayer meeting was held. The women of Providence were joined by representatives from some of the other Baptist Women's groups within the Turks and Caicos. The prayer devotional was done by Sis. Kacey Higgs, of Mt. Lebanon, who stressed the importance of networking, in an effort to reach and to minister to the younger women. Prayer meeting was followed with a scrumptious breakfast prepared by the women of Mt. Moriah. This was enjoyed by all.

Following breakfast, the group was off again for visitation and the delivery of fruit bags. The persons visited were the elderly and shut-ins of the three communities in Middle Caicos (Conch Bar, Bambara, and Lorimers). Those visited

enjoyed every minute of the time spent with them singing, praying and the sharing of words of encouragement. The eldest person visited, Mr. David Hall, is 102 years old, and is still very articulate.

Visitation was followed by a motivational speech/object lesson by Sis. Grace Glasgow, and other activities that encouraged purposeful interacting among attendees. Prior to the start of this session a specific seat was designated as the 'HOT SEAT'. The person who would sit in this seat would be questioned by the other attendees. Well, as fate would have it, Chaplin – Sis. Colmelita Handfield was found to be sitting in the 'HOT SEAT'. She handled her questioning quite well. This session was followed by a meeting of the Executive.



PROVIDENCE'S 10TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

On Sunday morning in continuation of the retreat, a divine worship service was held at the Providence Baptist Church in Withby, North Caicos, with the speaker being our Women's Director Sis Buela Hamilton. The final session of the Retreat was a concert on Sunday evening. The retreat attendees will hold fond memories of the sweet fellowship. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Sis. Buela Hamilton

Director, Women's Missionary Band
Bethany Baptist Church
Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands

As is customary, the Women's Ministry of the Bethany Baptist Church celebrated the New Year with a dinner that took place on January 20th, 2017, at the Opus Restaurant on Grace Bay. This celebration has become an event that is eagerly anticipated. This year a group of eighteen enjoyed each other's company over dinner with chit-chat and light humor. We look forward to another rewarding year basking in God's favour.

MILESTONE IN MINISTRY & DISCIPLESHIP

MILESTONE IN MINISTRY & DISCIPLESHIP

Erica James-King, our Assistant Director/ Editor-Adult Publications, recently achieved a Diploma in Ministry and Discipleship. The Diploma marked the successful completion by Ms James-King of a two-year programme of Training in Discipleship and Ministry (TDM), run by the Jamaica Baptist Union Mission Agency. During the Graduation Ceremony on November 26, Ms James-King also copped the prizes for outstanding achievement in Evangelism and Understanding World Religions.

The TDM encourages church growth among church leaders and aims to develop a cadre of lay moderators who will provide pastoral care for church congregations, which do not have pastors. The TDM Programme operates under the motto, "Preparing God's People for Service". Among some of the courses covered in the Programme were: pastoral care, church administration, practical theology, preaching, urban and rural ministries, counselling, understanding the Bible, communication and caribbean spirituality. In reflecting on the training she received in ministry and discipleship, Sister Erica shared, "The TDM Programme was for me a journey in spiritual growth and greater community service. My expanded knowledge and practice gained through the Programme, in the areas of Caribbean spirituality and in terms of practical theology will certainly redound to the benefit of some of my curriculum development and writing responsibilities with Caribbean Christian Publications."

She explained that it was sometimes very difficult balancing a hectic CCP work schedule, while studying for TDM exams, doing the many required class assignments and preparing for class presentations; but God empowered her in the challenging times. The CCP Adult Editor extends heartiest appreciation to CCP for sponsoring her tuition fees and for the encouragement and general support the members of the organization provided her with, during her tenure in the TDM programme. Sister Erica points out that as one of the leaders in her local church, the TDM Programme has made her more focused in her calling of evangelism and preaching; and provided her with new expertise in pastoral care, some forms of church administration and ministry to persons with disabilities.



Right: Sis. Blackwood, Sis. Erica James-King, Mrs. Beryl Roper and Bro. Sean Paul

MILESTONE IN MINISTRY & DISCIPLESHIP

“The programme has certainly intensified my love for the Bible and expanded my knowledge of biblical history and hermeneutics; augmented my skills in terms of counselling persons with emotional problems, as well as in the planning and organizing of different types of worship services.”


“One aspect of the Programme, which I found very demanding, but most engaging and impactful was the TDM practicum, which entailed my initiating community mission interventions to address physical, spiritual, social and emotional needs. I established activities, which integrated blind and sighted persons in month-long activities of worship, outreach, home visits and a one-day Symposium,” recounted Ms James-King. “I aimed to help break down the stigma affecting blind persons in several communities and encouraged greater interaction between blind and sighted persons within and outside of worship services.”



Right: Sis. Blackwood, Sis. Erica James-King and Mrs. Beryl Roper

One way to think carefully about church safety is to audit your Sunday School programme according to the following categories. We are also talking about safe child check policies in our children’s ministry forums.


- Classrooms should be in high traffic areas and have windows. We recently installed windows in every classroom door. Since we have a volunteer church handyman, the project cost was very reasonable.
- If your Sunday school classrooms do not have windows, keep them open unless two adults are with the class.
- Children’s ministry areas should be up to building and fire code. This would include emergency exits, smoke alarms, and fire extinguishers.
- Is the furniture safe and appropriate for children? Make sure that bookcases are secured to the wall, desks do not have splinters, and chairs are in good repair.
- Use safety plugs in all electrical outlets. This needs to be checked often, since these tend to get lost. Use safety plugs in the hallways and adult areas too.
- If there is overhead storage, on a shelf or a cabinet, make sure it is secure and items will not fall on children if they bump up against the cabinet.
- Control the access to your building. In larger churches this becomes a big concern. There should be a limited number of entrance points to your children’s ministry area.



Beaming the Light of God's Word
to Caribbean people

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Mark Your Calendars

UPCOMING EVENTS



- ✚ CBF WOMEN'S CONFERENCES- ANTIGUA (JULY 19-24, 2017)
- ✚ CBF YOUTH FESTIVAL- TRINIDAD & TOBAGO (JULY 19- 23, 2017)
- ✚ CBF EXECUTIVE MEETING & BAPTIST GATHERING- BAHAMAS (OCTOBER 25-29, 2017)