

CBWU CONNECTION



CARIBBEAN BAPTIST
WOMEN'S UNION
EXPANDING TOGETHER

The Newsletter of the Caribbean Baptist Women's Union

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Interview with CBWU President Karlene Edwards-Warrick by Donna-Daile Smart

Madam President let me extend heartiest congratulations on your being called to serve as President of the Caribbean Baptist Women's Union.

DDS: Tell us a little bit about your roots – where you are from, parents (alive or deceased), siblings, where you fall in line with your siblings.

KEW: Thank you. I was born in a town in southern Trinidad called Princes Town. My parents are both deceased as well as my younger sibling. I am the second child of three children and the only female.

DDS: Were you always a Baptist? What was your first experience in ministry and what was it like?

KEW: Yes, I was always a Baptist. My maternal grandmother and grandfather were both descendants of the freed American slaves 'Merikins' who were granted freedom and land in Trinidad in the year 1816. My grandparents grew up in the village of Fourth Company, Williamsville. These freed slaves came to the Caribbean with their Baptist faith.

My first experience in ministry and leadership came shortly after my conversion experience at the age of twelve. I was elected to serve in the youth ministry of the Princes Town Baptist Church as the Secretary, I was also in the choir and drama ministry. These were wonderful experiences and were the foundation of my development as a young believer for future ministry and leadership. I specifically remember being the youngest member of the youth ministry at that time.

DDS: Where has ministry taken you over the years leading up to your current position as President of the CBWU?

KEW: Over a period of forty years I have served in almost every ministry within the church beginning with the youth ministry and moving on to Sunday School, Junior Church, Hospitality, Service, Caring for the Seniors and Women's Ministries. I have also served and continue to serve in many leadership roles within my Church, Union and Association.

DDS: What has this experience been like for you?

KEW: These experiences have been very humbling as I see myself as a servant leader, growing in faith, in my own walk with God and pouring into the lives of others. God has granted me many opportunities to minister to people in different walks and stages of life both in the church and the community.

DDS: Let's touch briefly on your family life - husband and children.

KEW: I have been married for thirty years. My husband Anslem and I have been able to serve God together, as he is a Minister of the gospel. We have three adult children, one son and two daughters and I am very grateful to God that my children are all walking in the ways of the Lord.

(Con't on pg 3)

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LAUNCH OF THE NEW LOGO FOR CARIBBEAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S UNION

We are pleased to launch our new logo which is displayed on this issue of our newsletter.

The concept of the "CBWU" logo presented before you represents unity, fellowship, and growth through a relationship with Christ. The font used for the Acronym "CBWU" is called Impact. Its strong, bold lines convey a position of strength.

The overlapping of the letters producing a merge of color reflects a uniting of that strength. The letter "W" stands on a platform and is punctuated with three dark-grey graphic elements representing that of a person (woman), in the action of ministering in praise, preaching, teaching and serving.

The colors of the logo are a compilation of the various flags of the member Caribbean islands which are distinct in their representation. The yellow background is the sun which holds all the elements together.

The sun which covers us all, is symbolized as Jesus, not only in the Caribbean but the "Light of the World".



DOMINICA BAPTIST WOMEN'S UNION (DBWU) ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER, 2019

The DBWU held its last conference from November 1st to 3rd, 2019 under the theme: "Women Called to Purpose" based on Romans 8:28. Participants included members of the DBWU and a contingent of "sisters" from the French speaking islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe. The aim of the conference was to help Christian women understand that their life of purpose should be reflected in daily interactions with others everywhere, for the glory of God.

On the first day our President, Sister Annette Boney welcomed delegates and gave an overview of the conference. It also featured resident Pastor David Serrant as guest speaker and ended with a gift exchange and fellowship.

Day two was the Day of Prayer and coincided with the country's Independence celebration. The ladies wore national costumes, the Word was delivered by Minister Effer Horsford and focused on "The Activity of the Holy Spirit in Your Life of Purpose". It ended with a praise session and delivery of the Word by Minister Clementina Munro.



On day three the women gathered at respective churches to worship and the conference culminated in a field trip to two of Dominica's most popular tourist sites; Trafalgar Falls and Hot Water Springs in Wotten Waven. This was organized to cater primarily to the delegates of the French Speaking islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe. As the women experienced God's wonders, it was another opportunity to reflect on the theme: "Women called to Purpose."

Sister Starry Williams - Dominica

(Cont. from pg. 1)

Interview with President Karlene Edwards-Warrick



From left: Kerel, Khadine, Karlene, Anselm and Karissa Warrick

DDS: How do you balance your various responsibilities in ministry with your family life?

KEW: I believe that God has blessed me with the ability to multi-task and this has helped me tremendously in balancing my responsibilities.

God has allowed me to be able to balance my roles; in full time

employment, motherhood, caring for my father for twenty eight years after he suffered a stroke, ministry and being the wife of a Pastor. I learnt very early in my life how to plan and prioritize.

DDS: What are some of the plans/projections you have for the women of the Caribbean during your tenure as President of the CBWU? Short/long term.

KEW: My short-term plans are summed up in four key pillars that I have titled 'the four R's': **Reinforcing** our communication as a Ministry in this technological age. **Re-branding** the organisation for greater effectiveness. **Rejuvenating** the interest among member bodies and **Recruiting** younger women under the age of fifty for succession.

Long-term projections will be to see all of the islands actively involved in the CBWU, with new and emerging leaders, who will continue the work and witness of the organisation for the next forty years.

DDS: What do you see as the major challenges facing the organization at this time?

KEW: One of our major challenges at this time is developing leadership for succession. The organisation, over the past forty years, has attracted mainly women over the age of fifty-five. In the past

five years we have started focussing on correcting this issue. The new leadership will continue to focus on strategies that will initiate changes to the demographics of the organisation in the next five years. The other challenge is finance especially during this time of a global pandemic. However, I believe that as a people of God we are called to exercise our faith and trust in a God who promises to meet our every need. God is not slack concerning His promises towards us.

DDS: How have your previous experience and training equipped you to tackle these challenges?

KEW: I am a HR Consultant by profession and a certified trainer. Leadership development is one of my strengths. I have the experience of many years in developing leadership in the workplace and for ministry. I believe that God places us in the areas where our gifts and talents can be best utilized. I also have a great leadership team in the CBWU; women who are bringing their experiences, unique gifts and talents that will complement the efforts.

In the area of finances, I intend to encourage our members, especially our leaders, to walk in Faith and stand on God's promises towards us. A child of God must not only speak Faith but we must also live Faith.

DDS: What do you think are the most important attributes that effective Christian leaders should possess in these times?

KEW: Firstly, I believe that Christian leaders should be servant leaders. A servant leader puts the needs of others first. Your focus is on assisting others to develop and to utilize their gifts and talents effectively for the building up of the kingdom of God.

Secondly you must be a good steward of the resources God has given to you. This means that you must take responsibility for the performance of your team, and be accountable for the role each team member plays in the organisation.

You should also lead by example demonstrating the behaviours you wish to see in others. You must have the courage to stand against values and behaviour that do not align with the vision of the organisation. An authentic leader is a full-time mentor and coach.

(Cont'd on Pg .4)

Backyard Gardening: A Most Rewarding Activity

Do you know that our food security is constantly being threatened by the sharp increase in the price of fruits and vegetables? Many women cannot afford to buy sufficient, safe and nutritious foods to meet their own dietary needs and that of their families. As a result, they often have to resort to cheaper and less nutritious alternatives.

One way to deal with the rising cost of fruits and vegetables is to establish a backyard garden. If you have enough space you should plant a few fruit trees like cherry, mango, June plum and papaw. You can also plant a variety of herbs and vegetables like tomatoes, patchoi, pepper (sweet/hot) callaloo, lettuce and carrots.



Growing and tending your own garden will significantly reduce the amount of money spent on fruits and vegetables. It also ensures that you will always have

fresh nutritional, “fertilizer free” produce. Also, additional income can be made from selling excess produce. Friends and neighbours will also benefit from your harvested produce.

Establishing and maintaining a backyard garden takes time and effort but yield a good return on your investment. Your garden will not only meet your own consumption needs but is also beneficial to your physical and mental wellbeing. Additionally, you find the sunshine and fresh air invigorating but as you bend or kneel to dig and weed, mulch and water the plants, you will get the needed exercise to keep your whole body active.

Backyard gardening also teaches valuable and enduring life lessons. Planting seeds and watching them grow to maturity teaches patience and gratitude. You will also learn to accept the things that are beyond your control, because ultimately, it is God who causes all things to grow and flourish.

As Christian women, we can intentionally sow seeds of God’s love, kindness, compassion, empathy, respect, helpful acts of caring and nurturing, thoughtfulness and faith in the lives of others and prayerfully watch them grow and bear fruit for God’s kingdom.

Sylvia Henry - Jamaica

(Con’t from pg 3)

Interview with President Karlene Edwards-Warrick

DDS: Where do you see yourself in the next five years. How would you like to be remembered?

KEW: I see myself in a closer relationship with my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is always my desire to grow closer to God as I grow older.

I would like to be remembered as someone who invested into the lives of others and served my God and community with a spirit of excellence and dedication.

DDS: Thank you for your candour and wisdom, and may God guide you over the next few years as you impact the lives of the many women of the CBWU.



CARIBBEAN BAPTIST WOMEN’S UNION

MISSION

To foster and celebrate unity in Christ and promote fellowship among Baptist women in the Caribbean and worldwide; engage in soul winning 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.



Grenada Baptist Women's Association Ice Cream and Fruit Processing Training Session



Training Session



Delicious Ice cream



The Ice Cream and Fruit processing project aims to equip and encourage unemployed women within the GBWA to be self-employed or better prepare themselves to find employment. Phase 1 of the Project consisted of a series of seven workshops, which began on Tuesday September 1, 2020 and ended on October 31, 2020.

DO IT YOURSELF AND SAVE

Recipe For Candied Fruit

Ingredients

- 2 oranges
- 1 grapefruit
- 1 ugly fruit
- 3 1/2 cups white sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- boiling water

Method

- ◆ Cut fruit crosswise. Remove pulp leaving the white pith attached to the peel.
- ◆ Cut peel in small cubes.
- ◆ Cover with boiling water in pan and simmer for 5 minutes.
- ◆ Drain and repeat the process 4 more times to remove the bitter oils from the rind. Drain, remove peels.
- ◆ In the same saucepan, bring to boil 2 cups of sugar, 1 cup water and ground ginger.
- ◆ Reduce heat and simmer until sugar dissolves.
- ◆ Add peels and simmer for about an hour until peels are tender and sugar absorbed.
- ◆ Remove any remaining liquids and turn out on waxed paper and separate.
- ◆ Allow to cool then roll in remaining sugar.
- ◆ Spread in single layers and let dry overnight at room temperature.



Grenada

WHAT IS FAITH?

“Faith is not based on What We See.
Faith is based on Who God is”.
Graig Groeschel

“Faith is not the Absence of Doubt.
It is the Means to Overcome Doubt”.
Steve Furtick

Sisters!

Life is a journey of Faith. God’s word keeps us when the going gets tough and so we continue to Trust in the Promise Keeper to Restore and Renew us day by day.



ENDORSEMENT OF OUR FAITH IN GOD.

“God has given no pledge which He will not redeem, and encouraged no hope which He would not fulfil.”
Unknown

“God, does not promise a smooth flight, but He does promise a safe landing.”
Unknown

“God’s promises can never be broken by leaning on them.”
Howard Hendricks

OFFICERS OF CARIBBEAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S UNION (CBWU)

President	Mrs. Karlene Edwards-Warrick	Trinidad and Tobago
Vice President	Mrs. Sherrian Munro	Grenada
Vice President	Mrs. Betty James	San Andres
Secretary	Mrs. Buella Hamilton	Turks and Caicos
Assistant Secretary	Mrs. Sylvia Henry	Jamaica
Treasurer	Mrs. Julie Barclay	Trinidad & Tobago
Media/Newsletter Chair	Mrs. Sylvia Henry	Jamaica

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

♦ VIRTUAL CARIBBEAN BAPTIST WOMEN’S UNION DAY OF PRAYER

Date : Saturday June 5, 2021
Theme : “Courageous Life” (Deut. 31:6)
Time: 10:00 A.M. AST

♦ VIRTUAL GATHERING OF THE GLOBAL BAPTIST FAMILY 2021

i. Global Conference of Baptist Women

Date : July 07, 2021
Theme : ‘LIFE’

ii. Baptist World Congress

Date: July 8 - 10, 2021

For registration and further details on the Conference and Congress please visit bwa2021.org

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