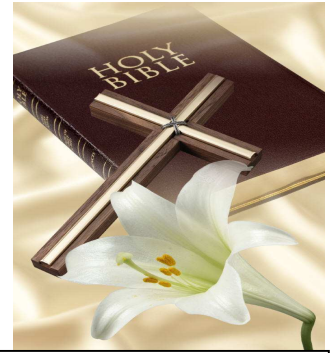


# EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, PORT MARIA, ST. MARY

# E-EMMANUEL

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2, NO. 69

February 2011



## EDITORIAL:

*Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (Eph. 5:1-2).*

The month of February is an important one for us. We pause to reflect on our history as people of African descent. It is true that there are those of us who do not care one iota about Black History. Life for us is about making money and gaining material things.

Amidst the reflections and celebrations there are cries for unity, peace, justice and love. There are calls for acceptance, tolerance and appreciation of people's views, lifestyles and religious beliefs and practices. We cannot think of uniting others until we are united among ourselves. We cannot give love and accept love if we do not know how to love ourselves.

As we also celebrate love, it is God's greatest gift of love to human beings that should hold much significance to and for us. Until we can walk in the way of love as Christ walked, our celebrations will be mere rituals and platitudes. So, in a sense what we need is a heart of love, peace and all that is good.

As we celebrate Black History Month and Valentines let us remember that as Christians we do have a greater history and celebration of love. We were once slaves to sin encompassing greed, selfishness, hatred and bondage. Today we boast of freedom and love, let us then rise and spread that freedom and love.

*Sis. Dafflyn Campbell*

## Celebrating our Black History

The phrase "... teach them to your children, talk[ing] about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" found in Deuteronomy 11:19, is a fitting principle to apply as it relates to our history. When we talk our history, we will not forget our past—from whence we have come. One person whom we should endeavour to talk about to our children and our children's children is Louise Bennett.

Louise Bennett was a Jamaican poet and cultural icon. She was born on September 7, 1919, and has been described by many as Jamaica's leading comedienne and the "only poet who has really hit the truth about her society through its own language".

Through her poems in Jamaican patois, she not only raised the dialect of the Jamaican folk to an art level but also captured all the spontaneity of the expression of Jamaicans' joys and sorrows, their ready, poignant and even wicked wit, their religion and their philosophy of life.

Her first dialect poem was written when she was fourteen years old. A British Council Scholarship took her to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, where she studied in the late 1940s. After graduation, she worked with repertory companies in Coventry, Huddersfield and

Amersham as well as in intimate revues all over England.

In 1974, she was awarded the Order of Jamaica. She also received the Norman Manley Award for Excellence in the arts and a honorary Doctor of Letters degree from the University of West Indies. In 2001, she was made a Member of the Order of Merit for her contribution to the development of Jamaican Arts and Culture. Louise Bennett-Coverly died on July 26, 2006, in Toronto, Canada.



## FEBRUARY REMINDERS

February 12th	Black History Month Pre-Valentines Dinner at Zion Hill
February 14th	Valentine's Day
February 23rd-27th	JBU Annual Assembly

## February Birthdays

Angella Salmon	4th
Alva Jackson	9th
Lurline Israel	10th
Annette Tracey	11th
Codi-Ann Campbell	11th
Janet Corey	14th
Gwendolyn McPherson	13th
Audrey Gabbidon	19th
Noel Johnson	22nd
Jheanelle Plummer	22nd
Hazel Allen	23rd
Violet Sewell	23rd
Christine Radway	27th
Mekelia Hibbert	28th
Sherlette Whilby	28th
Inez Graham	28th

**The flower for February is the Violet which symbolizes faithfulness, humility and chastity.**

**The AMETHYST is the birthstone for February.**

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Study the Bible  
with us



You are invited to share in the Bible Study sessions on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. The Bible studies are focussing on gifts of the Holy Spirit. If you are unsure about what your gift is, you should attend these sessions.

**Thought:** "Don't stop yourself from enjoying the now because of an ill-imagined tomorrow or a remembered pain of yesterday."

**This Thing Called .... FORGIVENESS**

Many of us carry around grudges and anger because of some wrong that some one has done to us. According to Smedes, "... as long as our minds are captive to the memory of having been wronged, they are not free to wish for reconciliation with the one who wronged us." Perhaps if we understand what forgiveness is not, and what it is, this will help us to better make the choice to forgive.

- Forgiveness does NOT condone the actions of the person who caused you hurt. By forgiving the person who caused you hurt, you are not saying that what the person did was okay. You are just deciding not to allow the wrong to affect your peace of mind.
- Forgiveness does NOT diminish the severity of the wrong that was meted out to you. By forgiving the person who caused the hurt, you are not saying that the harm he/she caused you was of no consequence. Indeed, you may still be dealing with the negative results of the actions, but by being willing to forgive, you are allowing yourself not to spend your energy on being angry.
- Forgiveness does NOT change what has past. It allows you to focus on your life from a pain free emotional state. The past no longer makes you cringe, cry or swear. Forgiveness simply helps you to let go of that negative baggage and makes a place for all the positive things you wish to have.

Forgiveness is not a gift that we are blessed with; it is a choice that we make—it is a decision to let go of resentment and thoughts of revenge. When we forgive, it opens the door wider for us to truly love ourselves, and to be able to act on God's commandment to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover the prisoner was YOU.

**Condolences to:**

- Sis. Donna McLean who lost her mother. The funeral service for Sis. Donna's mother, is today in St. Elizabeth.
- Bro. Bruce Wedderburn, who lost his aunt/mother. The funeral service will be Saturday, February 19th at Emmanuel.

**JAMAICA BAPTIST UNION**  
**BELIEVERS CONVENTION OF THE 161st GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
 Theme: **Living in HOPE**  
**FEB. 23-26, 2011**  
**OCHO RIOS, ST. ANN**  
**SUNDAY FEB. 27, 2011**  
**THE NATIONAL ARENA, KINGSTON**  
 Workshops and Bible Study sessions  
 Sunset Jamaica Grande Hotel  
 Worship Services -  
 Wednesday & Thursday 7:00pm - Ocho Rios Baptist Church  
 Open-Air Service  
 Friday 7:00pm - Turtle River Park  
 For Registration/Accommodation Booking:  
 Contact JBU Office 2b Washington Boulevard  
 Tel - 969-6268 or visit our website www.jbu.org.jm  
**Register now and secure your space!!**

**A REMINDER TO 5th AND 6th FORMERS: You should have completed or now completing your applications to colleges and universities for September 2011.**

**Valentine's Day:** There are varying opinions as to the origin of Valentine's Day. Some experts state that it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A.D., the same day that had been devoted to love lotteries. Legend also says that St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine". Other aspects of the story say that Saint Valentine served as a priest at the temple during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius then had Valentine jailed for defying him. In 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honour St. Valentine.

Whatever the history of Valentine's Day, each of us want to know that we are loved and appreciated by our parents, children, other family members, friend and significant others. Use this valentine's day to express your love to significant others in your life, after all:

*"Love is but the discovery of ourselves in others, and the delight in the recognition."  
 -Alexander Smith*



**Remember to pray for the sick**



... and shut-in members of the church and in our surrounding communities. Here is a list of our sick and shut-in members:

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Sis. Audrey Maxwell  | Sis. Emma Scarlette-Grant |
| Sis. Carmen Allen    | Sis. Inez Graham          |
| Sis. Herma Grandison | Sis. Percess Scott        |
| Bro. Thomas Bennett  | Bro. Jeremiah Dalhouse    |
| Sis. Roslyn Walters  | Sis. Daphne Reid          |

**Just for laugh: Sermon Text**

During the course of a bitter pastor-congregation dispute, the church's pastor quit and found a job working as a chaplain at the local jail. On his last Sunday with the church, just before he left for his new job at the jail, he preached as his sermon text John 14:3:

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."