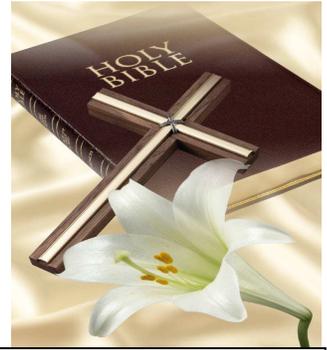


EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, PORT MARIA, ST. MARY

E-EMMANUEL

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EDITORIAL: CELEBRATE JESUS, CELEBRATE

Today, being the Sunday after Christmas Day, is recognized as Christmas Sunday. Many persons attend church on this day perhaps because it is a family tradition; for some persons it is really the only time that they attend church and yet for others, it is a day of great or grave memory.

Christmas—the season of advent, Christmas Day and Christmas Sunday—are days of celebrations. Today is a day of celebration—a celebration of who Christ is and what He means to us as Christians—individually and collectively. Mary, the mother of Jesus, provides a guiding principle of how we can express our celebrations, as recorded in St. Luke 1:46-55. Mary expressed the true feelings of [and in] her heart (v. 46-47); she mentioned what God had done specifically for her (v. 48-49); and she described the ways of God in general (v. 50-55). The words of Mary expressed in this passage, help us to truly understand that, despite our situations, in everything, we can always find a reason to celebrate and give thanks to God for His many blessings upon us.

May you use today to truly reflect on the Christ of Christmas and celebrate Him in your heart and life all year round.

Dahlia Palmer
Chairperson,
Communications Committee

DECEMBER REMINDERS

- 26th Christmas Sunday Service
- 26th Dramatic Play & Concert at 6:00 p.m. (Cost: \$250)
- 31st Watch Night Service (10:00 p.m.)

Please invite family and friends to share in these services.

PIECES ON EARTH

It seems that at this phase of our history we are hell-bent on creating "pieces on earth" since our actions seem to suggest "toward all persons, there should be mischief, murder and mayhem."

For some strange reason, some persons are under the impression that the answer to their life's problems lies in the destruction of others. This attitude however, reflects something deeper—hatred of self, of others and ultimately of God.

This hatred, if remains rooted in our hearts will grow out of control, will only result in continued broken hearts and brokenness of lives—yes broken pieces here on earth.

Perhaps [moreso] at this time of the year the broken pieces of your life seem more pronounced because of the heightened feelings of loneliness, despair, depression and fear. At Christmas time, your song may be "there is no peace on earth for hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth good will to all."

Jesus came here on earth to mend the broken pieces of your life—to remove the broken pieces on earth— so that your life can reflect one of the messages of Christmas, that Christ came to give peace on earth

PEACE ON EARTH

Many persons may be wondering what exactly the angels meant on that first Christmas when they declared "peace on earth goodwill to all men" when today, individuals have 'peaceless' nights worrying about how the bills will be paid come January; when the daily local news report violence which claims innocent lives; or when overseas reports give details about ongoing conflicts between and among nations. Certainly this does not paint a picture of the world being at peace.

The peace that Christ offers is not an end to wars and conflicts, but rather a peace within our hearts, despite external conflicts and trials. A life of peace begins with the simplest and most basic act—acceptance of Christ into your life; this is the only way to mend the broken pieces. The peace that God gives, will surpass all other understanding and will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

No God ... no peace
Know God ... know peace!

Peace on earth, and good will to you—
this Christmas Sunday—and always!

December Birthdays

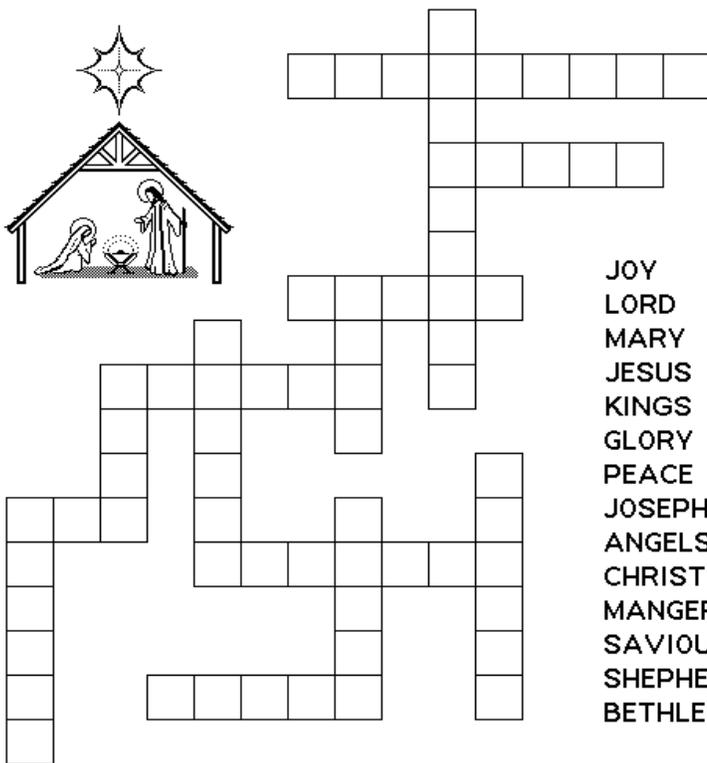
Mark Campbell	7th
Linda Hines	10th
Earl Irvin	11th
Albertha Bailey	12th
Joan Green	12th
Janet McCarthy	17th
Rockeisha Barnett	18th
Oshane Barnett	19th
Sylvester Barnett	20th
Rose Freckleton	24th
Larkland Peart	25th
Winsome Davis-James	26th
Audrey Maxwell	28th

The flower for December is the Poinsettia. This flower is also known as the Christmas flower and symbolizes good cheer and merriment.

TURQUOISE
is the birthstone for
December.

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.



JOY
LORD
MARY
JESUS
KINGS
GLORY
PEACE
JOSEPH
ANGELS
CHRIST
MANGER
SAVIOUR
SHEPHERDS
BETHLEHEM

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JAMAICA BAPTIST UNION
MISSION AGENCY presents
SCHOOL of EVANGELISM 2011
NUTSHELL CONFERENCE CENTRE, DUNCANS, TRELAWNY

THURSDAY-SATURDAY
JANUARY 6-8

TOPICS
1. TECHNOLOGY (HI TECH) EVANGELISM
2. EVANGELISM IN CONTEXT
3. SPIRITUALITY & EVANGELISM
4. GENERATION 'Y' & EVANGELISM
5. FAITH & EVANGELISM

COST: \$3500
Includes Registration, course material, accommodation and meals

For further information, please contact the JBU Mission Agency Office
at 969 2223/969 9835 (landlines), 322 5387 (LIME)/869 7381 (Digicel), 924 6296 (fax);
or email: danielle.redwood@jbu.org.jm

art design by mt.hgrin / email: licentia.creative@mt.hgrin.com

The true meaning of Christmas

The true meaning of Christmas is love. St. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of this incredible act of love. The real Christmas story is the story of God becoming a human being in the person of Jesus Christ. God did this act

because He loves us! His very nature is love (1 John 4:8). Christmas was [and is] necessary because we needed a Saviour! As we celebrate Christmas each year, we should do so out of gratitude for what God did for us. We can celebrate Christ's birth by giving each other gifts, worshipping Him, and being especially conscious of the poor and less fortunate.

Thought: To catch the real meaning of the "Spirit of Christmas," we need only to drop the last syllable of the word, and it becomes the "Spirit of Christ." It beckons us to follow him, and become worthy of the blessedness which he promised to the most unlikely people—the poor in spirit, the sorrowful, the meek, the seekers after righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and even the persecuted and the oppressed.

—Hugh B. Brown

We welcome your ideas and suggestions

Address: PO Box 64, Pt. Maria, St. Mary;
E-mail: emmanuel_baptist_1828@yahoo.com
Website: www.emmanuelbaptist-jm.org

The true meaning of Christmas is love. God loved His own and provided a way—the only Way—for us to spend eternity with Him. He gave His only Son to take our punishment for our sins. He paid the price in full, and we are free from condemnation when we accept that free gift of love. "God demonstrated His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Adapted from: <http://www.gotquestions.org/Christmas-true-meaning.html>

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:

Port Maria Class:

Sis. Audrey Maxwell
Sis. Emma Scarlette-Grant

Trinity Class:

Sis. Daphne Lewis
Sis. Inez Graham
Sis. Herma Grandison
Sis. Percess Scott

Mason Hall Class:

Bro. Thomas Bennett

Stennett Street Class:

Sis. Alberta Bailey
Bro. Jeremiah Dalhouse
Sis. Roslyn Walters

Galina Class:

Sis. Daphne Reid

Cox Street Class:

Sis. Georgina Peart
Bro. Lucan Scott