

EDITORIAL: MOMENTS WE SHARE TOGETHER

Today, we join with our sister churches for our circuit convention, a clear reminder that we are a family of Christian believers. These special moments in the life of the church should not be taken for granted, especially when we think of the many Christians who have been deprived of the opportunity and privilege of fellowshiping in other parts of the world. Yes, today there are still brothers and sisters in Christ who must gather under extreme circumstances, in the face of opposition and persecution to express their religious freedom. It is reported that every year 105,000 Christians are killed because of their faith. This shocking figure was disclosed recently by Italian sociologist Massimo Introvigne, at the International Conference on Inter-religious dialogue between Christians, Jews and Muslims, sponsored by the Hungarian presidency of the European Union (EU) in Gödöllo, near Budapest. "Every five minutes", Introvigne said in his speech, "a Christian is killed for his faith." The figure does not include the victims of civil wars, or wars between nations, but only the people put to death because they are Christians (You can learn more about these persecutions at www.persecution.org/). As we gather for worship and fellowship, let us remember our brothers and sisters in other places who are not so privileged. Let us pray for them and let us cherish the moments we share together.

Rev. Oral Campbell
Pastor

Congratulations to Sis. Marilyn Melvin on the birth of her son!

JUNE REMINDERS

- 12th Circuit Convention
- 12th Day of Pentecost
- 12th BWA Youth World Day of Prayer
- 12-19th Men's Week
- 19th Fathers' Day
- 19th Fathers' Day Concert
- 19th Trinity Sunday
- 26th Exchange of Pulpit
- 26th Caribbean Baptist Fellowship Sunday

UPCOMING EVENT

Harvest Supper: Friday July 15, 2011. Tickets are now on sale!



This month we feature some of the married members within our congregation.

Earle and Vivene Irvin were married on August 4, 1976. This year will mark their 35th



wedding anniversary. "Although I was from Zion Hill, the young people in the circuit spent a lot of time together—that's how I met Barry." "Well, I wooed her off her feet. I was not happy from a previous relationship and had resolved not to get involved with any other female from Emmanuel, but Vivene won my heart because I found her to be a dedicated Christian." Our courtship was mostly in the church setting but we also went to pantomimes, and other plays. The Rev. Heckford Sharpe counselled us prior to our marriage. In the early years, our marriage was not without challenges but we worked out differences by talking about the issues because we were resolved to be married for life. The challenges now are not many but over the years, we have learnt to make these prayerful concerns. We are friends and we still have a good relationship. "What I admire most about Barry is that he always remembers special events and makes the extra effort to show his love. He knows how to show appreciation. He is also caring and understanding." "What I like best about Vivene is that she is honest, warm, understanding and very caring." Mrs. Irvin's advice to young couples is to "establish a family altar and have an open line of communication." Mr. Irvin points young couples to the Bible "in all your ways acknowledge Christ and He will direct your path—put God first in everything!"

Louise and Junior Plummer

Louise and Junior are in their 28th year of marriage. They got married on July 31, 1983. The two were friends at church (youth fellowship) for a long time. Our match was considered natural.



After about five years of courting, we decided that we liked each other enough to get married but we were engaged for about one year before we got married. Rev. Jarrett counselled us. The counselling sessions were eye opening and greatly helped us. In our marriage, the key to understanding each other is really a matter of "giving and taking" because each person has shortcomings. "I find Mr. Plummer to be a hardworking person and he is a very supportive husband. He also has a good memory and he reminds me of important things" says Mrs. Plummer. "Joy fulfils her role as a wife—she looks after the house, cooks, among other things" says Mr. Plummer. We also share many of the household responsibilities. Our advice to other young persons wanting to get married is to "ensure that you both spend time getting to know each

June Birthdays

Pauline Hamilton	5th
Leanord Bucknor	9th
Micol Israel	9th
Marilyn Melvin	11th
Veronica Allen	13th
Daphne Reid	17th
Icilda Slyfield	20th
Rachel Thomas	21st
Pauline Brown	24th
Leroy Corey	25th
Gareth Irvin	25th
Joslyn Spence	26th
Beverly Peddlar	26th

Overseas:

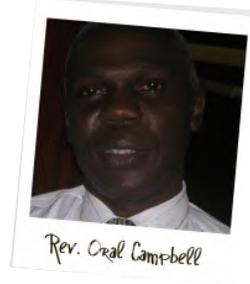
Karlene Wedderburn	20th
Nicola Nagheer	26th

Emmanuel Baptist Church
PO Box 64, Port Maria, St. Mary
Phone & Fax: 876-994-2475; 876-994-2658
emmanuel_baptist_1828@yahoo.com
Website: emmanuelbaptist-jm.org

June 2011, marks one year since Rev. Oral Campbell assumed pastoral oversight within the circuit. The E-Emmanuel interviewed Rev. Campbell and asked him to share his thoughts about the circuit.

EE: What do you understand the significance of your being here within the circuit, to be?

ORC: The significance of me being here is to be part of a team. I see us as working together as a team and I am a part of that team. I see my purpose or my role on the team as enabling persons to play their part; so as pastor, I believe that part of my role has to do with equipping persons to play their part. I believe that I would spend quite a bit of my time seeing how persons can be equipped—if it means that I conduct training myself or facilitate training to be done, identifying the necessary resources that will be needed. So I don't see myself as some persons see a leader out there, taking over and doing everything, but more like a facilitator so that the team can achieve what it is supposed to do by all of us playing our part. So each member of the team has a part to play. I see myself, for want of a better word using the sporting lingua, the captain or the leader who helps to motivate, facilitate, help to identify person's gifts and to see how I can get them to play their role.



EE: What has been the most challenging experience(s) for you?

ORC: I think the most challenging experience for me within the circuit has to do with funding in terms of ministries, programmes and ideas. There are a number of things that I believe that we could implement or I would like for us to implement—and I'm being specific now when it comes on to ministries. Ministries like Christian Education, where we need resources, we need training; ministries such as evangelism; and we realize that these things will need funding. And so it is challenging when you'd would want to see some of these things in place but you don't have what is necessary or what is needed for this to be done so I think that is part of the most challenging part of the ministry.

EE: One of the key components of moving into a new circuit is being intentional about the ministry. What are your intentions now that your year of observation has ended?

ORC: I have chosen during the past year not to say much about what I would want to do as I have indicated before. I felt that time should be spent ... but my intention for the circuit is to focus on evangelism. I believe that its an integral part of what the church is called to do – you know, the great commission to go and make disciples. So one of the things that I would want for the circuit to do is to see itself as a circuit that is involved in missions, evangelism, discipleship. And so, whatever it will take to get that idea sold, that is one of the things that I would want to focus on. So part of my intention is for us to - I don't want to say revive, but to keep alive then, the evangelism thrust of the circuit. Two, I would want us to also look at missions, in terms of our missions within the local setting in which we find ourselves – how can we touch the lives of those out there – outside of the fold of the church, how can we touch people's lives. So it is not just going to win souls and to make people into Christians,



but how can we minister to those who are out there depressed and sad and lonely. So, one of the things that I would like to see happening within the circuit, is for us to have an effective, vibrant counselling ministry, where ordinary members of the church, who have the gift of counselling can be engaged in the ministry of counselling. So that the Port Maria Circuit will be known as a circuit that has this ministry that can touch the lives of individuals – persons who are hurting, persons who are sad, persons who are with problems; and I feel that we need to go where they are. So even though we may say counselling ministry, it may not be necessarily formalized, but a circuit that is relevant to touch people's lives. We find that many times, churches are concerned more about individual souls we're concerned about winning people to

Christ, saving them, but we're not realizing that there're a lot of persons who we meet everyday, that walk into our lives, and we don't hear them, we don't see them, we don't understand what is happening in their lives. And while they're saying to us one thing, they're saying that they're hurting, they're going through pain, we're not hearing, we're not listening. So I would want for us to be more sensitive to people's needs because that's what I believe Jesus Christ did. If we have these before us, then out of this now will spring ... we will have the ministries that will meet these needs and out of this we will develop the various ministries to look at these.

EE: So from your observation, you perceive that we're not sensitive enough to the needs of the people that we meet on a regular basis?

ORC: I believe that individuals are, but I don't know if the church – I don't think the church collectively is doing that in terms of a ministry. You will have one or two individuals who are very sensitive with what is happening and themselves may be doing it but they're limited because you may have one person who knows what is happening in individual lives and they will try to see what they can do. I believe we could cover more grounds if more persons were doing this – if we had a team – not everybody but if we had a team of persons who would be doing this and if we could find the necessary resources. Maybe some of these resources are not to be found within ourselves but maybe there are agencies, NGO's, other religious groups that we can refer persons to or resources that we can tap into to help these individuals.

(The complete script of this interview can be accessed on the Emmanuel Baptist website)

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

When the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and the other believers on the Day of Pentecost, those who heard them speaking in tongues were amazed and asked, "*What does this mean?*" (Acts 2:12). This question is still being asked today. It does not mean that we must have the same experience as the disciples had, namely, that we are to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit and that we must speak in tongues. In Chapter 1 of Acts, the disciples had been told to "wait" in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. They waited and they received the Holy Spirit. In this regard, the Day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts, is really a historic event. This event marked the dawning of God equipping His people with the power of the Holy Spirit, to fulfil His mission here on earth. We need to shift our focus from dwelling solely on the events of "*sound of violent wind*", "*tongues of fire*" and "*speaking in tongues.*" We need to instead focus on being filled with the Holy Spirit and allowing the Holy Spirit to empower us and control every area of our lives, so that we can boldly be witnesses of Christ's amazing love so that those who are lost in sin, can repent and also be filled with the Spirit and glorify

Thought:
**No amount of time
 in front of the
 mirror will make
 you attractive as
 having the Holy
 Spirit**