



EDITORIAL: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History month is also known as African-American History month and is observed annually in the United States and Canada in the month of February and in the United Kingdom in October. The purpose of the month long activities is for remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African Diaspora. Criticisms have been raised about how fair and useful it is to designate a month to the history of one ethnic group, especially in light of the fact that there is no other month designated to any other racial/ethnic group. Furthermore, it is asked why one's history should be relegated to just one month of celebrations. In Jamaica we tend to also celebrate how Jamaicans, especially of African descent, have impacted the world scene in the areas of sports, entertainment, humanitarian effort and academia. In 2008, February was officially declared as Reggae Month in Jamaica to coincide with other activities commemorating Black history and empowerment. Many also question the relevance of such activities. If there is doubt about the relevance of Black history month in Jamaica, we could seize the opportunity to recall the great effort of our national heroes, learn about how individuals from our nation touched the globe in a positive way or honour our unsung heroes who make great sacrifice to contribute to better communities across the island. Recognizing where we are from and reasserting who we are is never too much to do. As our visionary philosopher and national hero Marcus Garvey said "A people without knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

Contributed by: Sis. Nora Davis.

The Black skin is not a badge of shame, but rather a glorious symbol of national greatness
-Marcus Garvey

February Birthdays: May the love of God envelop you always!



Angella Salmon
4th



Simone Henry
7th



Lurline Israel
10th



Annette Tracey
11th



Codi-Ann Campbell
11th



Gwendolyn McPherson
13th



Janet Corey
14th



Jossett Burton
17th



Audrey Gabbidon
19th



Noel Johnson
22nd



Jhnealle Plummer
22nd



Hazel Allen
23rd



Violet Sewell
23rd



Mekelia Hibbert
28th



Inez Graham
28th

FEBRUARY REMINDERS

February is Black History/ Reggae Month

- 8th Baptist World Alliance Day
- 14th Valentine's Day
- 18th-21st JBU Convention (Montego Bay)
- 22nd JBU Closing Services (Montego Bay Conference Center)

What Happened in The Past Weeks?



Sister Valerie Bennett was received into membership.



Sis. Nicoy Edwards and Sis. Charmaine Ladder were baptized.



Malachi Shaquan Smith was christened.

Remember to pray for and visit with 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:

Sisters:

- Violet Daley
- Inez Graham
- Emma Grant
- Audrey Maxwell
- Valerie Melbourne
- Doris Nelson
- Georgina Peart
- Adassa Reddie
- Loretta Reid
- Keziah Spence
- Ionie Thomas

Brothers

- Larkland Peart
- Leonard Martin
- Thomas Bennett



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a forty-day period of preparation for Easter.

It is a day that many Christians set aside to gather with other believers in Christ, to fast, pray and re-commit themselves to Christ.

Let us take this time to focus on God, and deepen our relationship with Him. Remember that God demonstrated the greatest gift of all during this period and so we should follow His perfect example.

The Difference between Lust and Love

Love is in the air! As Valentine’s day approaches thoughts of love and that special someone occupy your mind. But we need to stop and think, what really is ‘love’ or is it that I am experiencing ‘lust’ towards this person. Here is an excerpt from an article “Balancing your passion with purity” by June Hunt.

Remember your first real crush?...The flush of your face, the pounding of your heart, the shortness of breath at your first touch? You were "in love"... or perhaps, more realistically, in love with love. Your heart was filled with excitement at the anticipation of holding hands and receiving a sweet goodnight kiss. Such were the days of innocence—the ways of "puppy love." But when infatuation turns to feverish passion, innocence can be lost. What you think is love turns out to be lust... an illusion of true intimacy... a counterfeit of the lasting love that sustains a relationship. Too late, you learn there are great differences between lust and love. The Bible tells us...

"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry." (Colossians 3:5). Here is a list that will help you differentiate Love from Lust...

Lust	Love
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is noncommittal • Is sudden • Is selfish • Is untrustworthy • Is impatient • Is faithless • Is uncontrolled desire • Is emotionally shallow • Is based on fantasy • Is full of emotion • Is driven by one's passion • Focuses on external looks • Uses faulty reasoning • Seeks to get happiness • Can't wait to get 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is committed • Is gradual • Is unselfish • Is trustworthy • Is patient • Is faithful • Is controlled desire • Is emotionally deep • Is based on reality • Is full of devotion • Is chosen by one's will • Focuses on internal character • Uses solid reasoning • Seeks to give happiness • Can't wait to give

So before you continue in your current relationship, or get into a relationship and start getting excited, stop and think and run through this check list. This could save you some heart-ache or a heart-break.

Contributed by Grace Taylor
Counselor (Tel: 781-8766)

February Anniversary Feature—
MR. AND MRS. GORDON



Mr. and Mrs. Gordon has been married for 5 blissful years. Mr. Gordon especially couldn't stop talking about how he finally knew his second wife was “the one”. “Alright tap now nuh!” Mrs. Gordon blushed. Mr. Gordon insisted it was the hand of God that brought the two together and his wife most certainly agreed.

She admitted that it was Mr. Gordon’s deep spiritual nature that attracted her and noted that he is a prayerful person. He on the other hand, described his wife as very encouraging and that the characteristics they possess cause their marriage to run smoothly.



This couple described their relationship as cool like autumn and stated that if they were to die of an overdose, that overdose would be LOVE. They encourage other couples who are considering marriage to put God first and let his will be done in the lives before and after that final decision.

On the scale of LOVE this couples scores 10/10. From my perspective, Mr. Gordon is cool and easy going and Mrs. Gordon a comedian. It was a pleasure to interview them. Thank you both for sharing your story with us.

Interviewed by— Sis. Zonika Tracey

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