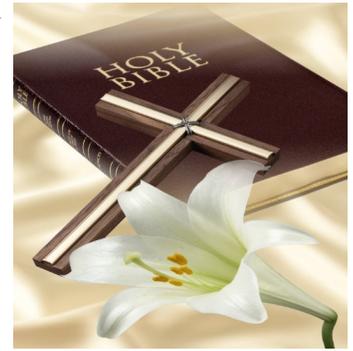


E-EMMANUEL

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EDITORIAL

156th General Assembly of the Jamaica Baptist Union (JBU)

I had the privilege of attending the 156th General Assembly of the JBU as a delegate for the Port Maria Circuit and thought it prudent to share with you, some valuable information I learnt about our major responsibility as Christians. The sub-theme of the Union (yes, for us Baptists!) for the next two years is "**BOLDNESS IN MISSION.**" Although there were several presentations under this sub-theme, I wish to highlight one of the presentations, made by the Rev. Everton Jackson, the Bible Study presenter at the Assembly.

The title of this particular presentation was *Mission Against All Odds* (St. Mark 6: 6b–13). Rev. Jackson noted from the scripture passage that, just as Jesus had called the Twelve Disciples, each of us bearing the name of Christ has been called and are considered to be the *Chosen Ones* called to fulfill God's Mission. This call however demands sacrifice, reprioritization of our focus and takes precedence over any loyalties we have.

The responsibility of being chosen demands that we carry out the *Commission*—the task that Christ Jesus has entrusted us with. *Jesus sent out The Twelve—two by two, and gave them authority over evil spirits* (v. 7). Rev. Jackson highlighted three implications of being commissioned. First, being commissioned means we have power and authority to do our Mission. This is the impetus for us to undertake the Mission of Christ with boldness. Second, Jesus sent The Twelve in pairs - suggesting the importance of partnership in Mission on the field. Third, being commissioned demands us to be accountable, i.e. to report on our stewardship in the Mission field (v. 30).

Not only are we Christians the Chosen Ones with a given Commission, but from the passage, Rev. Jackson also emphasized the *Charge* given by our Lord. In verses 8–11, Jesus gave a list of prohibitions for the journey—what not to take on the Mission field. The Twelve were charged to go without unnecessary entanglements; rather they should take the minimal essentials. This sending out of the disciples without the "requisite resources" according to Rev. Jackson, suggests three things: (i) there is urgency of the Mission; (ii) that nothing should be allowed to slow down the Mission; and (iii) it underscores the importance of depending on God as we go out to Mission.

Lessons for our consideration

- ◆ There is urgency in doing God's Mission; and there is always danger in delay.
- ◆ We should never lose sight of the link between the call to discipleship and the call to Mission.
- ◆ Mission is carried out in the authority and power entrusted to us by Christ
- ◆ We must learn to be satisfied with the basic resources made available to us for the task of Mission.

Finally, as the Rev. Jonathan Hemmings charged at the closing session, let us make Mission a matter of absolute priority and let us remain loyal to God's Mission as we seek to stay the course and serve the cause of Christ.

*Dahlia Palmer, Chairperson
Communication Committee*

DIS YA TALK BOUT MISSION

All dis yah talk bout Mission, but ah wha Mission really bout? Well, Mission a wha di Church call fi do! Fus, di church mus share an talk bout di good news of Jesus Christ wid di confidence dat God wi lead man an ooman to salvation (an by salvation wi mean to call people to love an repentance in a all areas of life). Mission also mean seh wi fi show God's love through wi social action, i.e. wi fi reach out an help people in a different kinda situation, like care fi di sick, tek care af di environment an generally just being kind to wi one anada. Dat nuh sound like someting hard fi do?

So mek wi all join di Mission band!!

Adapted from G. M Lator, 2006



**Remember to pray for the sick
and shut-in members of the
church.**

Port Maria Circuit of Baptist Churches Health Fund

Many persons are finding the cost of simple medical tests to be out of their reach. In an effort to ease this financial strain, the Pt. Maria Circuit

launched its Health Fund on

December 4, 2005. Why not be a part of this programme!!



The Lenten Season

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter that begins on Ash Wednesday. During Lent we follow Jesus from his adult ministry through his suffering during Holy Week and his crucifixion and death on Good Friday. And we read the Psalms that foretell what would happen during that week.



Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.



Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, the Lenten season provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need.

<http://www.kencollins.com/holy-04.htm>

Youth Link

Understanding the changes that take place in your body ...

Males

If a boy has sex it does not make him a man. He is still a boy. Becoming a sexual person is a big responsibility and involves sharing in a special relationship with another person. This is a very beautiful experience and you should take care of this very special, God-given part of your life.

Wanting to have sex, to masturbate and having wet dreams are not felt by you alone. Others are feeling the same way, and you should not feel ashamed. However, what is shameful, is to force someone to have sex. If a person says no, then this should be respected.

Strong sexual urges are normal, a true man not only has these feelings, but most importantly, he can control them. This does not mean that your "nature" is weak, it means the opposite, that you are strong willed.

Respect sex, respect yourself and respect the persons you relate with.

Females

Becoming a sexual person for a girl is a change in life so great that it is hard to understand all that it means. Men will now desire you and say things to you to make you have sex with them, or even love them, but there are ways that you can handle this.

- Understand that when you show yourself off, that not everybody will see you as a young girl, discovering her new body and self. They will see you as a big woman and that you are "looking" for men to have sex with you.

- If big men are attracted to you, and offer you things for sex, this does not make you a woman. You are still a girl.

- A woman is a person who can take care of herself, respects herself, and her body.

It takes time to become a woman. The fact that your body has changed does not mean that your mind has fully developed. You have to grow and mature. Your body should not control you. You should control it. This is why you should wait

COMPLETE THIS FIND A WORD PUZZLE RELATING TO THE LENTEN SEASON

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We welcome your ideas and suggestions
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