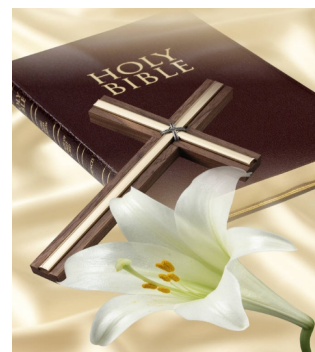


EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, PORT MARIA, ST. MARY

E-EMMANUEL

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EDITORIAL

In celebration of Family Month this year, one highlight of the *E-Emmanuel Newsletter* is that we will be featuring a few families within our congregation. As you read about and share with these families, remember to say a special prayer for them and also pray for the many families in our churches.

Dahlia Palmer, Chairperson,,

Communications Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MAY - FAMILY MONTH

- 21st - Memorial Service
- 27th - Marriage Enrichment Seminar and Singles Retreat
- 28th - Exchange of Vows
- Special evening services covering some of the following issues:
 - Coping with separation and divorce
 - Nutrition
 - Youth, sex, pregnancy, abortion
 - Fostering adoption

Special Family Feature

THE WEDDERBURNS

The Wedderburn's family consists of three persons, father and husband, Bruce, mother and wife, Karlene and daughter, Karyl. They describe their family as being closely

knit, talented, caring, sharing, committed to the cause of Christ and exemplary. And what do they mean by exemplary? Well, they do believe that their family is an example to others—that others looking on can pattern them—see the good qualities and adopt these qualities.



They highlight four major strengths of their family: they are patient, confidential, responsible and loving. All the members of this family is multi-talented and this they consider is a uniqueness of the family.



The major challenge of this family is parenting a teenager. Well does Karyl agree with this? "Yes", she says, "perhaps because teenagers go through so much emotional changes." So what is the major challenge

of the teenager, Karyl? Well her major challenges are her school responsibilities i.e. having to maintain good grades. In addition, there is the challenge of peer pressure. "You have to know what you are about—discipline and respect for self and others and knowing what is right from wrong." Challenges in this family are worked out through dialogue, positive reinforcement and discipline.



The family enjoys doing things together and there are a number of activities that they are engaged in such as playing games (ludo, scrabble, cards), going on excursions, attending social functions, watching DVD and television and having family devotions.

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

Did you know that each Sunday sermons are tape recorded? You can order a copy of a sermon from the Music & Arts Department.

Do you have a poem about family that you want to share with us? Leave it at the church's office and we'll print it in the newsletter!

The Wedderburn's believe that God plays a major role in their family. "God is the first point of contact before any decisions are made. He is our provider, protector and confidant."

Sooo, what is the best thing the family members like about each other? Well, here goes:



Karyl:

I like the fact that I can talk to both of my parents about anything without being embarrassed. My father talks to me about my behaviour and that I should look to the Bible relating to my future plans. I have a very jovial family.

Karlene:

The best thing I like about Karyl is her loving nature and caring attitude. There are many things I like about Bruce but to sum it all up, the best thing I like about him is that he is very loving, caring and he is faithful.



Bruce: What I like about Karyl is her humility.

As it relates to Karlene, the best thing I like about her is her care and concern and she is always going the extra mile.

PAINFUL FAMILY EXPERIENCES ...

Some of us are from families where there was always agony and pain; and we still carry the pains with us today. When we are in the midst of the agony of rejection, we sometimes have difficulty seeing the strengths God is building in us. We just want relief! Yet, God is there, building and developing strengths in us that will enable us to honour Him and help others. No matter how difficult your past has been, God has a divine purpose for you; and He will use your difficulties to develop depth, character, and skills so that you can have a great impact on other people. He can produce hope from despair, compassion from pain, joy from bitterness, and strength from weakness.

If you have experienced the pain of neglect, abuse or manipulation, perhaps you have suppressed your feelings and often pretend that the pain isn't there; or perhaps you are at the anger phase—upset with family and angry with God and cannot see how God will build your character through these pains. The past cannot be re-lived and life will go on. Yes, we have to confront some issues—though painful they may be—if we are to become wholesome beings. This process does not happen overnight.

If you are not sure where to begin, why not make an appointment and talk with someone who can help you through the hurts and anger? You can call the church's office at 994-2475 and make an appointment with the Pastor or other members of the Family Life Counselling Team.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions

Please e-mail us at

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Or write us at:

PO Box 64, Pt. Maria, St. Mary

SOME THINGS FOR YOU TO DO TODAY— IT WONT COST YOU ANY MONEY

- ◆ Choose to show care, love and concern for each family member.
- ◆ Value each other and affirm each other so that no family member feels fear nor alienation.