

E-EMMANUEL

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EDITORIAL: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR MOTHER?

Last year Easter, (2007) as Dominic and I were engaged in a conversation about Jesus being God's son, he made a statement saying that "Jesus is the Son of God; God is Jesus' father and, hmmm, the Holy Spirit is his mother." This conversation came back to me because today we celebrate both Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit) and mothers' day.

For some of us, indeed the Holy Spirit can be viewed as our Divine mother. The analogy is that the Spirit, like some mothers, helps us in our failing moments. In Romans 8:26, we read, "*In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness.*" The Holy Spirit, like some mothers, gives comfort, offers counsel, models conduct, and provides coaching so that we can become more like Christ.

As we celebrate Pentecost this year, let us be reminded that Pentecost is a time of praise, of fellowship, and of spiritual renewal, as each of us as Christians draw the Spirit into ourselves with our entire being. As we understand and practise this truth, perhaps the Holy Spirit will reveal to some persons that today is an opportunity to thank and praise their "mothers" for sacrifices made; the Spirit may unearth the need for some persons to engage in fellowship with their "mothers"; and too, the Holy Spirit may just convict others to move to renew the torn relationships that exist between them and their "mothers".

The mothering Spirit is here - let us therefore unite our hearts together to discern the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Dahlia Palmer, Chairperson

REMINDERS

May 2008

- 11th Day of Pentecost
- 11th Mothers' Day
- 16th Children's Day
- 18th 180th Anniversary Service
- 23rd Labour Day
- 25th Sunday School Day

We invite your prayerful and physical support of these services. Also, invite family and friends to share in these services.

Gary Ricketts

The focus this family month will be on children and youths

Gary Ricketts, some years ago, was a very talented footballer. He was involved in a motor vehicle accident that left him unable to physically walk. Nevertheless, this young man, whose jovial personality has encouraged many, has certainly been walking the pathway that Christ has paved for him (and for all of us). Despite his physical limitations, Gary has determined that he will not allow this to set him back in life. Gary will graduate from college this month.



Gary became a Christian through the faith of his grandmother, Sis. Eulalee Ricketts. Her belief that God has blessed each person with life and talent, has been passed on to Gary. Gary has declared and demonstrated that although life is sometimes challenging and sometimes it becomes difficult to find a reason to praise God and overcome pains that he endures, it is his faith that helps him to break open the horizon beyond his own self so that he can see life as God sees it. It is God's unconditional love that points and continues to point Gary to the meaning and purpose for life.

Gary Ricketts, only a youth, sets us an example to praise God in spite of our circumstances and challenges us that we can reach high plains with God despite our physical limitations.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions

Please e-mail us at

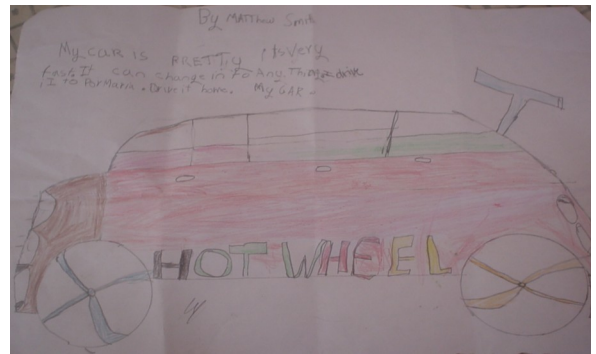
emmanuel_baptist_1828@yahoo.com

Or write us at:

PO Box 64, Pt. Maria, St. Mary



Matthew Smith has been actively involved in the life of the church. He attends Sunday School regularly and is usually one of first to be there. He is a very helpful child - setting out chairs and opening up the doors and assisting in getting things in order for Sunday School. Matthew is also a part of the Emmanuel drama group and he plays the congo drum some Sundays at worship service. Matthew is nurtured by his grandmother, Sis. Pauline Smith.



Jamaica Baptist Union Theme

Extending our commitment:
Reaching New Possibilities

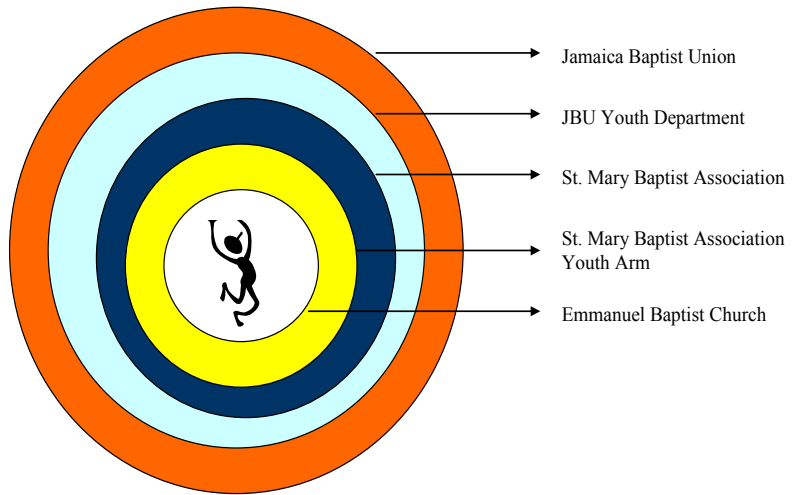
“Living in the Spirit”

Remember to pray for the sick and shut-in members of the church and in our surrounding communities. Here is a list of some of our shut-in members:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Roslyn Walters | Jeremiah Dalhouse | Rueben Byfield |
| Herma Grandison | Hilda Bryan | Audrey Maxwell |
| John Harriott | Athelia Williams | Lucan Scott |
| Millicent Anderson | Victoria Pollock | Basil Dixon |
| Gladys Spence | Gloria Jefferson | Alberta Johnson |
| Adassa Reddie | Inez Graham | |

THINK ABOUT IT ...

Sometimes as a young person you may be caught up in your self and your own little circle of life. Part of understanding self is understanding that although you are an individual with needs, you are also part of a broader network that you contribute to (positively or negatively). For the youths at Emmanuel, this is only one frame of the circle of life that you are a part of. Take the time to think of this Baptist circle that you are a part of. Are you planning to stay in your small circle, undisturbed? Or are you prepared to move out of your circle and contribute to the other circles of Baptist life?



Camps 2008

In keeping with the Jamaica Baptist Union's theme, *Living in the Spirit*, The JBU Youth Department has conceptualized a theme to guide youths for the next two years - “Spirit-filled with a purpose to fulfil.” This theme will seek to encourage spirituality among youths and this emphasis has guided the choice of the sub-theme for Camps 2008 which is expressed in the phrase: **“Mek it Real: Spirit walk with Spirit talk”**

Camp Dates:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| ◆ Junior | July 7-12 | Ages 9-12 years |
| ◆ Intermediate I | July 14-19 | Ages 13 & 14 |
| ◆ Intermediate II | July 28-August 2 | Ages 15 & 16 |
| ◆ Youth | August 4-9 | Ages 17-20 |

Cost: \$4,000 per camper
Venue: Nutshell Conference Centre, Duncans, Trelawny
Registration: NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2008
For further information please contact Aunty Joy or Aunty Dahlia

