

E-EMMANUEL

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1, NO. 33

January 2009



EDITORIAL: HAPPY NEW YEAR

The “ringing” in of 2009 has come with a hollow sound. I can hardly remember a new year that has been greeted with less optimism than this one. All the predictions from national leaders, economists and industry leaders, have been of challenges and hardships. We have been asked to prepare for the New Year as we would a hurricane. The script is the same from Washington DC in the United States to Kingston Jamaica, from London England to Beijing China— rising unemployment, people losing their homes, high food prices and people just finding it difficult to make ends meet.

In Jamaica we have been battered in many ways in 2008. Crime and violence has resulted in our 1500 of our brothers and sisters murdered; the fear among children with the reported cases of murder and kidnapping is real and many persons who have jobs do not feel secure in them and so there is this sense of hopelessness.

As people of faith surrounded by this hopelessness, we cannot afford to be buried in the gloom because **our faith is in God**, not the economy. We trust God—not circumstances. When circumstances say the sky will fall, our faith says “if the sky does fall, it means that God has a better one behind it.”

This is the year to trust God—to daily depend on God’s providential care. Now is the time to renew our faith, this is the season to draw nearer to God. Let this be our resolve as individuals, as churches and as a circuit. This will be a good year because God is not dead nor sleeping. Have a blessed new year.

*Glenroy Lalor
Pastor*

FINANCIAL CRISIS — FINANCIAL? CHRIST IS!!!!

As it relates to financial matters, the general conversations these days seem to be painting gloomy economic pictures for Jamaica. The spiralling inflation due to fluctuating oil prices, devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, and high interest rates (to name a few factors), seem to suggest that pretty soon there will be a serious tsunami on the financial landform. But, “above this raging financial waters” stands our God - safe, solid, stable and secure - at the fore of our financial landscape.

The New Year 2009 - and beyond - will definitely require us to extend our faith in God’s sustaining grace. What exactly does this extension of faith means? What it has always meant. Faith is being confident that what we hope for, is going to happen; it is evidence of things that we cannot see. It means that despite the gloomy projections, we will still plant the land, it means that we will still start the new business we had planned to, it means that we will still register to do that course that we wanted to—knowing that God will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory—but we must extend our faith in God.

Of course, we will not be ignorant of the realities of the world and pretend that Christians are unaffected by these financial matters. We will definitely seek to be responsible in our spending and definitely play our part in conserving resources. And above all, we will continue to offer our monetary substances as offerings of thanksgiving to Almighty God for his daily care and sustaining grace to us because despite financial crises, Christ is!!

D. Palmer

January Birthdays

Florence Hemmings	1st
Tamoya Young	5th
Davie Blair	7th
Gloria Boland	7th
Norman Brown	12th
Agnes Shaw	13th
Angie Henry	15th
Winsome Johnson	16th
Eulalee Ricketts	17th
Jane Marshall	18th
Nella Murray	18th
Zedekiah Gordon	19th
Vernal Allen	24th
Hilda Bryan	24th
Jacqueline McPherson	24th
Cordella Morgridge	26th
Valerie Melbourne	29th
Jeremiah Dalhouse	

Overseas Members

Juliette Irving-Forbes	18th
Raeon Bryan	26th

JANUARY REMINDER

**Saint Mary Baptist Association
Recommitment service for
Youths at Oxford Baptist
Church**

**Date: Saturday, January 10
Time: 10:00 a.m.**

**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

A new addition to our fellowship!!



On the first day of the new year—January 1, 2009, Sis. Tanya Johnson was baptized—the best way to start the year. She will be received into fellowship today.

Let us remember her and her family in our prayers and let us give her all the support we can. Welcome Sis. Tanya!!



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 |
| Basil Dixon | Alberta Johnson | Jane Marshall |
| Adassa Reddie | Inez Graham | Roslyn Walters |

GIFTS, GIFTS AND MORE GIFTS

Spearheaded by the Hyltons (Claudia and Barry), we have received a gift of 400 chairs from our overseas members and friends. As we make preparations to install these new seats, we crave your prayers and monetary gifts in helping us to refurbish the ceiling of the chapel. If you have not yet made your donation in this regard, please do so during the course of this week. Your gift will make a difference!

NEWS FROM OVERSEAS!!

You would recall that a number of our members are overseas at study. If you were in church on Christmas Sunday (December 28, 2008), you would have heard excerpts read by pastor, of what is happening with Bro. Garfield Irvin as he navigates his way around at sea. Today, we bring greetings from Sis. Codi-Ann Campbell who is currently in Canada. She says:

“The first semester went by so quickly but I got all my papers done and submitted on time. I continue to aim high academically but please request prayer for me because I really cannot do this on my own. Regards to everybody. Here is a picture of me at the mall.”

Let us continue to pray for all our overseas members that they will continue to be strong in the Lord.



(PS: I really thought Santa Claus was from the North Pole but Codi found him in Canada!!)

CONGRATULATIONS

Bro. Sean Campbell moves on to the next phase of his culinary training at HEART Runaway Bay.

Keep working hard!!



In an effort to update the church's database, the Communications Committee will continue taking photographs of members during the month of January (starting TODAY).



A REMINDER TO 5th AND 6th FORMERS

The period November—January is the time to send in your applications to colleges and universities. If you have not yet sent in your applications, please do so before the deadlines!!

JBU Convention 2009 (159th Assembly)

THEME: Extending our commitment: Reaching New Possibilities : *“Living in the Spirit”*

The 159th General Assembly of the Jamaica Baptist Union is scheduled for February 18-22, 2009. The venue for the assembly will be the Sunset Jamaica Grande Hotel in Ocho Rios. The evening worship services however, will be held at the Ocho Rios Baptist Church. The Sunday services (Feb. 22) will be at the National Arena.



Exercise is very important for **seniors** than for any other age group. Exercise helps increase circulation and flexibility; it can help lower blood pressure and maintain a healthy weight; it can increase mental acuity, and it can provide a means of social interaction. Exercise for seniors is vital for remaining healthy, alert, and most importantly, independent.

