

# E-EMMANUEL

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## EDITORIAL: EMANCIPENDENCE

Perhaps it was just in my own eyes, but Emancipation Day this year seemed a bit off focus particularly because many merchants seemed “hell bent” on making money rather than respecting the day for what it is; and to end the day, the significance of our emancipation from slavery as a nation, was not even the first item of news! We cannot afford to forget our past—from whence we have come. The Rev. Dr. Burchell K. Taylor, noted that *"An event as significant as the Emancipation of our people from slavery and all it signifies in terms of human cruelty, suffering, sacrifice, folly, courage, deception, greed, triumph of the human spirit and faith and hope cannot be allowed to slip from our collective memory.* Rev. Taylor ends by stating that *"remembering the Emancipation [event] can itself be an ongoing liberating experience."* (2002)

There are lessons to be learnt that are of lasting value; and there are memories that must not be forgotten. First, we must remember that the *price of our freedom* was not free and must never be taken for granted; our freedom was bought by the backs and sweat of our fore-parents as they endured beatings and inhumane treatments. Second, our memories must not erase the fact that the *process of our freedom* was a long and painful one—painful because of the sacrifices and losses of our fore-parents. They were stripped of elements of their African heritage, their identity, and culture—family, languages, religions, and traditions; yet our ancestors persevered for us. Finally, we must remember that we are the *product of freedom* from slavery—no longer in physical chains but inheritors of God’s gift of freedom. So now Christ has set us free—make sure that you hold on to this freedom and do not ever become slaves again (Galatians 5:1). Let us guard the freedom that we have and help others to live in the freedom that truly comes from God.

*Dahlia Palmer,  
Chairperson, Communications*

## August Birthdays

Andrea Jackson	3rd
Dahlia Palmer	3rd
Florel Miller	7th
Lorna Coleman-Campbell	9th
Annette Forbes	9th
Violet Daley	10th
Claudia Hylton	10th
Norman Israel	12th
John Harriot	15th
Shantel Clarke	22nd
Elaine Peterkin	23rd
Edith Flemming	27th

## AUGUST REMINDERS

3rd - 8th	Youth Camp
6th	Independence Day
10th - 15th	Women’s Federation Conference

This is the final in the family month series featuring our church family members with businesses.

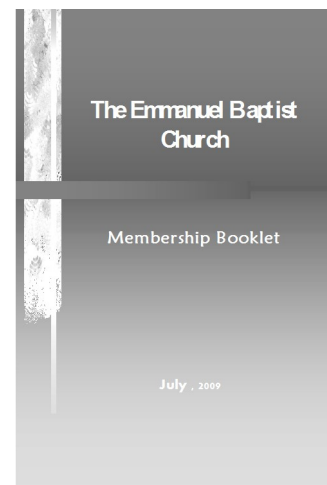
## Hillview Home for the Aged



Hillview Home for the Aged, located in Sandside, St. Mary, was established in 1988. The idea for the home came into being by Sis. Cynthia Bryan and her daughter. The name of this nursing home was given by the Member of Parliament then, Mr. Witlif Martin. At it’s opening, the Rev. Joseph Anderson dedicated the business to the glory of God and service to many.

Equipped with all the necessary facilities, nurses and aides, the home was ready to serve the community. This was not to be; after one month had passed, the home was without patients. Finally, at the end of that long wait, Hillview Home for the Aged ushered its first patient. Since then, according to Sis. Bryan, the business has been a success and can accommodate up to 35 patients. Sis. Bryan attributes the success of the business to the hardworking staff and the keen management of her daughter (Simone) when she is overseas.

## MEMBERSHIP BOOKLET



Coloured print of the membership booklet is on sale at a cost of \$500. You can order your booklet at the church’s office.

Remember to pray for the sick and shut-in members of the church and in our surrounding communities.



### LADY BUSTAMANTE ...

She quietly did her work for all to benefit. Let us take a page from her book.



### The voice of a free slave

Swithin Wilmot in *Freedom in Jamaica* recorded the reaction of a former slave on hearing that he was free:

*"My dear brodders and sisters, me head quite full of joy to see you all so free and here today. At dis hour in slave time we all go de field to dig cane holes or pick coffee and if we sick, Buckra flog we for true, and no hear when we cry for mercy. But now no overseer can come and drive we off to the field, now we can work when we like and stay at home when we sick. We can buy our own land, build we own house and go to we own church."*

### FREEDOM COME

The day was August 1, the year 1838 and the event, Emancipation from Slavery. Tears of joy flowed incessantly, while shouts of freedom rang from the mountain tops and the plains, from the men, women and children, who had learnt that they were finally free of the oppressive social and economic system in which they were treated as less than human.

From its introduction in the West Indies in 15th Century, slavery was regarded by many as immoral and brutish. The slave-owning class, who dominated the legislative system, drew up the slave laws, which were rigid. Some of these laws and punishments included forbidding slaves to hold meetings without permission from or under the supervision of a white person. Slaves were banned from beating drums and blowing horns as it was thought to be a signal of rebellion and they were severely beaten for slowing down in the fields.

The Quakers, a religious group, were among the first critics of the system and campaigned for its abolition. They argued that not only was slavery against the will of God, but was also the denial of civilization. They said that freedom was the true, natural state of man. However, their arguments proved futile as the sugar industry was booming. The first victory for the abolition of slavery came in March of 1807, with the passage of the Bill for 'The Total and Immediate Abolition of the Slave Trade' in the British Parliament. But, to a large extent, it was the slaves themselves who charted the course to their own freedom, by the many brutal revolts staged across the island. They had the help of the Maroons, those slaves who had escaped into the island's mountains. The most famous revolt was the 1831 "Christmas" or "Baptist War". These rebellions, coupled with the decline in the sugar, caused a drain on the planters' coffers. With the possibility of a general uprising constantly threatening, the law to abolish slavery was once again proposed in the British Parliament in 1833 and this time was passed with little resistance. On August 1, 1834, all slaves were legally declared free, however, "real" freedom only came in 1838.

Between 1834 and 1840 a system of Apprenticeship was introduced. This system was to help prepare the slaves for freedom and to help the planters cope with this change. However, it was unsuccessful and the decision was taken to end it in 1838, two years earlier than planned. Thus, effective August 1, 1838, slavery was abolished and the former apprentices were declared free citizens.

Now that all slaves were free, what next? Emancipation did not mean the beginning of good times according to Sherlock and Bennett in *The Story of the Jamaican People*: "Emancipation gave them the right to free movement, the right to choose where and when they wished to work, but without basic education and training many were compelled to remain on the plantation as field hands and tenants-at-will under conditions determined by the landlord, and for wages set by him." But, the thousands of people of African descent who had been subjected to years of submission to a system characterized by lack of freedom, action or will, were just glad to be free.

**SUMMER DAYS** are here again. The days are extremely hot so ensure that you drink plenty of water, eat lots of fruits that are in season and please, don't forget the vegetables. Also, the days are long—don't forget to go to bed on time and get adequate sleep.

### JBU CAMPS 2009 under the theme:

**SPIRIT-FILLED WITH A PURPOSE TO FULFILL**

Youth 1 August 3-8 17-20 years

Thanks to all members and friends who have supported our Youths by facilitating their attendance at camp this year.



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

### JBU YOUTH CONFERENCE AND RALLY THEME: Spirit filled with a purpose to fulfill

25th Anniversary Celebration

Road March, Interactive Exhibition, Rally Closing Ceremony, Mass Choir



**Areas of competition:** Skit, Dance, Bible Quiz and Zone Banner

**Date:** November 19-21, 2009; **Venue:** Nutshell Conference Centre