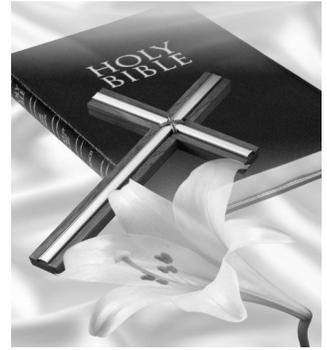


E-EMMANUEL

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EDITORIAL: A SIMPLE NEW YEARS MESSAGE

Yes, another new year and among some of the predictions are economic instability (again) and the crime rate rising out of whack (again) but despite the challenges we are told, there will be emerging opportunities.

It sounds like we have entered 2009 again.

Year after year, we keep hearing predictions of how the year will go and how things will turn but as Christians, we can rest assured that God will see us through because our God is great. Simply put, our New Years message is captured in the song:

Many things about tomorrow
We don't seem to understand
But we know who holds tomorrow
And we know he'll hold our hands

Our task as Christians is to exercise our faith in God; to be faithful in serving God and God will keep his promises in taking care of us.

Let us in 2010 continue to entrust our future to the all-knowing God.

*Dahlia Palmer,
Chairperson, Communications*

SPENDING TIME IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Consistently spending time in God's presence, that is, singing songs of praises to him and bowing our hearts to him in act of worship, are disciplines that can help us grow spiritually. By engaging in these practices too, we are reminded of God's greatness and his holiness. In this way, we also learn to appreciate God's grace towards us even more.

In Psalm 65, David wrote: "what joy for those you choose to bring near, those who live in your holy courts. What joy awaits us inside your holy Temple." This joy we will only find in the presence of God so let us each day, be attuned to the heart of God—to his desires for use.

*Lord, open the eyes of our heart so that we can draw close to You
Open our ears of our soul to honestly hear from You
And open the core of our being to truly see who You are.*

January Birthdays

Tamoya Young	5th
Davie Blair	7th
Gloria Boland	7th
Norman Brown	12th
Angie Henry	15th
Winsome Johnson	16th
Eulalee Ricketts	17th
Julette Irvin-Forbes	18th
Zedekiah Gordon	19th
Vernal Allen	24th
Jackie McPherson	24th
Raeon Bryan	26th
Cordella Morgridge	26th
Valrie Melbourne	29th

PRAYER FOCUS

We must commit ourselves to praying and hoping in God. Don't just pray for things; and don't just say prayers—talk to God and relate to Him.

Pray

- ◆ that as Christians we will live under the guidance of the Holy Spirit for 2010
- ◆ that after spending time in prayer, we will ensure that we act in accordance with the instructions that God has given us during our prayer time;
- ◆ that we will be constant in prayer, never getting weary regardless of what is happening in our homes, workplaces, the wider community and the world.



160th GENERAL ASSEMBLY - FEBRUARY 24 - 28, 2010

BOULEVARD BAPTIST CHURCH & NATIONAL ARENA, KINGSTON

Theme: "Being God's People in God's World - Living in Hope"

A NEW ADDITION TO OUR FELLOWSHIP



On the first day of the new year—January 1, 2010, Sis. Carlet Rhoden was baptized. This is truly the best way to start the new year.

As usual when we have new members becoming a part of our congregation, we encourage everybody to be in prayer. So be in prayer for Carlet and her family. Let us continue to give her all the support that we can! Welcome Carlet!!!

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



GREETINGS FROM FAREIGN!!

During my visit to "fareign" over the Christmas season, I dialogued with Sisters Dahlia Chambers and Carletta Patterson and I was particularly happy to know that they still remember us here at Emmanuel in their prayers. They have sent us greetings and assure that they will continue to be prayer for us. They also ask us to remember them in prayer. Sis. Patterson ask us to specifically remember her mother who is facing several challenges at this period.

Rev. Oral Campbell

... is the minister that the circuit has called to lead us at this time. He will assume office on June 1, 2010. Please be in prayer as we all prepare for his assumption of pastoral oversight for the circuit.

Don't be so busy that you cannot say something good to somebody. Try it, compliment three persons everyday!!

YOUTH NEWS:

For those persons who are in upper sixth form and those who are in fifth form, we remind you that the period November—February is the time to send in your applications to colleges and universities. If you have not sent in your applications, please get the ball a rolling where this is concerned.

Reserved:

This space is reserved for your comments, ideas and contributions!!

Laughter is a good medicine



The Dead Church

A new Pastor in a small town spent the first four days making personal visits to each of the members, inviting them to come to his first services. The following Sunday the church was all but empty. Accordingly, the Pastor placed a notice in the local newspapers, stating that, because the church was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent Christian burial. The funeral would be held the following Sunday afternoon, the notice said. Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the "funeral." In front of the pulpit, they saw a closed coffin, smothered in flowers. After the Pastor delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his congregation to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead church. Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a "dead church," all the people eagerly lined up to look in the coffin. Each "mourner" peeped into the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look. In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions

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