

E-EMMANUEL

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EDITORIAL: FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Family is at the heart of God's plan for humanity. Although we dedicate the months of May and June as our family focus months, it is not being suggested that our family relationships be confined to these months; rather building family relationships is an every day affair—be it blood family, work family, church family or any other family affiliation. Our homes - and moreso, our homes where Christians reside—should be a place where love is exhibited. We need to show love to each other and be sensitive to the needs of each person in our family to facilitate honest expressions of feelings. Let us stop focusing on, or arguing over trivial matters (*such as keeping the house spic and span, or that the dishes were not washed on time*). Let us remember that the people in our families are more important than the things that we possess in our houses.

Dahlia Palmer
Chairperson, Communications

JUNE REMINDERS

- 27th Exchange of Pulpit
- 27th CBF Sunday (Caribbean Baptist Fellowship)

JULY REMINDERS

- 3rd St. Mary Baptist Association Youth Arm Sports Day & Rally
- 4th Children's Concert (6 p.m.)
- 5-10th Junior Camp
- 11th Harvest Thanksgiving Service
- 12-17th Intermediate Camp I
- 26-31st Intermediate Camp II
- 31st Emancipation Vigil

Family month feature: Today is the final in our family month feature of persons who have been members of the Emmanuel church for over 30 years!!

Joslyn Spence

Deacon Joslyn Spence joined the Emmanuel Baptist Church family in 1955—yes! 55 years ago—while the Rev. Spurgeon Smith gave pastoral oversight. Deacon Spence indicated that prior to becoming a member of Emmanuel, he was a part of the Independent Baptist Church, however, since there were no Independent Baptist churches in St. Mary, he made the decision to be affiliated with the Jamaica Baptist Union. Deacon Spence said he was very close to Rev. Smith and they traveled to many concerts together and on one occasion while returning late at night from a concert in Kingston, they were involved in an accident. Thankfully, only the car was damaged.



In reflecting on the difference between church 'then' and church 'now' Deacon Spence notes that the sacredness of church has fallen and wish that we would go back to the high standards of sacredness that once existed for example, he believes that our dress code must reflect reverence and respect for God. He also observes that many persons are too casual in their 'operations' about God's work. He also notes that prayer is almost non-existent among some members.

Deacon Spence is the most senior deacon in Emmanuel and is the most senior Baptist deacon in this parish. He has been a deacon for 50 years. Deacon Spence has also served as president of the brotherhood, he sang with the choir and was at one time the choir master (while Sis. Bryan played the organ). Deacon Spence taught enquiries class and was also a Sunday School teacher. He was instrumental in forming three different Sunday Schools, namely in the Grants Town, Frontier and Trinity areas. Deacon Spence can also be a lay preacher.

Although we were not able to feature all the members who have served this local church for over 30 years, we truly give God thanks for your faith, commitment and the moral examples that you have charted for us. May God's choicest blessings be with you always.

June Birthdays

Pauline Hamilton	5th
Leanord Bucknor	9th
Micol Israel	9th
Marilyn Melvin	11th
Veronica Allen	13th
Daphne Reid	17th
Icilda Slyfield	20th
Karlene Wedderburn	20th
Rachel Thomas	21st
Pauline Brown	24th
Leroy Corey	25th
Gareth Irvin	25th
Nicola Nagheer	26th
Joslyn Spence	28th
Beverly Peddlar	29th

Remember ...

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

JBU CAMPS 2010

Junior	July 5-10	9-12 years
Intermediate I	July 12-17	13-14 years
Intermediate II	July 26-31	15-16 years
Youth 1	August 2-7	17-20 years

Venue: Nutshell Conference Centre
 Cost: \$6,100 per camper (this includes accommodation, all meals and camp materials)



Thought: *You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.* Desmond Tutu

A call to singleness

God has called many of His people to singleness, even if only for a portion of their lives, but few understand the great honour it is to serve the Lord in this way. Marriage is blessed and ordained by God, and the single life is just as valid and allows people to commit all of their energy to serving Him. Unmarried Christians have an incredible opportunity to impact this world with the Gospel.

Many singles make the mistake of putting their lives on hold until they marry and "get a real life." This idea is detrimental to unmarried Christians and the Church. If every Christian who is single dedicated him/herself to the Lord, lived life fully, recognized his/her extraordinary value, and used all of his/her talents and opportunities to serve, there would be almost no need left in churches and ministries. Singles need to stop believing the "I am missing something" lie and accept the call to obey and serve God with their whole heart, mind, and strength. Marriage may or may not be a part of God's plan for you so it is time to live the life you have now and trust God for the rest.

The Church as a whole needs to do a better job of recognizing and appreciating the rich resources God has provided through the lives of single believers. Often, church programs and ministries focus almost entirely on the family which can leave singles feeling ignored, unimportant, and unwanted. God can work through all believers who walk in obedience to him - married or single - so churches should do their best to include people in all stages of their lives in ministries and activities.

Christians need to remember that marriage does not make a person whole, only accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour brings wholeness. Sadly though, many Christian singles feel pressured, even from other Christians, to seek a mate rather than to seek the will of God for their lives. This pressure often causes confusion for the person who is called by God to the single life, and that confusion sometimes leads to wrong decisions. Christians can be called to singleness permanently or temporarily but in either case, we must dedicate our lives to serving the Lord and walking in obedience to Him - regardless of our marital state.

Adapted from: <http://www.zyworld.com/PURENHART2/encouragingwordsforchristiansingles.htm>

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



CARIBBEAN BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

You may notice today that a number of the songs on the order of service are Caribbean related.

These hymns were specially selected because today is being celebrated as CBF Sunday. The month of June is recognized as CBF month and the fourth Sunday is set aside as CBF Sunday. We use this medium to increase your awareness of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship and its various departments.

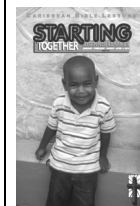
The Mission of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship is to encourage and facilitate the coming together of Caribbean Baptists at national and regional levels for worship and fellowship, and for shared witness and ministry. To this end the, CBF provides its member bodies with opportunities to be inspired, motivated, encouraged and equipped for service. The CBF is also an agent through which Caribbean Baptists can pool and channel their human and financial resources towards carrying out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and expressing in word and deed the love of God for every person within the Caribbean region and beyond.

The CBF has different departments which can serve as avenues for greater involvement in the work of Christ. Departments include Caribbean Christian Publication (CCP) - producers of Sunday School literatures), Youth, Women's Federation, Men's Brotherhood, Christian Education/Stewardship and Evangelism/Mission.

Caribbean Christian Publication (CCP)

The CCP is one of the departments of the CBF. This department is responsible for, among other things, the publication of the Sunday School and VBS literatures that we use within our Baptist Churches. The Sunday School curriculum guides, called **The Together Series**, are used in over 27 islands/countries by an estimated 1000 churches. Distribution exceeds 50,000 pieces per issue. While Baptist churches remain the largest user denomination, the Sunday School literature is now used by churches of 26 other denominations. The CCP is currently seeking editors.

All of us can help in supporting CCP and our assistance is vital to the CCP's survival. The CCP invites us to partner with them by including them in our mission budget. Gifts of any size that you, your church, circuit, association, convention or union may be able to make to the ministry will help to pay staff, print, distribute the literature, and cover the ever-increasing operational overheads. Help the CCP to increase their circulation and ensure that more churches will find out about the products published especially for their Sunday Schools by introducing the Caribbean Bible Lessons to your church friends and encouraging them to purchase the guides. You can contact CCP by e-mail at info@ccpcb.org or at their correspondence address at



The Director
 Caribbean Christian Publications
 27 Balmoral Avenue
 Kingston 10
 Jamaica, W.I.

