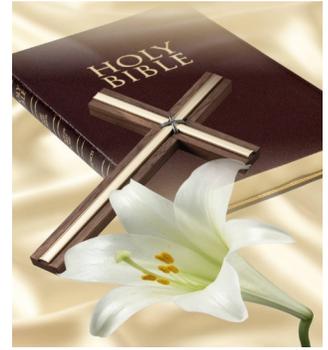


E-EMMANUEL

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EDITORIAL: CELEBRATING HARVEST!!

The word "harvest" is mentioned in the Bible a number of times as an important part of the year. It is mentioned as a happy time—as a celebration of God's provision to us. In Psalm 65:9-13, we read of God providing water to bless the growth of crops, so that they overflow with abundance; all the earth is presented as joyful - the hills and valleys "decorate themselves with grain, and they shout and sing together for joy." What beautiful images are created from these verses—a beauty that helps us to understand the awesomeness of our providential God. Truly God has provided—and He continues to provide—the means by which we are fed, clothed and sheltered. Today—and always—we offer thanks to Almighty God for all that He has bestowed upon us. May we be challenged to share what we have been blessed with and may we truly give generously and freely of our bountiful storage.



Dahlia Palmer
Chairperson, Communications

JULY REMINDERS

5-10th	Junior Camp
10th	St. Mary Baptist Association Youth Arm Sports Day & Rally
11th	Harvest Thanksgiving Service
12-17th	Intermediate Camp I
17th	Children's Concert
24th	Music Seminar/workshop
26-31st	Intermediate Camp II
31st	Emancipation Vigil

GIVING TO THE LORD

Topic: Will a man rob God?

God: *You have robbed me!!*

People: Lord, when have we ever robbed you?

God: *You have robbed me in tithes and offerings!!*

The above is a re-representation of Malachi 3:8 in conversational form. This simple verse has on the surface, at least two distinct truths; first, that a person (*man or woman*) can rob God; and second, that God wants us to give [to Him].

1. Robbing God

A father gave one of his two children, two packs of chewing gums to be shared between the children (one pack for each child). The child who was given the two packs, hid one pack and shared the single pack with the sibling. In this scenario, the first child robbed the sibling of some chewing gum by not giving to the sibling what rightfully belonged to the second sibling. In the same manner, we rob God when we keep back that which God has asked us to set aside as His. Also, when we do not give, we not only "rob" God of what is rightfully His, but we rob ourselves of the opportunity to grow in faith and to express our love to God. Giving to God is a faith action and an expression of our love.

2. God wants us to give ...

The fact that God says "... *you have not given ... tithes and offerings...*" suggests that He wants us to give to him—both of our tithes (money) and offerings (extra money, time, talents and other tokens that validate giving). That God wants us to give is also expressed in Deuteronomy 16:16b-17 "... *and they must bring a gift to the Lord. All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord God.*"

God wants us to give and this is how He wants us to give:

- Willingly:** God wants us to give willingly. In Exodus 25:2, God said to Moses "*tell the people [of Israel] that everyone who wants to, may bring me an offering.*" God always give us a choice—everything that we do for God is based on our choice. No one can force you to give to God—this is entirely up to you. If you choose to give, it must be because you have purposed in your heart to give of your own free will.
- Cheerfully:** When you decide to willingly give to God, He wants you to give what you are giving in a cheerful way. In 2 Corinthians 9:7b, Paul says "*Don't give reluc-*

July Birthdays

Fay Dixon	2nd
Bruce Wedderburn	4th
Olga Campbell	13th
Hilda Lewin	16th
Yvonne Brown	17th
Leonard Martin	24th
Suzzette Irvin-Ison	25th
Tricia Thompson	31st

WATER LILY
is the flower
of the month.



RUBY is the birthstone for
July.

Remember ...

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

Reaping the real Harvest

The core business of the church is harvesting souls. Since we are “labourers together with God” (1 Corinthians 3:9) in God’s harvest, then we need to follow the instructions given in the planting and reaping of His great harvest.

Here is a recipe for harvesting souls:

1. **Properly Prepare the Soil:** Prayer is the tool that is used preparing the soil. Prayer for lost souls will break up the hard ground of their hearts.
2. **Sow Lots of Good Seed:** After preparing the soil then it is time for sowing the seeds of the “word of God”. Here are some good “words of God” seeds to sow:
 - a) the word of [your] testimony” saturated with God’s word (Revelation 12:11);
 - b) going forth and “preaching the word” (2 Timothy 4:2);
 - c) sharing God’s word in your personal witnessing;
 - d) being kind and befriending persons (family members, neighbours, co-workers, friends) who are not saved;
3. **Spread Sufficient Fertilizer and provide plenty water:** To grow, the crop needs fertilizer and water, which can be likened to a steady teaching of God’s Word. This is distinct from the initial sowing of the seed of God’s word which planted the crop at the beginning. The budding crop needs ongoing nurturing, and this is done in great measure by a steady diet of God’s word.
4. **Do Appropriate Pest Control:** This involves taking steps to ‘ward’ off the things that may affect growth and development of the crop. Steps include water baptism to bury the old man of sin, taking steps to complete the transformation, of change of putting off the old and putting on the new (Ephesians 4:22-24).

This is the biblical recipe for a good crop, the kind of spiritual harvest that Jesus desires — “...I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last” (John 15:16).

Adapted from:

<http://www.jimfeeney.org/great-harvest-souls.html>

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

tantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully.” We should not give because we feel we have to give. Nor should we resent that we need to give to please God. We should be glad (cheerful) that we can give to the Lord.

- c) **Liberally:** In the book of Romans (12:8b), Paul encourages us to give liberally (i.e. abundantly, generously or substantially) as the Lord has blessed us. God has given so much to us that there is no way that we can out-give to the Lord. Our giving is something that should be planned and when we can, as we willingly and cheerfully give, we should also consider being liberal in our giving.
- d) **Personally:** When we give to the Lord, it should be a private matter. There is no need to discuss with anyone, how much you have given or planning to give—this is a covenant between you and God—*You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give.*

Giving does not begin with how much we have in a bank account. Giving begins with the willing heart and the abundance of the heart is cheerfully expressed in the things that we liberally say and do.

Thought: Dig a hole in your garden of thoughts. Into it put all your disillusion, disappointments, regrets, worries, troubles, doubts and fears and—forget. Cover well with the earth of fruitfulness, water it from the well of contentment. Sow on top again the seeds of hope, courage, strength, patience and love. Then, when the time of gathering comes, may your harvest be a rich and plentiful one.”
Anonymous

The children’s concert
has been postponed
until July 17, 2010.

The Emmanuel Baptist Children
and Youths

present



GOD BE PRAISED!

A concert featuring presentations by
children in praise of God

Saturday, July 17, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$200 (adults); \$100 (children)

Emmanuel Baptist Church
Port Maria

Refreshments on sale

**The Music & Arts
Department**

**will be hosting a music
seminar and workshop
for beginners, near
beginners and
advanced persons
interested in playing
the keyboard.**



Date: July 24, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Venue: Emmanuel Baptist
Church