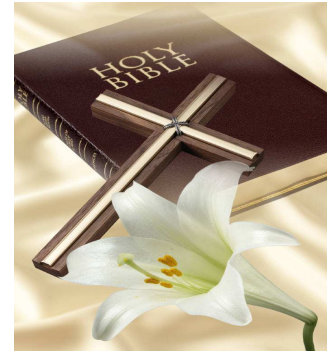


EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, PORT MARIA, ST. MARY
E-EMMANUEL

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3, NO. 70

March 2011



EDITORIAL: LENTEN EXPERIENCE

Each year during the Lenten period, many of us give up things or habits that we [perhaps] use to equate with the “giving up of sin” in our lives. Though this “giving up of things/habit” is good and is one aspect of Lent, it should never be seen as, nor should it become the extent of our Lenten experience. Lent is a period of reflection, repentance, refraining from, renewal and rededication.

Our reflection during this period should be punctuated with prayer and periods of fast where we open up ourselves before and to God. During Lent, we should truly repent of our sins—confess all our failures and the wrongs we have done—and focus on our need for God’s grace and mercy. As we repent, we should pledge to refrain from engaging in anything (words or deeds) that is not characteristic of God. We should use this period to renew our commitment to God—to hear anew His call upon our lives and respond to Him in a fresh way. We should also seek to rededicate ourselves to God—to place our needs, fears, hopes—our lives in the hands of God—to totally abandon ourselves in Christ Jesus.

The Lenten experience—reflecting, repenting, refraining, renewing and rededicating—is not just for the now and it is not for self; it is for life (yours and those who do not know Christ); and it is for love of God.

Lent is for life and for love—the life and love that we have in Christ Jesus through His death and resurrection. May this truly be your Lenten experience.

*Dahlia Palmer, Chairperson,
 Communications Committee*

MARCH REMINDERS

1st	Peace Day
9th	Ash Wednesday
9th	Fasting and Prayer (10 a.m.)
13th	First Sunday in Lent
20th	Sunday School Anniversary
20th	Second Sunday in Lent
27th	Third Sunday in Lent

March Birthdays

Gregory Walsh	1st
Doris Nelson	3rd
Esther Sahti	8th
Louise Scarlett	12th
Adassa Reddie	15th
Alpha Hibbert	17th
Loretta Reid	20th
Ena Rhoden	20th
Shamar Brown	23rd
Tanesha Holness	23rd
Trevelyn Williams	28th
Steve Hamilton	31st

The flower for March is the daffodil, which symbolizes rebirth because the daffodil is one of the first flowers of spring.

AQUAMARINE is the birthstone for March.

ASH WEDNESDAY

This is the first day of the 40-day period known as Lent. Ash Wednesday is the day when many Christians begin the journey of fasting and praying; a day when we look at self and acknowledge a falling short of God’s expectations. It is a day of confession and ridding the heart of anger and hate; it is a day of baring the depths of our souls before God (and man) - a day of forgiving and receiving forgiveness. It is a day when we acknowledge how frail we are as human beings. It is a day for the healing of hurts and pains that have been buried into dark corners of our lives. It is a day of being an instrument of healing to others. It is a day when we start the journey of giving up something to spend more time in the presence of God. It



is a day of preparing our minds to recall the sacrifice of Jesus dying on the cross for our sins. Ash Wednesday is also a day of celebration because what Jesus offers us leads to life. As we metaphorically begin the journey of following Jesus on Ash Wednesday—through the wilderness, along the palm strewn road, on the way to Golgotha and to the cross—may we get a glimpse of the glorious resurrection that awaits us.

Remember to pray for the sick ... and shut-in members of the church and in our surrounding communities. Here is a list of our sick and shut-in members:

Sis. Audrey Maxwell	Sis. Emma Scarlette-Grant	Sis. Inez Graham
Sis. Herma Grandison	Sis. Percess Scott	Bro. Thomas Bennett
Bro. Lucan Scott	Bro. Jeremiah Dalhouse	Sis. Roslyn Walters
Sis. Georgina Peart		

Emmanuel Baptist Church
 PO Box 64, Port Maria, St. Mary

Phone: 876-994-2475
 Fax: 876-994-2658

Email: emmanuel_baptist_1828@yahoo.com
 Website: emmanuelbaptist-jm.org

According to Weinrich (1981), *to reflect upon 'mission' or 'evangelism' is to reflect upon the church itself, for the act of mission or of evangelism is not accidental or coincidental to the Church; the act of mission belongs to the very core of what it means to be the Church.* To this end, reaching the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ is part and parcel of what it means to be church. Our mission as Christians and as Emmanuel Baptist members of the Em-Church, is to tell people about God's salvation. This mission must follow the example of Jesus who in all instances when He always called aside His own ambig- He always called their sins. Emmanuel Baptist Church is involved in mission and evangelism because Jesus commands us to "go into all the world and make disciples of all persons." Yes, we are ambassadors of Christ and we are resolved to tell others about the King of kings. Mission and evangelism is the heartbeat of why we are church!



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Have you ever encountered an offensive smell (like a spoiled egg)? This kind of smell causes you to quickly hurry away from the site of the smell or causes you to turn up your nose and hold your breath. But, have you ever come across the smell of freshly baked bread or freshly brewed coffee? This kind of smell is very inviting.



Some smells are offensive while others are pleasurable. As Christians, we need to remember that our attitudes and conversations give off a smell as well.

Which type of smell best represents your presence and persona?



THINK ABOUT IT!!

KEEPING HOPE ALIVE

If you missed the closing services of the 161st General Assembly, here is a synopsis of the closing message by the Rev. Neville Callam, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). Using Habakkuk 3 as the text of focus for the theme *God's Agent: Keeping Hope Alive*, Baptists were urged to keep hope alive by:

- Defying the dictates of the visible: Rev. Callam said that as Christians we should resist the pressures of the world (and even in the church). We can keep our hope alive because the negative things we see in the physical does not dictate all that we have to hope in. Our hope is in the Lord and this should strengthen our resolve and our faith.
- Denying the claims of the cynics: We are encouraged to reject those who mock God by using natural disasters as a claim that there is no God. We should not allow cynics of the gospel to pour doubt on our faith rather we should keep our hope alive in God.
- Dance to the rhythm of praise: We are charged to give praise to God despite the situations and circumstances. God deserves the praise whether the situation be good or bad; whether we understand what is happening or not.

Keep hope alive because no one is hopeless whose hope is in God!

STEWARDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT: During the JBU Assembly, the *Environment Stewardship Manual* was launched. As Christians we have a God-given responsibility to take care of our environment. Christ came to give us life. As His disciples, we are commanded to "give life" to those who are dead in sin. Being "gardeners" of the earth is one way of preserving life. When we care for the environment we contribute to the earth producing food, clean water, beauty—all of which can engender a place of peace and contentment. Let us keep this in the fore of our minds and be good—no, great stewards of the earth—our environment.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Under the theme *Living in Hope* the 161st General Assembly of the Jamaica Baptist Union began on February 23 in Ocho Rios at the Ocho Rios Baptist Church, with the opening service by the President, Rev. Cawley Bolt.

Delegates, pastors and other persons participated in the worship services, Bible studies, workshops, gathering at the Turtle Beach Park and decision meetings at Sunset Jamaica Grande and the Ocho Rios Baptist Church.

The Rev. Luke Shaw, pastor of the Linstead Circuit of Baptist Churches in St. Catherine, was elected president-elect. The Rev. Karl Johnson was renamed general secretary to serve for another five-year term.

Thought:
Live so that when people think of fairness, caring and integrity, they think of you.

Just a gentle reminder ...

On January 30, 2011, we pledged that in addition to our regular pledges and walk-up offering for the Galina Land, each person would make an extra \$50 contribution (*yes only fifty dollars*) each month towards the land. Please remember to honour this commitment. If you have your \$50, please give it to either Sis. Dahlia Palmer or Sis. Violet Sewell.

For those who have already given for February, we say thanks for your faithful contributions.

