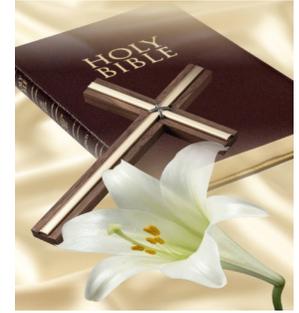


E-EMMANUEL

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EDITORIAL: IT IS A NEW YEAR

Well it is finally here; another new year, 2012. There were many who had been waiting for this day to come because of the plans they have for this year. For some they wanted to get the past year behind them, so they could start afresh with the new year. For others they wanted to get the recent General Election behind them, so they could move on with their lives.

Whatever the reason was for you, we want to give thanks to God for allowing us to see another year. Even if the past one was not what you anticipated, you have been given the opportunity to see what difference can be made this time.

My prayer is that whatever your plans may be for the new year, that you seek God's guidance in the way forward. While we have been blessed with the faculty to think for ourselves, we cannot overlook the fact that we need His wisdom and knowledge to inform us in our decision making. Let us not think for one moment that we can live our lives without reference to Him. Let this year be one in which we improve on our prayer lives by spending more time with God in guiding our footsteps.

As a church we need to take the same attitude, as we seek to carry out ministry for 2012. As part of the JBU Mission 2020 programme we have the responsibility to share the word of God and touch the lives of those within our communities. While we prepare to do this, let us offer ourselves to be used by Him in whatever way He may choose to use us.

To those who may have had a difficulty and trying year and is somewhat apprehensive about what is ahead, my prayer is that this year will be one in which there will be a turning point in your life, and that God will indeed help you to make that breakthrough in accordance to His will.

I wish for all of us then, God's blessing as we chart the course of life together, with Him as our Guide.

*Rev. Oral Campbell
Pastor*

Believers' Enrichment

The new year is a good way for Christians—believers in Christ—to reflect and recommit their lives to Almighty God. The Bible encourages us to pledge ourselves to Christ as a response to His love and commitment to us. The commitment that we make to follow Christ and obey His teachings is a matter of spiritual necessity and will ultimately lead to spiritual growth and maturity, which are essential to the Christian life.

In demonstrating the pathway to spiritual growth and maturity, one thing that we observed in Jesus' life and living was that He removed Himself from the hustle and bustle of 'church work' and diligently basked in the presence of God so that He could be renewed and rejuvenated to be God's "vessel of honour."

The Believers' Enrichment week of meetings, is [another] opportunity for us as Christians to "pull away" from the things that compete for our attention from Christ. It is an opportunity for us to examine and apply some of the principles and practices that will draw us closer to God and empower us to live a life that is totally transformed by Christ. Additionally, the meetings, which involve the gathering of believers, will help to strengthen our relationship with each other because our spiritual growth emerges, not only from our individual, intimate relationship with Christ, but also from our corporate relationship with each other in Christ.

Let us not miss the opportunity to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18, NIV).

JANUARY REMINDERS

- 15th-22nd Believers' Enrichment Week
29th Port Maria Circuit Convention (Oxford)

January Birthdays

Jeremiah Dalhouse	1st
Florence Hemmings	1st
Tamoya Young	5th
Gloria Boland	7th
Norman Brown	12th
Agnes Shaw	13th
Winsome Johnson	16th
Eulalee Ricketts	17th
Nella Murray	18th
Zedekiah Gordon	19th
Hilda Bryan	24th
Jacqueline McPherson	24th
Cordella Morgridge	26th
Valerie Melbourne	29th

Remember to pray for and visit ... 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 (Port Maria Class);
Sis. Emma Scarlette-Grant (Port Maria Class);
Sis. Inez Graham (Trinity Class);
Sis. Percuss Scott (Trinity Class);
Bro. Thomas Bennett (Mason Hall Class);
Bro. Archibald Henry (Stennett Street Class);
Bro. Jeremiah Dalhouse (Stennett Street Class);
Sis. Daphne Reid (Galina Class);
Sis. Georgina Peart (Cox Street Class);
Bro. Lucan Scott (Cox Street Class);
Sis. Adassa Reddie (Cox Street)

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<http://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelBaptistjm>



As part of our commitment to reach the wider community for God, we have decided to use the various media that are available to us. One cannot overlook the great impact technology has been having on our world today and that as people of God we need to use these tools to touch the lives of those who we would not normally meet on our church steps or in the streets. The social network has been a vehicle by which persons have been communicating across the globe every second of the day. At Emmanuel we want to communicate with those persons too. We are therefore inviting you to go to our facebook page, [EmmanuelBaptistjm](http://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelBaptistjm) and click the **Like** button. This can also be done from our website at www.emmanuelbaptist-jm.org Each time we post on facebook, you will receive that feed (information), and you can share it with your friends. Help us to reach others by becoming a fan on our facebook page, and encourage your friends to do the same. Thank you.



NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. For many persons, there seems to be that 'something' about the start of a new year that gives the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. However, some persons argue that there is nothing really new between December 31 and January 1—there is nothing mystical between the two days.



The Bible does not speak 'for' or 'against' the concept of New Year's resolutions. However, the Bible does say in Ecclesiastes 5:2,4 and 5:

“Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few. When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed— Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.”

These verses suggest that if a person makes promises or vows to God, it should not be taken lightly. So, this new year, take great care in the vows (resolutions) you make.

Adapted from: <http://www.faithclipart.com/guide/Christian-Holidays/christian-new-years-resolutions.html>

Fifth and Sixth Formers

This is a reminder that the period between December-January/February is the time to make your applications to sixth forms, colleges and universities. Please obtain the necessary application forms and send in your applications before the varied deadlines. Some institutions now facilitate online applications.

We welcome your ideas
and suggestions

E-mail us at:

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Or write us at:

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Visit us at our website:

www.emmanuelbaptist-jm.org

Facebook: EmmanuelBaptistjm

Thought for the New Year:

**“Another fresh new year is here . . .
 Another year to live!
 To banish worry, doubt, and fear,
 To love and laugh and give!
 This bright new year is given me
 To live each day with zest . . .
 To daily grow and try to be
 My highest and my best!
 I have the opportunity
 Once more to right some wrongs,
 To pray for peace, to plant a tree,
 And sing more joyful songs!”**

- William Arthur Ward

United As A People

The 2011 General Election is over and Jamaicans have elected a new government to serve for the next five years. We want to pray for those who have been elected that they may seek God's guidance in how to govern properly and effectively.

As a people we are expected to be united in our efforts to make this nation what it should be. Let us understand that while we will have diverse opinions and positions on many issues, we can still work together to accomplish so much in the building of our nation. Let us pray and work together for this unity.