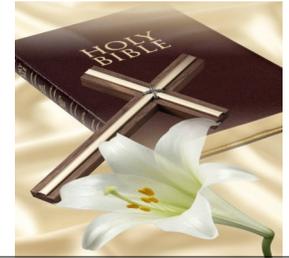


E-EMMANUEL



EDITORIAL: ADVENT PREPARATION

As humans we are always preparing for something—we prepare to go to work/school/church, we prepare foods for different times of day and for different occasions, we prepare to study and we prepare for bed. The Advent season is no different—it is also a time of preparation. We make preparations for varied things/events—Christmas shopping, Christmas dinner, re-decorating the house and for parties and other kinds of celebrations. All the preparations that are made during this period however, is nothing compared to the preparation God made for mankind.

Through His preparation, God gave humankind the perfect gift in His Son Jesus Christ. In the gospel of St. Luke, we see the culmination of God's prepared plan to "become flesh and dwell among us". Unlike ours, God's plan was no last minute preparation. The birth of God's Son was planned before the world began and the plan was carefully advanced throughout history.

In making preparations for the Advent season, we must be careful not to get caught up in last minute preparations nor lose sight of the true meaning of the season as the people around us hustle and bustle to buy and sell, to prepare for varied parties and celebratory events. Advent is a time of preparation—a preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming (and to the anniversary of the Lord's birth). Our preparation for Advent—for the second coming of Christ—is no last minute event. This preparation will require us to continuously pray for a cleansing in our hearts and minds for God's grace and mercy. This period of continuous prayer for Christ to come, will renew and recharge our entire being and we will grow more aware of our need for God as we wait in joyful anticipation for His return.

The preparation God made for Christ's birth is testimony to how He has prepared, and is presently preparing us for our future with Him. Being with Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, in the near future, is truly the core of Advent preparation.

Dahlia Palmer
Chairperson,

Communications Committee

DECEMBER REMINDERS

- 1st World AIDS Day
- 2nd First Sunday in Advent
- 9th Second Sunday in Advent
- 9th Circuit Carol Service (6 p.m.)
- 16th Third Sunday in Advent
- 23rd Fourth Sunday in Advent
- 25th Christmas Day
- 25th Christmas Morning Service
- 26th Boxing Day
- 30th Christmas Sunday
- 30th Christmas Concert
- 31st Watch Night Service

Remember to pray for and visit with 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); Sis. Ivy Clemetson (Mason Hall Class); Bro. Archibald Henry (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).

December Birthdays:



Mark
Campbell
7th



Linda
Hines
10th



Earle
Irvin
11th



Joan
Green
12th



Gwendolyn
Byfield
17th



Janet
McCarthy
17th



Rockeisha
Barnett
18th



Oshane
Barnett
19th



Sylvester
Barnett
20th



Rose
Freckleton
24th



Larkland
Peart
25th



Winsome
James
26th



Audrey
Maxwell
28th



WARNING ADVENT VIRUS

Be on the alert for the Advent Virus. It has been reported that the hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions during this period. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of the Advent Virus

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry (this is a very serious symptom).
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increased extension of love by others and an uncontrollable urge to extend it.

The above symptoms will ultimately lead to **inner hope, peace, joy and love.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS VIRUS please consult the Great Physician through prayer at 537-872-47478, i.e. JESUS-CHRIST.

Adapted from: <http://www.appleseeds.org/Christmas-quotes.htm>

Advent Word Search Puzzle



See if you can find the Advent words in the puzzle below!

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| s | b | c | v | c | a | d | v | e | n | t | g |
| h | n | a | c | a | r | o | l | s | z | z | u |
| o | n | r | b | a | x | g | i | f | t | s | r |
| p | i | d | u | e | l | s | q | v | b | c | d |
| p | s | s | d | d | l | e | a | u | m | v | e |
| i | c | t | k | l | u | l | n | n | y | e | c |
| n | c | o | o | k | i | e | s | d | t | h | o |
| g | c | o | o | k | i | n | g | m | a | a | r |
| x | y | l | i | g | h | t | s | m | v | r | a |
| f | r | i | e | n | d | s | y | q | l | x | t |
| s | n | o | w | m | a | n | t | r | e | e | e |
| h | i | c | h | r | i | s | t | m | a | s | h |

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| advent | christmas | gifts | calendar |
| decorate | cards | shopping | cooking |
| cookies | friends | snowman | santa |
| tree | lights | bells | carols |

CARING AT CHRISTMAS

The holiday season is fast approaching. It is a period when many persons get busy as they plan and organize food to be had with friends and family members for a fun-filled time. With all the excitement and preparations for this festive season, we must remember our brothers and sisters, the children, our neighbours, co-workers, relatives, homeless persons and friends who were affected by Hurricane Sandy and by the flooding that occurred in Port Maria only a few weeks ago. Many of the affected persons feel a sense of fear, distress and even frustration having lost their main sources of income and their personal belongings. It is times like these that God expects us to demonstrate His love and care through our acts of kindness. As we make preparations to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us remember that God's presence is with us in times of joy and in times of pain and loss. Many of us have learnt to sense the presence of God during dreadful times because of family and friendship support. Let us use this Christmas to share the presence of God with those persons who were badly affected by the series of water disasters. What do we mean by sharing the presence of God? Simple! By giving of your self and your substance—not to those who already have but those who are gravely in need.

Thought:

**The most beautiful
experience one can
have is an experience
with Christ!**

**We welcome your ideas
and suggestions:**

E-mail us at:
emmanuel_baptist_1828@yahoo.com;

Write us at:
PO Box 64, Pt. Maria, St. Mary;

Visit our website at:
www.emmanuelbaptist-jm.org

Like us on facebook at:
[http://www.facebook.com/
EmmanuelBaptistjm](http://www.facebook.com/EmmanuelBaptistjm)