

# E-EMMANUEL

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EDITORIAL: A NEW YEAR; A NEW BEGINNING

“When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be”

– Lao Tzu

Every day is a new beginning. All of life provides opportunities for new beginnings. Whatever has gone wrong, or right, in your life, you can begin again. The Bible speaks of new beginnings and I thought since this is a new year, it would be a good time for us to begin reflecting on this topic.

What does a new beginning mean in scripture? What does it mean to you personally? It means letting bygones be bygones; it means dying to anything that is not of God and being resurrected with Christ to newness of life. A new beginning is not necessarily a place of comfort, but it is a glorious place.

While a new beginning in a relationship could mean a new person in your life, it could also be a new way of looking at an existing relationship. Changing yourself is crucial to a new beginning; it is easier than replacing the people in your life, or attempting the impossible task of changing the ways and nature of those who remain in your life. In terms of your career, a new beginning could simply mean a new approach, a new attitude towards your job. A new beginning could also mean getting a new job or changing your whole career path. What about a new beginning with your family? Although we cannot choose new blood relatives, we can have a new beginning with our family by changing our attitudes and becoming less critical of what they say and do.

New beginnings are not easy. Disappointments come and go but life still moves on. So, no matter what problem(s) you are facing, you can always start afresh, with God guiding you through. He will keep you as you begin anew in Him.

Dea. Alpha Hibbert  
Church Secretary

## January Birthdays: May God grant you peace always!



Florence Hemmings  
1st



Tamoya Young  
5th



Gloria Boland  
7th



Norman Brown  
12th



Winsome Johnson  
16th



Eulalee Ricketts  
17th



Nella Murray  
18th



Zedekiah Gordon  
19th



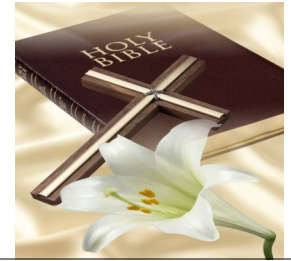
Jacqueline McPherson  
24th



Cordella Morgridge  
26th



Valerie Melbourne  
29th



To all our members, visitors  
and friends:

## HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR 2013

### JANUARY REMINDERS

6-11th Believers' Enrichment Week

27th Circuit Convention (Galina)

Remember to  
pray for and  
visit with the  
sick and shut-  
in members of  
the church and  
in our sur-  
rounding communities.



Here is a list of our sick and  
shut-in members:

**Port Maria Class:** Sis. Audrey Maxwell; Sis. Emma Scarlette-Grant; **Trinity Class:** Sis. Inez Graham; Sis. Valerie Melbourne; Sis. Percuss Scott; **Mason Hall Class:** Bro. Thomas Bennett; Sis. Ivy Clemetson; **Stennett Street:** Bro. Archibald Henry; **Galina:** Sis. Daphne Reid; Sis. Violet Daley; Sis. Edwards; **Cox Street Class:** Sis. Georgina Peart; Bro. Lucan Scott; Sis. Adassa Reddie.

**WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2013?**

It is sometimes hard to believe that the year 2012 has ended—it is no more! Many of us have had a very turbulent year—financial challenges, damages to property, broken relationships with family members and friends, death of loved ones, no job, unfair boss, failing health, problems at school and [still] having to deal with the pains of the past that seem to haunt us from year to year. But through all of the turbulence—yes, through all the heartaches, stresses, pains and sufferings, we can truly say thanks to God for having kept us through it all. Not once did Christ Jesus take His guiding and powerful hands off our lives.

As Christians, we live in the real world and we will never be immune to the trials that hit all of human kind. We too must encounter these tribulations. Our task as Christians, is to be open to God's leading. Unfortunately, many of us close ourselves to God when life becomes uncomfortable and the burdens get heavier. The Apostle Paul, in Philippians, encourages us to "hang in there" as we experience life's up and down moments. Paul wrote: *"I have learned how to get along happily whether I have much or little. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little,"* (Philippians 4:11-12). When Paul wrote these words, he was in prison waiting to hear if he would be executed. Instead of complaining and closing himself to God, Paul accepted his reality and constantly talked with God. Even in Paul's crisis situations, God used it to transform him [Paul] and today we can benefit from this encouragement.

Despite the challenges and seeming hopelessness around us at times, as a people of faith whose hope is in God, we cannot afford to lose our faith and be buried in the gloominess of life. We must trust God at all times—not in our circumstances. Whether we know it or not, God uses the "ups and downs" of life for His good purposes. God's plan to strengthen our character, to build our trust in him and to purify our lives, will unfold in both the good times and the bad times.

What's in store for the year 2013? In store for this year, must be our pledge and commitment to put our complete trust in God—to daily depend on God's providential care. This is the time and the year to renew our faith and to draw nearer to God—both in the good times and in the bad times.

**Interesting stories from the Bible**

As readers of the Bible, we tend to read those parts of the Bible with which we are familiar. In the Book of 1 Samuel, we mostly read about God's call upon Samuel's life but have you ever read beyond this chapter? Here is an interesting excerpt from the book of 1 Samuel after the Lord spoke to Samuel:

Samuel stayed in bed until morning then got up and opened the doors of the Tabernacle as usual. He was afraid to tell Eli what the Lord had said to him. But Eli called out to him. *"What did the Lord say to you? Tell me every thing. And may God punish you if you hide anything from me!"* So Samuel told Eli everything; he didn't hold anything back. *"It is the Lord's will,"* Eli replied, *"let him do what he thinks best."* As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him, and everything Samuel said was wise and helpful. All the people of Israel from one end of the land to the other knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh and gave messages to Samuel there at the Tabernacle. And Samuel's words went out to all the people of Israel. Now, at that time, Israel was at war with the Philistines .... The Philistines fought desperately and defeated Israel. The slaughter was great; thirty thousand Israelite men died that day. The Ark of God was captured, and Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli were killed. A man from the tribe of Benjamin ran from the battlefield and arrived at Shiloh later that same day. He had torn his clothes and put dust on his head to show his grief. Eli was waiting beside the road to hear the news of the battle, for his heart trembled for the safety of the Ark of God.

When the messenger arrived and told what had happened, an outcry resounded throughout the town. *"What is all the noise about?"* Eli asked. The messenger rushed over to Eli, who was ninety-eight years old and blind. He said to Eli ... *"Israel has been defeated ... your two sons were killed and the Ark of God has been captured."* When the messenger mentioned what had happened to the Ark, Eli fell backward from his seat beside the gate. He broke his neck and died, for he was old and very fat. He had led Israel for 40 years (1 Sam. 3:15-4:18)

**A REMINDER TO 5th AND 6th FORMERS**

**The period November—January is the time to send in your applications to colleges and universities for the next academic year. If you have not yet sent in your applications, please do so before the deadlines!!**

**Commit yourselves to Praying**

We must persevere in prayer. We must make prayer a daily priority. When we pray, we stay close to God and we are better able to discern God's will for us. Let us pray for:

- Jamaica as the government explores ways to deal with our debt situations
- Family members who have not yet accepted Christ as Lord
- Sick and ailing members of our church
- Unity among us as Christians
- Youths in the church to remain committed

Let us all remember to pray!!

**Thought:**

**Trust in the Lord  
with all your heart; do  
not depend on your own  
understanding!**

**We welcome your ideas  
and suggestions:****E-mail us at:**

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**Write us at:**

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**Visit our website at:**

www.emmanuelbaptist-jm.org

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