



EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, PORT MARIA, ST. MARY

E-EMMANUEL

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July 2013



EDITORIAL: CELEBRATE HARVEST

As a church, each July we prepare for our Harvest Thanksgiving Services. It is a time when we physically take our gifts into the House of the Lord and offer them to Him as an act of worship and as a way to remind ourselves of God's providential care. This act is one that should draw us closer to God as we reflect on how He has provided daily for our needs. God honours the moments we spend in quiet reflection—thinking about His love and care and then praising Him for His goodness. We should never take the gifts God has bestowed upon us for granted nor should we engage in constant complaints about what we may perceive to be a lack or limitedness of materials.

In Deuteronomy 16:10 the children of Israel were encouraged to celebrate harvest; they were encouraged to "... celebrate the Festival of Harvest to honour the Lord God," and to "bring Him a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings received from Him." Harvest is a time to rejoice and celebrate God's gifts and it is also a time of fellowship and sharing these gifts with those in need.

As we prepare ourselves for harvest 2013—i.e. preparing our hearts, minds, bodies and souls—may we commit to giving to God like never before; may we share the excess with those in need and may we truly offer sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving unto our God—the giver of everything we have!

Dahlia Palmer, Chair
Communications Committee

WHAT SEEDS ARE YOU SOWING?

In the book of Hosea chapter 10, it is noted that the more prosperous the people of Israel became, the further they moved from God. They became self-centred and began to put their trust in things rather than God. In this way they were "... planting and growing seeds of wickedness and crops of sin ..." (v. 13a). God, in trying to re-establish His relationship with the Children of Israel, asked them to move from their wicked ways and to "plant the good seeds of righteousness; then they would harvest a crop of God's love," (v. 12).

The lesson for us to learn is that if we engage in sinful thoughts and actions, we are planting "bad" seeds in our lives. The end result is that we will find ourselves on a pathway of destruction—physically and spiritually. On the other hand, when we do the will of God and live according to God's Word, we will be sowing good seeds of God's love.

What seeds are you sowing today?

July Birthdays: God's bounteous blessings are always yours



Fay Dixon 2nd, Bruce Wedderburn 4th, Olga Campbell 11th, Alva Jackson 11th, Theron Smith 16th, Fitzroy Hylton 17th, Leonard Martin 24th, Suzzette Ison 25th, Tricia Thompson 31st

JULY REMINDERS

- 8th-13th JBU Intermediate Camp
- 13th St. Mary Baptist Association Fun Day at Richmond Oval
- 14th Harvest Thanksgiving Service
- 15th-19th Vacation Bible School
- 15th-20th JBU Junior Camp
- 27th Church Trip
- 29th JBUYD Youth Camp begins
- 31st Emancipation Vigil

Upcoming August Events

- 1st Emancipation Day
- 1st Circuit Fair (in Galina)
- 4th JCDC Independence Service (at Emmanuel)

Attention!

If you wish to order a copy of the **Anniversary/Souvenir Magazine**, you must give your name to Sis. Dahlia Palmer as soon as possible and **make a deposit of \$500 no later than Sunday, July 7**. The cost of the magazine will be \$1,000. The Magazine will be printed based on orders—so place your order today!!

July Wedding Anniversaries



On July 25, Jacqueline & Courtney McPherson celebrate 21 years of marriage



On July 27, Louise & Junior Plummer celebrate 30 years of marriage



On July 28 Donna & Unes McLean celebrate 6 years of marriage



Congratulations!

To our GSAT Awardees:

- Kurt Anderson
- Granston Bernard
- Dimario Christie
- Amelia Forbes
- Kadief McLeish
- Dorian Smith
- Toni-Ann Townsend
- Shadine Tracey

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Most, if not all of us get a good feeling on the inside when we hear positive things about us. However, when we hear negative comments about us, some persons get upset while others may choose to ignore the comments even though they are true. Some of us justify why we say or do certain things even though we know they are wrong and sinful. But, if we are to experience spiritual growth, we must see the truth about ourselves—i.e. both the positives and the negatives—and work towards maintaining the positives and doing away with the negatives. We must measure our lives by the standards set by our Lord Jesus Christ.

To gain this kind of spiritual growth will require us as Christians to deepen our knowledge and understanding of Christ and make every effort to interact with others as Christ would have done. This will not only strengthen us, but it will contribute in a special way to help God's people grow and mature in Christ. Once we continue on our spiritual growth in Christ, we will "no longer be like children, changing our minds about what we believe ..." (Eph. 4:14a)

God desires for His children to grow spiritually—that is to understand His truth and to apply His principles to our lives and living even if it means we have to hear negative things about ourselves—it just means we have to work with ourselves a little more. Spiritual growth

requires that we look to Christ Jesus, who is the truth; then we will be able to "hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way like Christ who is the head of the church" (Eph. 4:15).

Then we will continue our journey of spiritual growth in Christ

A DOSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- *No matter how powerful you think you are, the Holy Spirit must be the driving force behind all that you do.*
- *No matter how weak you think you are, the Holy Spirit will be there to empower you to accomplish God's mission*

A dose of the Holy Spirit is required each day if we are to function according to God's will and way!

GIVING TO THE LORD

One of the characteristics of the persons who attend Emmanuel, is a willingness to give—of time, money, talents. This act of giving has benefited all of us in one way or the other. Oh how we would benefit more if all persons gave to the work of the Lord. Some persons hold back on their giving saying things like "me not putting money in parson pocket" or "me haffi save fi buy tings". Those persons who make such comments do not fully understand what giving is about.

The true purpose of giving is to thank God for His provisions and His providential care of us. We should give as God has blessed us and we should set aside our offerings regularly and purposefully. This habit of giving will be a reminder to us that God graciously provides for us and that we can in fact use our material gifts to facilitate spiritual gains. When we give, and give from our hearts, God will be pleased and He will pour out His blessings on us.

TWO TIPS FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS

The summer months are upon us again and in many households, the children and grandchildren are home. Children, unless they are sick, will be engaged in physical activities—which is quite normal. As children play, they lose sweat and need to replenish the lost fluids.

It is critically important for parents and guardians to ensure that their children and/or grandchildren remain hydrated during this period:

- prepare an igloo with water and ice so children can rehydrate without having to disturb you
- Purchase water-based fruits for your children (e.g. melon, carrot, orange, grapefruit)

Thought:

Give thanks to God for he has done great and marvellous things.

God's love and mercy will endure forever!

We welcome your ideas and suggestions.

E-mail us at:

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Visit our website at:

www.emmanuelbaptist-jm.org

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http://www.facebook.com/
EmmanuelBaptistjm



PLEASE 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; Sis. Emma Scarlette-Grant; Sis. Ionie Thomas; Sis. Inez Graham; Sis. Percess Scott; Valerie Melbourne; Sis. Loretta Reid; Bro. Thomas Bennett; Sis. Gwendolyn Byfield; Bro. Archibald Henry; Sis. Daphne Reid; Sis. Violet Daley; Sis. Edwards; Sis. Georgina Peart; Bro. Lucan Scott; Sis. Adassa Reddie.