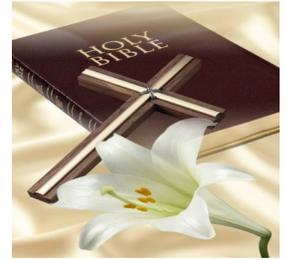


E-EMMANUEL

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 5, NO. 111 March 2013



EDITORIAL: EASTER SUNDAY—SPECIAL EDITION

The Easter season is considered as one of the most celebrated periods on the Christian calendar. During this period there is much reflection on our relationship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The music is also reflective in many respects and encourages deep meditation.

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christians believe, according to the scripture that Jesus came back to life after being crucified and buried on Good Friday. It is through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus that our penalty of sin was paid for, so that all who believe in Him can have eternal life. If Jesus had not risen from the dead then we would have nothing to celebrate. Jesus' resurrection gives HOPE even in these times when many people appear to be in a state of hopelessness.

For me Easter reminds me of my own baptism and renews my commitment to serve God with all that I possess. Maybe you are feeling hopeless today because of the circumstances of your situation! I encourage you to allow the resurrection Power to enter your situation and change your situation from one of hopelessness to one of HOPE and PEACE!!!

*Sis. Vivene Irvin
Deacon*

MARCH REMINDERS

- 29th Good Friday Service (12 noon)
- 31st Easter Sunday
- 31st Easter Concert

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:

Port Maria Class: Sis. Audrey Maxwell; Sis. Emma Scarlette-Grant; Sis. Ionie Thomas; **Trinity Class:** Sis. Inez Graham; Sis. Valerie Melbourne; Sis. Percess Scott; **Mason Hall Class:** Bro. Thomas Bennett; Sis. Ivy Clemetson; Sis. Gwendolyn Byfield; **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.

March Birthdays: May God's awesome blessings always find you!



Shadel Brown
1st



Gregory Walsh
1st



Doris Nelson
3rd



Novlette Barnett
5th



Nesta Spence
6th



Esther Sahti
8th



Lousie Scarlett
12th



Euna Thomas
13th



Adassa Reddie
15th



Phylis Henry
17th



Alpha Hibbert
17th



Ena Rhoden
20th



Shamar Brown
23rd



Tanesha Holness
23rd



Dafflyn Campbell
26th



Trevelyn Williams
28th

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

Thought: There is no greater example of God's power at work than that which can bring the dead back to life. God specializes in demonstrating that kind of power as we experience His work within us. With God, nothing is too difficult!

BEARING THE CROSS

Our spiritual journey is not always an easy one. As we travel the long, difficult road that God is calling us to walk, we must bear a cross. The cross we bear represents death to our sinful desires and ways of life, because the way of the cross always leads to resurrection and newness of life. When we think about the cross we must bear, we need to surrender to God so that we will not give up or stumble beneath the weight.

As we bear the cross, God leads us to do His will instead of our own. At times, we may wish there were some other way to continue the spiritual journey other than bearing the cross because the journey may make us feel fear, lack of confidence, deep anguish, and a host of other emotions that threaten to stop us in our tracks. Regardless of our feelings, we must not let them cause us to turn away from the path God sets before us. Jesus understands our fears and our struggle to persevere. He too had to bear the cross and He had similar emotions during the period that led up to His death. He said *"My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death"* (Matt. 26:38). As Jesus realized the enormity of the pain He would face, He wondered if there were some other way. Jesus' spiritual journey of bearing the cross touched the core of His being. Yet, through it, He struggled and prayed the same basic prayer three times—*"My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want Your will, not mine."* (Matt. 26:39). The end of Jesus' prayer reveals that Jesus found the grace to accept God's plan. We too must pray as we each bear our own cross—then we will find the abounding grace to continue the journey that God has called us to.

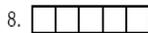
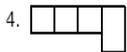
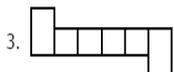
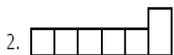
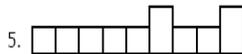
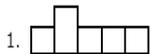
We may be overwhelmed as we consider the cross we will have to bear on the way to a new life in Jesus, but during such times of struggle we can go to Jesus for encouragement and express our deepest emotions. As we cry out for help, we can be confident, as we bear the cross, God Almighty will give us the strength we need to do God's will.

Adapted from the New Living Translation version of the Bible

Easter Sunrise Surprise

He is not here; he has risen! Luke 24:6a (NIV)

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.



women
tomb

stone
rolled

away
living

crucified
raised

A DOUBTING THOMAS?

Though a wavering faith is a reality for most of us, it is extremely painful to be labelled as a "doubting Thomas". Thomas received this label because of his lack of faith. While in hind-sight many of us may "knock" Thomas for not believing that Jesus had risen from the dead, most if not all of us, have had disbelief about what God could [can] do for us as we face varied challenges of life. These challenges force us into crises mode and it is then that we often doubt the power of God. Like Thomas, the challenges ignite us to begin asking for "proof" that God will work things out. Thankfully, Jesus appeared in the presence of Thomas and this permanently dispelled his doubts. As Christians, we have evidence that Christ the Lord is with us and will see us through our challenges. Each day, if we really stop to think about it, we experience God's transforming power in our lives. We can overcome our doubts as we continue to trust God to show His power in our lives. When Thomas overcame his doubts, he set us on a ministry that exhibited extraordinary faith. As we experience God's deliverance from our challenges, this should motivate us to minister to others, so that their doubts about Christ Jesus, will be removed.