

VOL 2 NO 4  
DEC 2021

# REACH

**NEW YEAR,  
NEW HOPE**

**HERE'S TO A  
2022  
FILLED WITH  
COMPASSION  
AND LOVE!**

**CELEBRATING OUR  
HIGH ACHIEVERS**

**Faith, family  
and GOD'S  
SUPERNATURAL  
PROVISION**

**+MORE**

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**ON THE COVER:** Members of the Nelson family, whose inspiring story of overcoming adversities is shared on pages 10 and 11.



# New year, NEW HOPE

**A**s we stand on the cusp of a new year, we do so with a sense of excitement, expectation, gratitude and hope.

We are excited because we feel that there is so much to look forward to, as we continue to serve God faithfully, despite the fact that there are many among us who are battling disillusionment, discouragement, and disappointment. We are grateful to be alive and well, despite all the difficulties that the past year brought. Many of our members lost loved ones and livelihoods, but we are still here to enjoy the beauties of creation and to continue to work in the great harvest field, and for that, we are thankful.

We are expecting a time of great harvest of souls, as we begin the new year with prayer. Throughout the New Testament Church of God in Jamaica, January has been designated Prayer Month, and looking back at last year, we recall the testimonies of miraculous deliverances that occurred among our members, as we united in prayer during that period.

In fact, it has been refreshing to hear the many testimonies of Christian growth, as during the past 18 months, people have been able to convert travel time into prayer and study of the Word time as they complied with the work-from-home orders of the government. We trust that this new-found love of the Word and prayer for many will continue even as they return to their offices, institutions and places of business.

We are pleased once again to bring you another issue of **eREACH**. In this edition, we hear from our national leaders; we celebrate some of our achievers who have excelled academically; we give a voice to some of our educators, who, over the last months, struggled to navigate cyberspace as they moved from physical to virtual classrooms.

We feature an inspiring story of a family that faced adversities, but prevailed and has an amazing testimony. With March being Discipleship Month, we bring you a 10-point approach to retaining converts.

So brothers and sisters, as we move forward together with discipline, courage and hope, please continue to send your reports, photos and information on activities in your area to [communications.ntcogja@gmail.com](mailto:communications.ntcogja@gmail.com).

We hope you enjoy the information provided in this edition.

*Corinne Barnes*

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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## ABOUT US

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# HERE'S TO A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH COMPASSION AND LOVE!

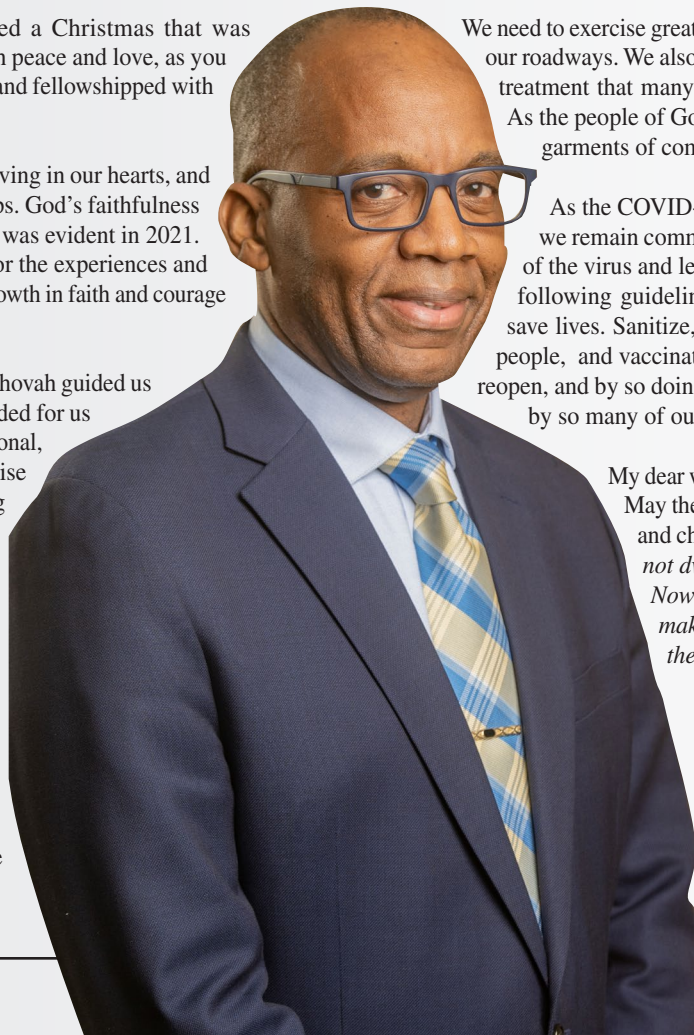
“ I pray that this year will be, for each of you, one of growth in every aspect of your life. I also pray that our churches will experience spiritual, numerical, and financial growth. Our country, Jamaica, needs Christian citizens who are guided by the values of the Kingdom of God. ”

I hope you all experienced a Christmas that was filled with joy mixed with peace and love, as you worshipped our Saviour, and fellowshiped with friends and family.

We welcome 2022 with thanksgiving in our hearts, and genuine praise for God on our lips. God's faithfulness to us as a church and as a nation was evident in 2021. We continue to express thanks for the experiences and encounters we had, and for the growth in faith and courage that resulted.

The mighty and gentle hand of Jehovah guided us through difficult times and provided for us in a season of great mental, emotional, and financial challenges. We raise up our monument of thanksgiving and declare like Samuel, in 1 Samuel 7:12, "Thus far the Lord has helped us!"

I pray that this year will be, for each of you, one of growth in every aspect of your life. I also pray that our churches will experience spiritual, numerical, and financial growth. Our country, Jamaica, needs Christian citizens who are guided by the values of the Kingdom of God.



We need to exercise greater discipline and help to reduce the carnage on our roadways. We also need to push back at the uncaring and callous treatment that many of the vulnerable in society have to endure. As the people of God, let us spread the gospel of truth dressed in garments of compassion, humility, and love.

As the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, as the people of God, we remain committed to doing all we can to reduce the spread of the virus and lessen its impact. I, therefore, urge you to keep following guidelines, from credible sources, that will help to save lives. Sanitize, wear a facial covering when in contact with people, and vaccinate. Let us contribute to helping our schools to reopen, and by so doing help to curtail the learning loss experienced by so many of our students.

My dear wife, Vinette, and I wish you a Happy New Year. May the words of Isaiah be a source of encouragement and challenge for you, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past, see, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:18-19.

*Reverend Dr. Roy  
Notice*

ADMINISTRATIVE BISHOP

# Living with hope of a **BRIGHTER TOMORROW**

ANDY THRASHER VIA FLICKR

**I**t is such an absolute delight and joy for me to greet you in this special season as we look forward to a new year filled with possibilities.

As we reflect on the year that has just passed, none of us could have envisioned that it would have been another tough one, as we watched many of our members suffer and die as COVID-19 ravaged their bodies. At the same time, recognising that *“to be absent from this body is to be present with the Lord”*.

But as we enter this new season of hope, we will not dwell on the suffering that, as human beings living in an imperfect world, we continue to experience. But we will arise with hearts of gratitude to our God, who has kept us during those tough times; who has ministered to us; and who never left us, even

“

Thank you for your unwavering support over the past year.

As we continue to labour together, let us never forget to reach out a hand of love to those who are lonely, neglected, and abused.

”



at times when it felt like we were alone.

I am grateful for the opportunities that were presented to us during the past year that we, as a ministry, remained dynamic, energised and supportive of the elderly, the depressed, the abused, the lonely and were able to uplift the spiritually deficient. We give glory to our God.

I am so grateful for all of you, my sisters, for the role you continue to play in the growth of this arm of the denomination amid personal and collective adversities and you have done it with such grace and dignity.

Thank you for your unwavering support over the past year. I could not have asked for a more faithful, prayerful, and supportive group of women.

As we continue to labour together, let us never forget to reach out a hand of love to those who are lonely, neglected, and abused. Let us be our sisters' keepers as we go *“Forward Together with Discipline, Courage, and Hope”*.

*Dr. Vinette  
Notice*

**NATIONAL WOMEN'S  
MINISTRIES PRESIDENT**



# *A call for men to* **RISE TO THE TASK**



“

Men of the church of God, there is a great work for us to do as we seek to advance the Kingdom of God. We can be the difference and make a difference. Our Lord is counting on us. Our country is depending on us.

”

**T**he past year was one filled with myriads of challenges, and as we look ahead to the new year, we are filled with hope that better days are coming.

I want to encourage my brothers and sisters with the Word of the Lord. Isaiah 43:2 says, “*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you go through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched; the flames will not set you ablaze.*”

No matter how great the obstacles, no matter the threats levied at us, none can destroy us, according to God’s Word.

Being cognizant of those promises from our Lord, we can face 2022 with courage and hope, knowing our God is well able to keep us from all dangers and harm.

Men of the church of God, there is a great work

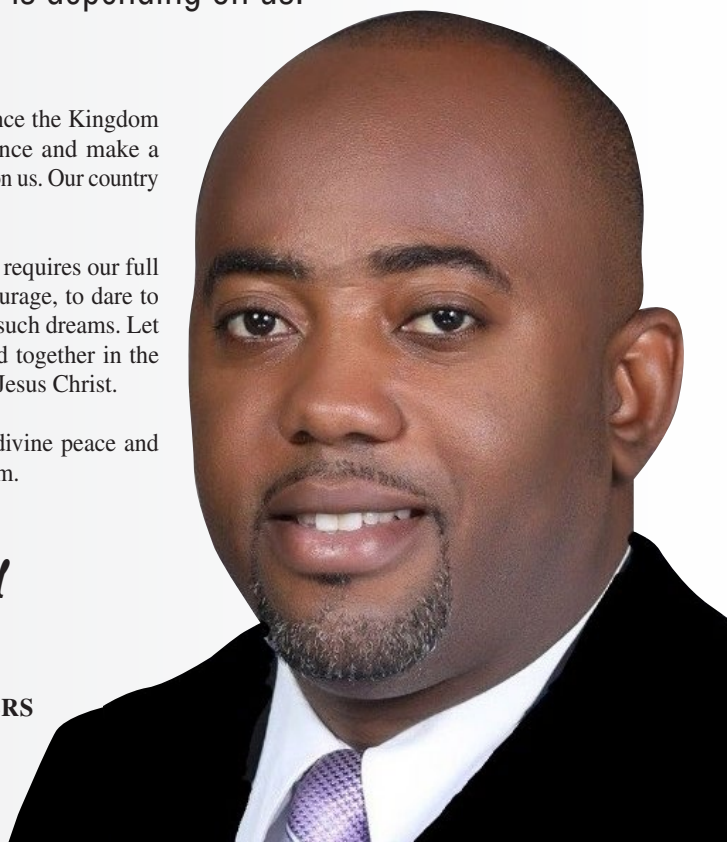
for us to do as we seek to advance the Kingdom of God. We can be the difference and make a difference. Our Lord is counting on us. Our country is depending on us.

My brothers, our work this year requires our full commitment, discipline, and courage, to dare to dream and to work on realising such dreams. Let us, this new year, move forward together in the strength and power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

May 2022 be a year of God’s divine peace and may His people find hope in Him.

*Reverend Nigel  
Martin*

**NATIONAL LIFEBUILDERS  
DIRECTOR**





# YOUTH MOVING ON **UP** DESPITE THE ODDS

**A**s I reflect on the past year, I am in awe of what the National Youth and Discipleship Department has been able to achieve, amid one of the most difficult times in the history of humanity.

Our young people at all levels have demonstrated what it means to be totally committed to the Lord. We experienced success in every area, from the national young men’s leadership development programme to the launch of the Department’s website, to the national teens’ week and rally, and so much more. We have had an unprecedented year. To God be all the glory.

Many of our young people have excelled academically. Many have made leaps of faith and have gone into new areas of entrepreneurship as they have learned to trust God and to take Him at His Word.

It is indeed true that when the going gets tough, the tough gets going, and you, young people, have done so, with such

“ Our young people at all levels have demonstrated what it means to be totally committed to the Lord. ... We have had an unprecedented year. To God be all the glory.

”

grace, under God.

There are times when words fail me to adequately express my appreciation for all the hard work that our leaders in all the churches throughout the island do, but then I am assured from the Word of God that if you remain faithful to the end, you will receive your just reward.

As we face the new year, I would like to encourage you to continue to give of your best to the Master, even in the face of opposition and ridicule. In fact, the Word of the Lord tells us in Matthew 5:12 that in those situations, we should rejoice, for great will be our reward in Heaven.



*Reverend Kevin Page*

**NATIONAL YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP DIRECTOR**





Our members from all over the island continue to excel in different areas of life. This past year, many of our number were able to realise their dreams when they completed, in fine style, their academic careers and were among the many graduates who walked physically, or virtually, across the stage to receive their credentials.

Below, we bring you the photos of some of our members who continue to aim high and to deliver. Please celebrate with them.

# *Celebrating* **HIGH ACHIEVERS**



**Shaniquea  
Ormsby-Ellis**

She completed the MSc. in Sociology with a specialisation in Social Policy and Administration from the University of the West Indies, Mona.



**Ornella  
Anderson**

She graduated from St Mary's University in Minnesota, USA, with a Master's degree in Education. She currently serves, along with her husband, Rev. Orville Anderson, at the Samuel Prospect and Jackson Town churches in Trelawny.







**Dr. Moya  
Rhoe-Craig**

She recently completed post-graduate studies in Medicine, specialising in Paediatrics. She currently serves, along with her husband, Rev. Michael Craig, who is the Assistant Pastor at the Waltham Park Road Church.



**Dr. Donna  
Shaw Wisdom**

She recently completed post-graduate studies in Emergency Medicine. She serves alongside her husband, Reverend Monroe Wisdom, at the Clifton New Testament Church of God.



**Dr. Kereann  
Nelson**

Dr. Kereann Nelson is now a Doctor of Medicine in Medical Microbiology. She serves alongside her husband, Rev. Ernie Nelson, who is the Pastor of the Franklyn Town Church.



**Jhenelle Abigail  
Small**

She graduated from the University of the West Indies with First Class Honours in the Bachelor of Laws programme. She was Valedictorian



**Faith, family**  
**& GOD'S**  
**SUPERNATURAL**  
**PROVISION**



September 17, 1996 will forever be etched in the memory of Paulette Nelson as one of her darkest days.

It was the day gunmen shot and killed her husband, Harry Nelson – a converted gangster who was an evangelist in the Trench Town community.

It was also the day Mrs Nelson became the sole breadwinner of five children, including six-year-old triplets. With all her children being below the age of 12, she was left with the task of raising law-abiding children in the community of Mountain View which was plagued by gang violence at that time.

It was an arduous job, but as her children grew into adults, Mrs. Nelson would live to see what many would call the “supernatural provision of God”.

The first act of supernatural provision she experienced was the full payment of her husband’s funeral expenses.

“The whole funeral was paid for by a Christian lady named Mrs. Doreen Bramwell. I had no money, but my husband got a king’s funeral and I owed nobody. The Trench Town New Testament Church of God also stood beside me over the years. I also remember the time when I got a barrel of goods from overseas. To this day, I have no idea who sent it. But my husband was an evangelist and many people knew him, so after he died, God used Christians of various denominations to assist us,” recalled Mrs Nelson, who currently serves as a deaconess in the Trench Town New Testament Church of God.

“There were days when the only thing I could provide for my children was tin food. That was a problem because two of my children are allergic to seafood. I tell no lies when I say during those years of hardship, not one of those kids had an allergic reaction to the seafood. The Lord protected them because it was the only thing I could provide to eat,” she said.

She also experienced supernatural provision in the form of volunteers, who mentored her children and offered to pay their tuition fees. God also provided Christian families to house the children during outbreaks of violence in the Mountain View community.

As the Nelson children grew, they saw many families lose their loved ones to violence that plagued the tough inner-city communities of Kingston. Many of their friends – young boys and girls – had their youth swindled by the so-called ‘dons’ who thrived in East Kingston during that time.

The Nelson children were hardly different from their peers as they, too, had lost a parent to violence. But the children believe their mother’s faith made



the difference in their lives. She led by example and lived a life of faith, ensuring that her children attended church and school – in that order.

“We had to go to church, even when we didn’t want to. There were nights when we wanted to stay home and study because we had exams the next day. But my mother said we had to go to church and study for the exams afterwards,” said Reverend Howard Nelson, the second-born child of the Nelson family.

For Mrs. Nelson, church and school attendance was her way to ensure none of her children got swept up in the violence which surrounded them.

“I taught my children to love the Lord. My children even used to tithe from their lunch money because I taught them to fear God. I felt like that was what God wanted me to do. God loaned me my children and I always saw it as my responsibility to provide for and protect them,” Mrs. Nelson said.

That responsibility led her to perform various jobs over the years as she struggled to care for her children.

She was a vendor and she studied cookery, cosmetology and practical nursing. At the same time, she played an active role in their educational careers – an area in which God performed another miracle.

“I remember the oldest triplet had a major learning problem and when I tried to get him into a high school, he was denied a space because he performed poorly on the diagnostic test. I begged the principal, but she said he had a learning disability and there was nothing she

could do for him. When I saw the test my son failed, I cried because I realized that he wasn’t comprehending as he should have been. That day I went home and crawled under my bed – where I prayed regularly. I asked God to send me some help because I didn’t know how to teach children.”

Help came shortly in the form of a Christian couple who migrated from the United States to Jamaica, indicating that the Lord had instructed them to open a school here.

They knew the Nelson family and offered to enrol the boys at their school.

“I don’t think I paid the first school fees because some people volunteered to pay the fees for the two boys. They went to that school for two years and they got so smart. They then later went to Calabar to finish their high school studies. But do you know what happened to my son that they said had a learning disability? He is a lawyer today and is practising in Antigua and Barbuda. The Lord is not slack concerning His promises.”

Today, she is a mother of five successful children, including a fitness coach, an ordained bishop and a lawyer.

“I believe the Lord has given my family a story to draw other people unto him,” Reverend Howard Nelson added.

“Through our story, others can know that no matter where you come from or what you have been through, you can overcome it once you put God first. I wouldn’t say my siblings and I have achieved everything because I know God has a lot more in store for us,” he added.

# Scaffolding CONVERTS

**T**hroughout the New Testament Church of God in Jamaica, February 2022 will be observed as Evangelism Month.

Below we present an excerpt from Dr. Clement Clarke's dissertation in which he examined "The Integration of the New Believers into the Life and Ministry of the Montego Bay New Testament Church of God". We hope you will find this approach useful.

"The reasons for which new believers leave churches are myriad. According to James Cowell, 'A direct correlation exists between a positive congregational climate and the ability to receive new persons.'

He contends that factors that impact climate include the love and acceptance of the membership for each other, the sense of

expectancy, trust between pastor and laity, and the congregation's attitude toward change. Cowell posits 10 mistakes that impact a church's ability to receive and retain members:



## 1. Some congregations become self-satisfied.

The congregation in this regard, is inward focused, and all activities revolve around the existing church constituents, so that intentional outreach is stymied.

## 2. Some congregations have a poor self-image.

Congregants' perception of themselves is so poor that they are afraid to invite and integrate anyone into their 'sinking ship'.

## 3. Some congregations have inadequate ports of entry for visitors.

The 'way in' to the church is of particular significance, whether through activities such as sports, round robin dinners, home Bible study groups, or the greeters at church.

## 4. Some congregations have inadequate follow-up for visitors.

A simple visit or a call

from the church within the week of their visitation can be fruitful.

## 5. Some congregations fail to provide any opportunity for structured new member orientation.

Congregations that take membership seriously usually provide one or more membership orientation classes' that can take many forms, shapes and sizes.

## 6. Some congregations are understaffed.

Adequate staffing 'is needed for a full range of Christian education opportunities .... training days, newcomer visitation, etc.'

## 7. Some congregations are not adequately structured to incorporate new persons.

Simply starting a second class can enable new persons to feel included.

## 8. Some congregations lack fellowship opportunities.

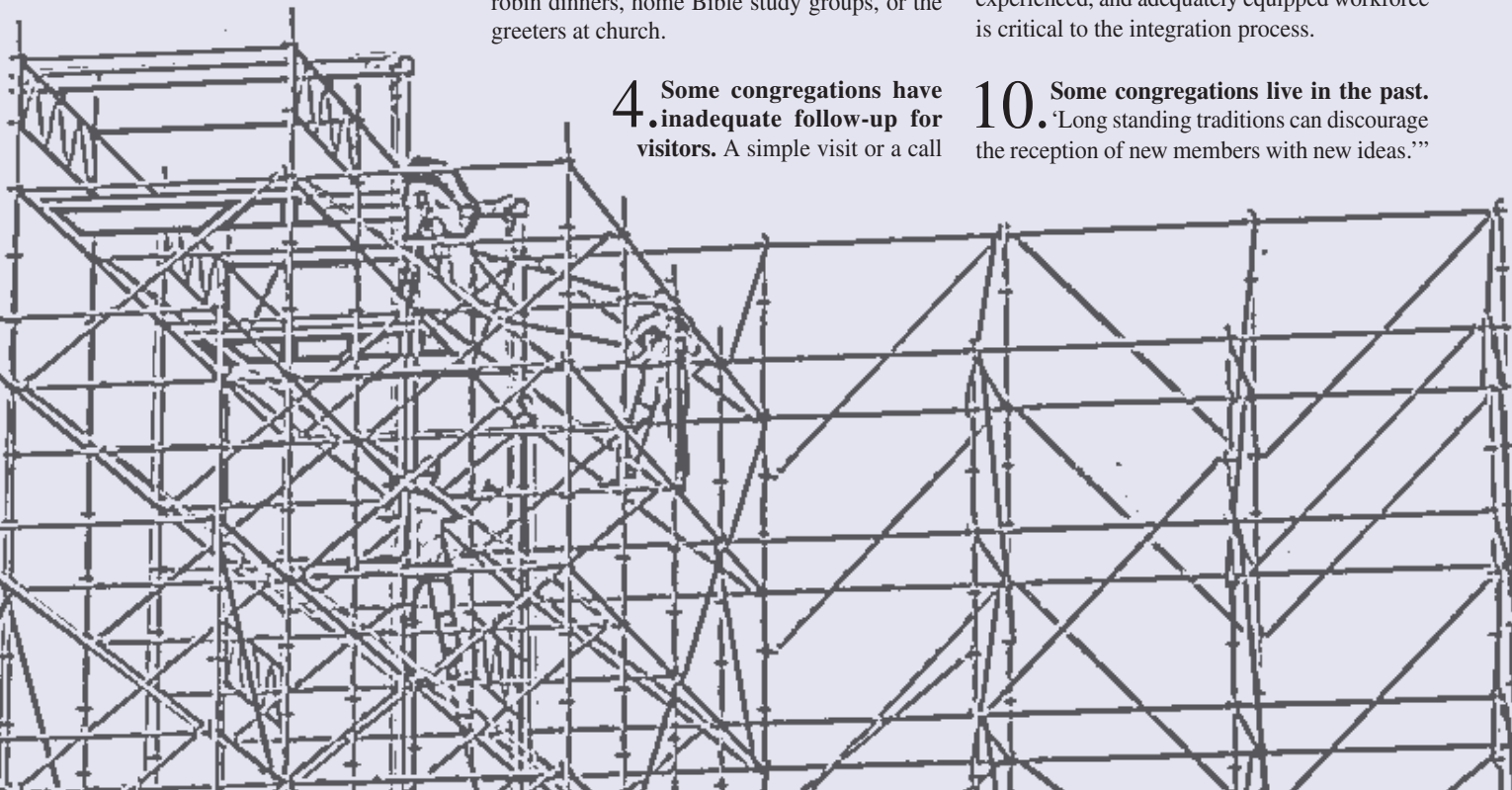
'People desperately want fellowship in a Christian environment.'

## 9. Some congregations lack adequately trained lay leadership.

An informed, experienced, and adequately equipped workforce is critical to the integration process.

## 10. Some congregations live in the past.

'Long standing traditions can discourage the reception of new members with new ideas.'"





# Teachers' tales

**W**ithout much prior preparation, since March 2020, most teachers in Jamaica have had to switch from sitting at their desks in their classrooms and engaging their students to entering the homes of their students by way of a computer screen.

In this edition of eREACH, we pose this question to some teachers: "What strategies did you employ in order to cope as you transitioned from face-to-face to online classes?"

Below are their stories in their own words.

## Pressing the reset button

COVID-19 has caused everyone to press the reset button. For me, I had to ensure that, for the most part, my students were coping.

First, I allowed them to express themselves. They stated freely their apprehensions/fears/anxieties. I created the atmosphere for them to share in that vulnerable moment, knowing that they were getting the needed support.

Then I shared with them how I felt and allowed them to know that the transition for me, their teacher, was not easy, but together we could make the strides necessary to do well.

Ground rules were set. They agreed to keep their cameras on so that allowed me to be able to monitor them as best as possible. They had to exercise a lot of discipline, as it was easy to simply turn their cameras off and be engaged in something other than the class activity. As a group, we had to learn to trust each other.

I established a buddy system, where students checked on each other and could account for each other if one did not show up for class.



As the time passed, I also did tech checks, that allowed me to be aware of the devices the children were using, and also those who were without. I submitted the names of those who needed help in sourcing devices to the Welfare Committee for the needed assistance.

**KELLESIA WILLIAMSON**  
Teaches grades 1, 4 and 5



## Keeping them engaged

I have had to find some applications and software, as well as a wide cross-section of videos to keep the students engaged. The virtual space does present some good opportunities, but there are serious device issues that result in some of the students being left behind.

**OLIVER SCOTT**  
Teaches grades 7-10

# Making the learning process meaningful



1. I purchased a device that could manage the load of online activities.
2. I sought professional counsel to deal with the pending stress of the physical disconnection between my colleagues and I, and my students and I, especially as I'm aware that the learning style specific to tactile work would be significantly reduced.
3. I got trained to use the online learning platforms, such as Google Classroom.
4. I networked to ensure that I could harness skills and content from other colleagues
5. I developed accountability documents for the online space so I could track my students' participation and progress and provide timely feedback.
6. I have been finding/utilizing various means of assessment to ensure students' participation.
7. I created social media groups to respond to colleagues, students and parents."

**LUCHIEN SUBA**  
Teaches 6th form



## Prayer and incentives are key tools

I created entertaining and mind-grabbing virtual activities that made the students want to come to class every day, and they did. Those who attended regularly, participated and did the work, were rewarded with a phone card each weekend. I also prayed for them each time we met and declared that they would be successful.

**KEMOY SMELLIE**  
Teaches grade 4



## Learning to navigate a new world

I had just taken on the role of administrator and was really looking forward to achieving all the objectives I put forward to the school board. What a shocker it was when I realised that I had to make an about-turn!

New objectives had to be set for the teachers, parents and non-academic staff. The first thing I had to learn was how to manipulate my laptop.

The Zoom platform, Google Meet, Google Classroom and Teams became my regular meeting place.

Using the Learning Management System (LMS) was something I had to take slowly as I would soon realise that most of my colleagues were new the entire technique, and I had to be patient with them. Also, counselling sessions were held for all groups and home visits had to be done, even though the current situation required us to be safe



and COVID-19 protocols had to be seriously observed.

**ANGELA PORTER**  
School Administrator



# STRATEGIC UPDATES

– QUARTER ENDING NOVEMBER 2021 –

## TOP 10 CHURCHES IN TITHES

	CHURCH	PASTOR
1.	PORTMORE	Cornell Shaw
2.	EASTWOOD PARK	Clement Clarke
3.	MANDEVILLE	Osbourne Fisher
4.	WALTHAM PARK	Stevenson Samuels
5.	MONTEGO BAY	Ruel Robinson
6.	CLIFTON	Monroe Wisdom
7.	ESCARPMENT ROAD	Leslie Pinnock
8.	SPANISH TOWN	Cavon Campbell
9.	PORT ANTONIO	Desmond Green
10.	ST. ANN'S BAY	Winston Foster

*Congrats to  
all our top  
churches!*

## TOP 10 CHURCHES IN OFFERING

	CHURCH	PASTOR
1.	CLIFTON	Monroe Wisdom
2.	MANDEVILLE	Osbourne Fisher
3.	PORTMORE	Cornell Shaw
4.	WALTHAM PARK	Stevenson Samuels
5.	ESCARPMENT ROAD	Leslie Pinnock
6.	STEER TOWN	Mario Reid
7.	BEESTON STREET	Cleo Ellis
8.	MINERAL HEIGHTS	Stanley Ivey
9.	MONTEGO BAY	Ruel Robinson
10.	EASTWOOD PARK	Clement Clarke

## TOP CHURCHES IN NUMBER OF PEOPLE BAPTISED IN THE HOLY GHOST

	CHURCH	PASTOR	HOLY GHOST FILLED
1.	MULLET HALL	Robin Dixon	2
2.	BENSONTON	Astley Brown	1
3.	ESCARPMENT ROAD	Leslie Pinnock	1
4.	FARM	Welton Bartley	1
5.	SPRING BANK	Desmond Green	1

*\*Only five churches reported in this category*

## TOP 10 CHURCHES IN NUMBER OF MEMBERS ADDED

	CHURCH	PASTOR	ADDED
1.	PAPINE	Ajilon Ferdinand	9
2.	DUANVALE	Terrence Gayle	7
3.	TAYMOUNT	Arnold Brown	7
4.	WINDSOR FARM	Jevon Daley	6
5.	ROCK ROSE	Joycelyn Brown	5
6.	SHEFFIELD	Clive Abrahams	4
7.	ANNOTTO BAY	Carla Service White	3
8.	GREEN ISLAND	Bradley Reid	2
9.	BUFF BAY	Michael Asphall	2
10.	ST. TOOLIS	Glenroy Fagan	2

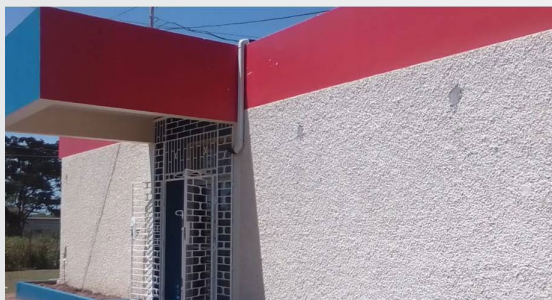
## TOP 10 IN NUMBER OF PEOPLE BAPTISED IN WATER

	CHURCH	PASTOR	W/BAP
1.	FALMOUTH	Lloyd Lawrence	7
2.	TAYMOUNT	Arnold Brown	7
3.	GRANTHAM	Seprena Simpson	6
4.	BLACK RIVER	Dwight Whitely	5
5.	ROCK ROSE	Joycelyn Brown	5
6.	SPANISH TOWN	Cavon Campbell	4
7.	SHEFFIELD	Clive Abrahams	3
8.	ANNOTTO BAY	Carla Service-White	3
9.	ST. ANN'S BAY	Winston Foster	3
10.	MCKOY	Kenneth Binns	2

# 2022 Calendar

## JANUARY 2022

### SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT MONTH



DATE	DISCIPLESHIP	LOCATION
2	New Year's Sunday/International Declaration of Faith Sunday	Local Church
3	National Office Reopens	
17	Ministers Enrichment Seminar	Virtual
25	Credentialing and Ministry Preparation Seminar	Virtual
27	Parish Prayer and Word Conference	Local/ District/Parish
30	National Prayer and Testimony Sunday	Local church
31	District Pastors Enrichment Seminar	Virtual

## FEBRUARY 2022

### EVANGELISM MONTH



DATE	DISCIPLESHIP	LOCATION
6 - 27	Sunday School Expansion Campaign	Local Church
1-4	Regional Evangelism Seminars	Regional
17	Teen Evangelism Training (pm)	Virtual
19	Music and Worship Workshop	National
21	Ministers Enrichment Seminar	Virtual
27	Water Baptism Sunday	Local Church

## MARCH 2022

### MEN'S EMPOWERMENT MONTH



DATE	DISCIPLESHIP	LOCATION
1	Men's Gathering	Regional
2	Beginning of Lent (40 days)	
2	Ash Wednesday	
2	Women's Convention – Cornwall	TBD
6- 27	Sunday School Loyalty Campaign	Local Church
10	District Pastors Meeting	Virtual
12	Sunday School Workers Training	TBD
17	Hour of Power	Virtual
21	Ministers Enrichment Seminar	Virtual
20-26	7 Days of Discipline and Power for Men	Local Church
25-27	National Tertiary Ministry Students' Retreat	TBD
27	National Men's Sunday	Local Church