

eREACH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD IN JAMAICA

HOW SHOULD
CHRISTIANS
RESPOND
TO WARS?

BAPTISM
SUNDAY
SCORES
HIGH

MOUNTAIN VIEW
NTCOG ACADEMY
CHANGING LIVES

COLLABORATING
ON EDUCATION

OLD MANDATE,
NEW METHODS OF
SOUL-WINNING

Welcoming
ALLEY
to the fold



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE	3
EDITORIAL TEAM	3
WELCOMING ALLEY TO THE FOLD	4
HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS RESPOND TO WARS?	6
MOUNTAIN VIEW NTCOG ACADEMY CHANGING LIVES	7
BAPTISM SUNDAY SCORES HIGH	9
COLLABORATING ON EDUCATION	12
OLD MANDATE, NEW METHODS OF SOUL-WINNING	13
STRATEGIC UPDATES	15
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	16

ON THE COVER: Church members worshipping at the Alley New Testament Church of God in Clarendon, the latest church to join the denomination.

Stage set for a **TRIUMPHANT YEAR**

Ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters, we have just wrapped up a very busy quarter. January was chock-full of activities as we observed Spiritual Enrichment Month. The reports have indicated that it was an overwhelming success, and as the churches met for prayer all over this country, the stage was set for a triumphant calendar year, and we give God thanks.

Evangelism Month came quickly, and followed logically on the heels of Spiritual Enrichment Month. From all appearances, many of the churches reaped a great harvest of souls that culminated in Baptism Sunday on the penultimate day in February that saw several new believers being immersed in water.

We are so excited about the new additions to our family, and now the discipling begins as we aim to nurture those converts so that they may become established in Christ and be able to become disciplers themselves.

As we embark on the activities for the next quarter, we are anticipating another successful period as we continue to combine our efforts in working in the vineyard of the Lord.

In this edition of **eREACH**, we give you snippets of some of the activities mentioned above. We also give you a Christian response to the current war between Russia and Ukraine. We feature the Alley church in Clarendon that was recently incorporated into the denomination. We take a look at a non-profit educational facility that is aiding students to excel at the secondary level that was established by one of our members. In the next edition of this quarterly newsletter, we will bring you the inspiring story of the woman behind this institution.

So, our valued readers, 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.

We hope you enjoy the information provided in this edition.

Corinne Barnes

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Corinne Barnes

WRITERS

Sandrina Davis

Renee DeLeon

Carla Thomas Hewitt

Mario Romans

Sherine Williams

DESIGNER

Andrewale McLaughlin

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please email articles, photos,
letters, suggestions and
feedback to

communications.ntcogja@gmail.com

ABOUT US

eREACH is a quarterly newsletter published by the New Testament Church of God in Jamaica. The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publisher, editor or partners.

CONTACT US

The New Testament Church
of God in Jamaica Island Office
Rodon's Pen
Old Harbour
St Catherine

Tel: (876) 876-927-3712,
876-978-4193, 876-978-8341

www.ntcogjamaica.org



Welcoming ALLEY to the fold

When earlier this year Bishop Roy Notice declared the Alley New Testament Church of God duly incorporated into the denomination, that action heralded the end of a long journey that began almost 30 years ago.

“We welcome the brothers and the sisters of the Alley Church. It is with great joy that we acknowledge you as a New Testament Church of God congregation. It is my prayer that as you fellowship with the believers of the Rocky District of churches and the wider national church, you will forge strong relationships and grow to become one of the flagship churches,” said Bishop Notice.

The church, which is located in Clarendon, was founded by the late William DaCosta and his wife, Yvonne, who themselves had been members of the New Testament Church of God. The first and several other services took place in their garage.

After the first baptismal service in which 19



“ It is my prayer that as you fellowship with the believers of the Rocky District of churches and the wider national church, you will forge strong relationships and grow to become one of the flagship churches. ”

people were immersed, it became evident that this new congregation, that was now operating as an independent entity, had outgrown its make-shift home. After many more moves and twists and turns on the journey, the church was established at its current location.

“There were many challenges, but with God’s help and the support of faithful brethren, we pulled through,” said Carla DaCosta Sampath, Secretary-Treasurer.

The church’s first foray into denominational

linkage was with the First Born church. There were other stops along the way as this fledgling congregation sought a denomination to call its own.

“... Under the guidance of co-founder, Evangelist Yvonne DaCosta, Reverend Barrington DaCosta and Reverend Hixford Allen, Sister Carla DaCosta-Sampath and her husband Douglas Sampath, we wrote to the New Testament Church of God in 2019, seeking to be incorporated,” said Carla DaCosta Sampath.

After due diligence by the administration of the New Testament Church of God, the members of the Alley church received the news for which they had been waiting.

“The committee examined the background of the church, its doctrine, values and operations and found them to be compatible with that of the New Testament Church of God. On March 16, 2021, the committee held a meeting with the leaders and members of the Alley church, at which time they indicated their desire to be a part of the New Testament Church of God,” said Carla DaCosta Sampath.

The church is now operating under the auspices of the New Testament Church of God in the Rocky Point District, with Reverend Andrew Powell as its first pastor.

“The congregation is delighted to return to its denominational roots and is committed to the vision of the New Testament Church of God to be ‘a kingdom-advancing, Bible-based, Christ-centred, Spirit-filled, disciple-making, family-focused church, positively impacting people and the nation’,” said Carla DaCosta Sampath.



How should Christians respond to **WARS?**

By **Diego Dunchie**

Just when the world seemed to have been slowly inching its way out of the COVID-19 pandemic, and global leaders began to breathe a collective sigh of relief, there came the Russia-Ukraine debacle. That event has caused the ecumenical community to be looking through its eschatological lenses and to contemplate the repercussions of this war for humankind.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has led to global panic, increased economic hardship, displacement of families, and an uncertain future for millions of people.

Amid all those events, should Christians be perturbed, or should the ecumenical community be exhibiting faith, assurance, and inner peace because of the enlightenment that scripture affords?

Some religious pundits have begun to ponder the implication of this invasion for a final world war, the battle of Armageddon, and the Second Advent of Christ.

Throughout the centuries, the community of the saints has been called upon to intervene in troublesome times to bridge the divide in a Christlike manner. When we peruse church history, divergent views emerge based on location and context. There is no clear pronouncement on how Christians should respond to war.

Wars should be avoided at all cost, and should only become a reality if all efforts have been exhausted or proven futile. War is evil and will debilitate people and financial resources. Throughout the Bible, Jesus promotes peace, and is known as the Prince of Peace. Therefore, war is not something that most people generally desire, but because of the sinfulness of human hearts and refusal to compromise, war is inevitable.

The Bible gives no clear response to war. However, there are several instances when war is justified. Thomas Aquinas (church father) was an influential theologian in the early church who developed the just war theory. That theory sets out conditions against which to judge whether or not a war should be waged. Aquinas's conditions for a Just War (Bitesize 2022) are: The war must have a just cause – e.g., against invasion, or for self-defence – and not to acquire wealth or power. The war must be declared and controlled by a proper authority, e.g., the state or ruler. The war must be fought to promote good or avoid evil, to restore peace and justice after the war is over.

Other scholars later added to Aquinas' conditions that include: The war should be fought with 'proportionality', with just enough force to achieve victory and only

against legitimate targets, i.e., civilians should be protected. The good which is achieved by the war must be greater than the evil which led to the war.

The Just War theory, with some amendments, is still used by Christians today as a guide to justification. One thing is certain, until Jesus Christ's return, war will not cease. The evil that saturates the heart of people serve as an unrelenting challenge to the cessation of war. As a result, the Christian should never be flabbergasted because of God's Word. According to Dr. Tony Evans, "Is God's prophetic syllabus, giving us an outline of things to come ... telling you what is coming tomorrow so you can have the information today."

Many people, including Christians, may ask whether or not these are the last days. The truth is, we have been living in the last days from Jesus' Ascension to Heaven.

As we reflect on the biblical text, I want to posit a few possible responses to war:

1. **Live in the confidence that God is Sovereign and in control of world affairs.** Even though Satan is known in scripture as the "god of this world", he does not dictate what happens, but is under the control of God. (Psalm 2:1-12).
2. **Live the consecrated life.** Be separated from unholy ways of living and deepen your spirituality through periods of prayer, especially for the victims of war.
3. **Live as Christ's hands and feet extended.** Let us do all the good we can, while we can for the cause of Christ. Amid hostility and increased wickedness globally, the Christian community can rest assured of God's continued care. (Phil. 4:19).
4. Live considering the Great Commission. Be willing to share your faith with urgency and purpose (Matt. 28:18-20).
5. Live with Christ's coming in view. Christians should live in light of these ultimate realities as Peter spoke about end-time judgment (2 Peter 3:10-13; Matt. 24:48-51).

With those responses, the ecumenical community should reflect the stance of a pacifist (Matt. 5:9). Amid war and uncertainty, may this word of assurance from Jesus bring comfort to your hearts: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me, ye might have peace. In the world, ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John. 16:33).





MOUNTAIN VIEW NTCOG ACADEMY CHANGING LIVES



Samantha Bennett, founder of the Mountain View New Testament Church of God Academy.

It usually takes significant financial resources to successfully operate any school. But the Mountain View New Testament Church of God Academy is quite the anomaly.

The church has been running its academy since 2016, offering free classes to students preparing for the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) exams. To date, almost 400 people have successfully sat those assessments at the academy, with 75 per cent of them receiving passing grades.

With that kind of track record, many people would think that significant funds are being poured into this programme. But according to founder, Samantha Bennett, money is not the secret to the success of this institution.

“It is just pure passion and a desire to do the will of God. That’s all I can report on this programme. The only fee we charge each person is a \$3,500

registration fee, and that usually isn’t enough to do everything. But every year we do a fundraiser to get cash and the church will give us the rest of the funds where we fall short,” said Bennett, who spearheads fundraisers and also teaches two subjects at the academy.

She hailed the members of the Mountain View NTCOG, who see the academy as an opportunity to minister to those in need. In fact, six of the nine teachers at the Academy are members of Mountain View NTCOG who offer their services voluntarily.

“We get a lot of support from our pastor, Reverend Courtney Beason, and sometimes our members just come up to us with some money, saying they feel led to give something towards the programme. We also have church members like Jacinth Waugh, one of our administrators who works tirelessly. We get nothing from this

“ It is just pure passion and a desire to do the will of God. ... The only fee we charge each person is a \$3,500 registration fee, and that usually isn’t enough to do everything. But every year we do a fundraiser to get cash and the church will give us the rest of the funds where we fall short. ”



programme, but this is a ministry. We are happy just seeing the students passing their exams,” said Bennett, who is a full-time teacher at the Charlie Smith High School in St. Andrew.

And just like the Word of God that spread rapidly during Jesus’ ministry, the Academy’s reach is now beyond Mountain View, with significant interest from people outside Kingston.

“We have persons from St. Thomas, St. Catherine and Clarendon expressing interest. Sometimes we don’t even have the capacity to manage, but we don’t really believe in turning anyone away, so we always make it work.

“We have persons in their 30s and 40s who are taking subjects. Maybe they never got the chance to finish high school. We have persons from traditional high schools and upgraded high schools. Most of the students are women, but we are seeing more males coming to the academy,” said Bennett.

The Academy has had students who have gone on to pursue studies at The Micro University, St. Joseph’s Teachers’ College, and the University of the West Indies. One of its treasured stories is that of a student who dropped out of school at Grade 9, but received Grade 1



“
Because of my passes, I received a special certificate award in Business Administration from CXC. Thanks to the Mountain View New Testament Church of God Academy, I’m now sitting in the job of my dreams, working as a practical nurse at Andrew’s Memorial Hospital.”

”

God Academy, I’m now sitting in the job of my dreams, working as a practical nurse at Andrew’s

in Mathematics, after completing classes at the Academy.

There are also past students, like Keneisha Calder, who obtained six Grade one passes and a total of eight CXC subjects within two years.

“Because of my passes, I received a special certificate award in Business Administration from CXC. Thanks to the Mountain View New Testament Church of God Academy, I’m now sitting in the job of my dreams, working as a practical nurse at Andrew’s

Memorial Hospital,” said Calder.

Bennett believes there are greater accomplishments on the horizon for the Academy, adding that there are plans to apply to the Ministry of Education to make the institution an official examination centre.

She believes faith – not cash – is the force that fuels the Academy and urges Christians to give back to those in need, even as the economic turmoil persists in Jamaica.

“We can only serve Him through serving others. God is a Spirit; we are not able to touch him but there are so many persons we can do that for. Put self aside and put the passion and the zeal for God on the forefront,” Bennett said with great conviction.

NB: In the next issue of eREACH, we will bring you the inspiring story of the founder, Samantha Bennett.

Baptism Sunday SCORES HIGH

With February 27, 2022 being declared as 'Baptism Sunday' as a fitting end to Evangelism Month, scores of churches in the denomination took to rivers, streams and other bodies of water to immerse many of those who had accepted Jesus' offer and said "yes" to salvation.

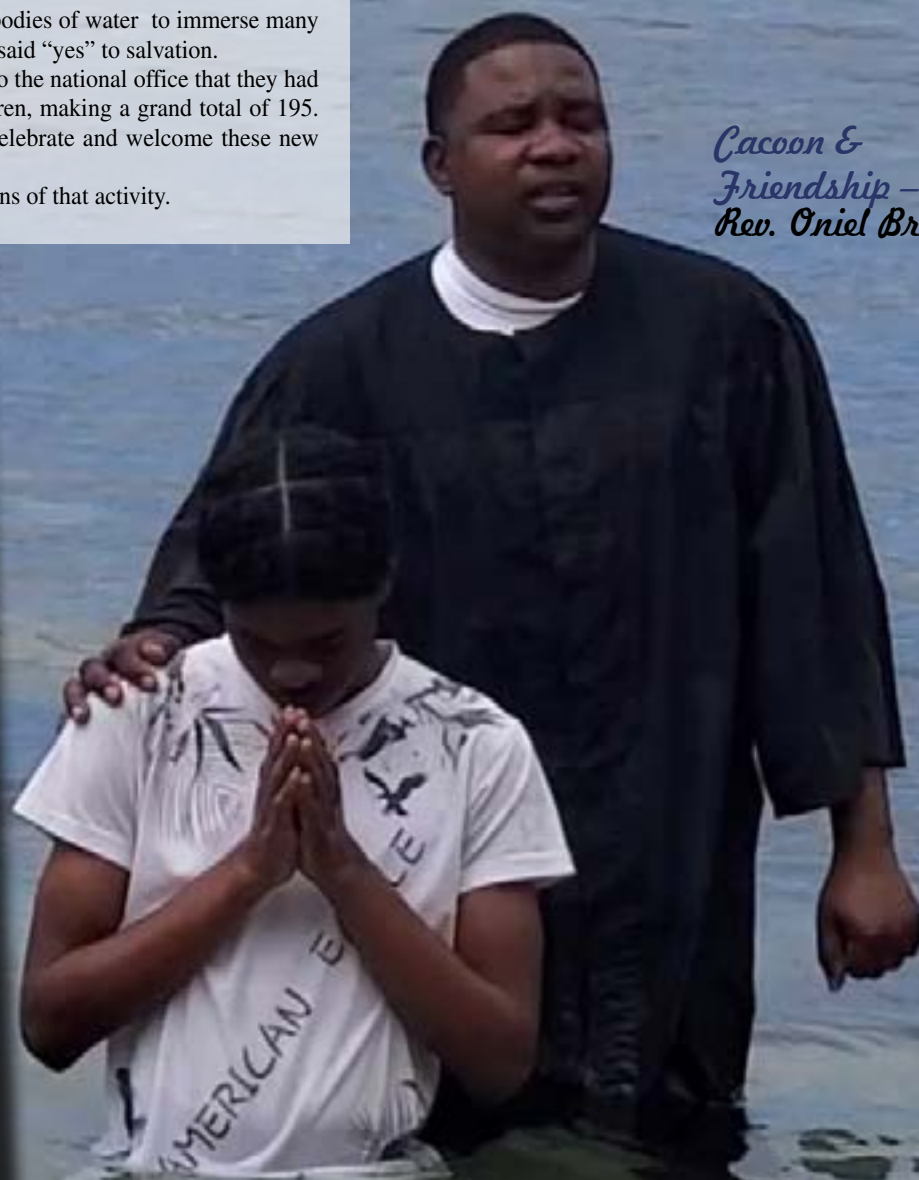
At press time, 63 churches had reported to the national office that they had baptized 113 women, 48 men and 34 children, making a grand total of 195. As those reports continue to pour in, we celebrate and welcome these new additions to the family.

eREACH brings you visual representations of that activity.

*Cacoon &
Friendship –
Rev. Oniel Brown*



May Pen – Rev. James Small



Baptism Sunday SCORES HIGH



Georges Valley – Rev. Dr. Earlmont Williams



Pisgah – Rev. Kemesha Vassell



Central Village – Rev. Wayne Pascoe



Petersfield – Rev. Cadian Kerr



Havannah Heights – Rev. Edward Kerr



Brandon Hill – Rev. Joseph Green



Brandon Hill – Rev. Joseph Green

Baptism Sunday SCORES HIGH



Middle Quarters District – Rev. Othneil Watson

Collaborating on EDUCATION



The New Testament Church of God in Jamaica recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Pentecostal Theological Seminary in Cleveland, Tennessee, in an effort to provide more opportunities for educational advancement for ministers and Christian workers.

The Master of Arts in Church Ministries with a Concentration in Congregational Care will be offered starting in August 2022. The signing of the MOU guarantees applicants from our denomination a 65 per cent discount on their tuition. For further information, please contact the national office.





OLD MANDATE, NEW METHODS OF SOUL-WINNING

How does one engage in meaningful outreach evangelistic services during a raging pandemic?

“Be creative,” seems to be the response of many churches that devised unconventional methods

to reach the lost during the period that was designated Evangelism Month.

From drive-through evangelism to bus evangelism, to prayer walks, churches all over the island engaged in collective, targeted soul-winning efforts during

the month of February, despite the restrictions under which they were operating that limited the normal mass gatherings and street meetings.

For the Waltham Park Road church, it also meant writing, printing and distributing tracts in several



communities. It also meant getting on the telephone and calling up unsaved relatives and acquaintances, and presenting the gospel of Christ to them, as well as sponsoring a radio broadcast.

For the Eastwood Park Road church, it also meant family evangelism, as members were encouraged to take the time to minister to those members of their families who did not know the Lord.

For the Portmore church, it was all about equipping the members for soul-winning.

Whatever format, evangelistic outreach adopted during the month, the objectives were realised and we rejoice.



STRATEGIC UPDATES

– QUARTER ENDING FEBRUARY 2022 –

TOP 10 CHURCHES IN TITHES PER CAPITA

CHURCH	PASTOR
1. SPALDING	Donovan Knight
2. SPRING GROUND	Alrick Brown
3. RUNAWAY BAY	Deloris Trowers Huntley
4. SCARLETT HALL	Rudolph Kennedy
5. GREGORY PARK	Easton Thompson
6. BUFF BAY	Michael Asphall
7. NEWPORT	Stenneth Davis
8. ALBION	Mark Phillips
9. COMFORT	Robert Foster
10. EWARTON	Errol Bailey

(Per capita refers to the average amount (tithes or offerings) contributed per person over the quarter. This number is based on the church's report of its total membership as at the quarter's end.)

TOP 10 CHURCHES IN OFFERINGS PER CAPITA

CHURCH	PASTOR
1. EWARTON	Errol Bailey
2. PETERSFIELD	Cadian Kerr
3. LITTLE BAY	Cornel Romans
4. MANLEY MEADOWS	Alexander Peart
5. SANTA HILL	Marcia Knight
6. SPALDING	Donovan Knight
7. DUNCANS	Kirk McFarlane
8. RUNAWAY BAY	Deloris Trowers Huntley
9. ST. MARGARET'S BAY	Shawna Gibbs
10. SPRING GROUND	Alrick Brown

(Per capita refers to the average amount (tithes or offerings) contributed per person over the quarter. This number is based on the church's report of its total membership as at the quarter's end.)

TOP 10 CHURCHES IN TITHES FOR THE QUARTER

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

TOP 10 CHURCHES IN OFFERINGS FOR THE QUARTER

CHURCH	PASTOR
1. MANDEVILLE	Osbourne Fisher
2. WALTHAM PARK	Stevenson Samuels
3. CLIFTON	Monroe Wisdom
4. SPALDING	Donovan Knight
5. OLD HARBOUR	Hugh Dixon
6. MAY PEN	James Small
7. PORTMORE	Cornel Shaw
8. MONTEGO BAY	Ruel Robinson
9. LINSTEAD	Jephitha Reid
10. SPANISH TOWN	Cavon Campbell

TOP 10 CHURCHES IN NUMBER OF MEMBERS ADDED

CHURCH	PASTOR	ADDED
1. EASTWOOD PARK	Clement Clarke	31
2. PORTMORE	Cornel Shaw	15
3. SPALDING	Donovan Knight	15
4. LUCEA	Robert Williams	14
5. BLACK RIVER	Dwight Whitely	13
6. GLENDEVON	Ralston Powell	13
7. SPRINGFIELD	Glennese Dunkley-Baker	11
8. RHODEN CRESCENT	Richard Young	11
9. OLD HARBOUR	Hugh Dixon	10
10. ROUSSEAU ROAD	Geraud Brown	8

TOP CHURCHES IN NUMBER OF PEOPLE BAPTISED IN THE HOLY GHOST

CHURCH	PASTOR	HOLY GHOST FILLED
1. PORT ANTONIO	Desmond Green	8
2. MASON RIVER	Clive Cole	7
3. LINTON PARK	Reckonel Simpson	6
4. EXCHANGE	Michael Cameron	5
5. COLOUDEN	Rhoel Williams	4
6. BULL BAY	Roy Warren	4
7. BROADLEAF	Lucille Pennant Cassanova	2
8. MEDLEY	Alton Thelwell	2
9. RECKFORD	Denis Bryan	2
10. SANDY BAY	Devon Price	2

TOP 10 IN NUMBER OF PEOPLE BAPTISED IN WATER

CHURCH	PASTOR	W/BAP
1. GLASGOW	Reckonel Simpson	14
2. MAY PEN	James Small	13
3. MIDDLE QUARTERS	Othneil Watson	12
4. ROUSSEAU ROAD	Geraud Brown	9
5. GARLANDS	Marsha Daniels-Powell	9
6. GLENDEVON	Ralston Powell	9
7. SCARLETT HALL	Rudolph Kennedy	8
8. MONEAGUE	Wayne Grant	8
9. MONTEGO BAY	Ruel Robinson	8
10. BULL BAY	Roy Warren	7

Congrats to all our top churches!

2022 Calendar

APRIL 2022

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MONTH



DATE	LOCATION	
14	Holy Thursday/End of Lent	
15	Good Friday	
17	Resurrection Sunday	
18	Easter Monday - Women's Convention-Middlesex	May Pen Church
21	Pastors' and Leaders' Conference	TBD
22-23	National Youth Congress	Convention Centre

MAY 2022

CHILD MONTH



DATE	LOCATION	
1	National Children's Service	Eastwood Park Church
8	Mothers' Day	Local Church
16	Ministers' Enrichment Seminar	Virtual
19	Hour of Power	Virtual
21	Women's Convention-Surrey	Eastwood Park Church
23	Labour Day	
27-29	Lifebuilders Men's Ministry Retreat	TBD

JUNE 2022

NURTURING PENTECOSTAL FAMILIES



DATE	LOCATION	
5	Pentecost Sunday	
5-10	Pentecost Week	Local Church
19	Fathers' Day	
20	Ministers' Enrichment Seminar	Virtual
26	Family Sunday	Local Church
28	Ministers' Conference	TBD