

eREACH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD – JAMAICA

BETHEL
BIBLE
COLLEGE
FILLING
THE GAP

VOL 4 NO 3
SEPT 2023

THE POWER
PLAN FOR
PARENTING

FAMILY LIFE AND
MUSIC MINISTRIES
IN NEW HANDS

RIISING TO
THE OCCASION

NEW YEAR, FRESH
TOUR OF DUTY

Reliving CONVENTION '23

+ A TIME FOR REFLECTION | HAILING OUR HEROES | STRATEGIC UPDATES | CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

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ABOUT US

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

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Corinne Barnes

WRITERS

Sandrina Davis

Renee DeLeon

Mario Romans

Sherine Williams

DESIGNER

Andewale McLaughlin

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please email articles, photos, letters, suggestions and feedback to communications.ntcogja@gmail.com

CONTACT US

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD – JAMAICA ISLAND OFFICE
Rodon's Pen, Old Harbour, St Catherine
Tel: (876) 876-927-3712,
876-978-4193, 876-978-8341
www.ntcogjamaica.org



EDITOR'S NOTE

A TIME FOR

REFLECTION

It is with mixed emotions that we approach the publication of this edition of eREACH, as we do so by referring to our former team member, Carla Thomas Hewitt, in the past tense. It is still difficult for us to use that language with reference to Carla, a woman who epitomised faithfulness, perseverance under pressure, commitment and congeniality. Carla would invariably be the first to turn up for meetings. A more cooperative team member was hard to find, always willing to learn and improve her output.

For years, Carla was a fixture in the media room at conventions, with her family in tow. Even when she was not physically well, she always turned up for duty. She knew what it was to suffer in silence. We will miss Carla, and will continue to support and pray for her immediate family, Jerry, Joelle and Jude.

I began by referencing our mixed emotions, because while we reflect on Carla, who has left us, we are also excited to see how well the new church year is progressing. From all accounts, many churches have had installation services, and have made efforts to prepare their new workers for the tasks ahead. We commend those churches that are moving ahead, and urge the others to follow suit.

As has been widely publicised, for the 2023/2024 church year the theme is: 'Forward Together Building and Promoting Healthy Families', and we urge church leaders to bear that theme in mind as they plan their various programmes in the different departments and auxiliaries. Let us continue to shine a light on the family, that most important primary agent of socialisation. We encourage you to read Bishop Roy Notice's article on parenting that is included in this issue. You will find it instructive. We also encourage you to bring that article to the attention of your members.

This issue is reflective. We spend some time looking back at the summer months, and the various activities that took place, so we hope you will be pleased to read that the camps and retreats went very well. Our young people went off to the International Teen Talent competition in Cleveland, Tennessee, and returned with several trophies. We congratulate them.

We also take a look back at what many are calling a "good" convention. Then there is an article on the continuing education programme that Bethel Bible College offers. You are also introduced to the new National Executive Council and the newly elected Youth Board members.

Other articles include the strategic updates that we know many of you look forward to each quarter, as it gives you a good guide as to how our churches are performing, as well as the activities planned for the next few months. We implore you to carefully examine the recommendations from the national office with an aim to implement the recommended programmes. We trust you will enjoy reading all these articles and we welcome your feedback.

We also look forward to receiving reports of success for the new quarter. You may reach us at communications.ntcogja@gmail.com.

Corinne Barnes

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The **POWER PLAN** for **POSITIVE PARENTING**

By Bishop Dr. Roy Notice

FAMILIES DO not walk the path of wholesomeness accidentally. Intentionality is required, along with disciplined effort and a clear vision. A wholesome family is not the same as a perfect family. It is a family in which there are clearly defined roles, mutual love, boundaries, agreed upon values, respect and a sense of joy.

Healthy parenting is a critical ingredient for a functional family. Dysfunctional parents will have a negative impact on their homes and their children. In a functional family, the parents work together to create an environment where members feel safe and valued.

Any meaningful discussion on parenting must not only outline the general framework of what good parenting looks like, but must do so with the cultural context as a backdrop.

Professor Elsa Leo-Rhynie, in her research paper, titled 'Social Toxins and Our Children: Can the Pollution be Stopped?', revealed "*high levels of adolescent sexual activity, most of it irresponsible and unprotected*" and that the irresponsible sexual behaviour among young people has serious implications for their health, their schooling, their work lives, their parenting and the socialisation of the next generation. In further describing the Jamaican context, she speaks of the harshness and high levels of disrespect in many Jamaican homes. (**Jamaica Gleaner**, Friday, July 17, 2015)

Professor Leo-Rhynie's research paints a picture of the context in which we live, raise our families and do ministry.

If we are going to make a difference, let us begin in our own homes to apply good parenting practices. I outline four of those practices below, with the hope that we may use them to evaluate our own families or to guide our own parenting journey.

Parents who desire to raise healthy, functional children must:

BE PRESENT. Loving and consistent parental involvement is key to keeping a family healthy. Children value our presence more than they value our presents given from a distant place of uninvolvedness. The presence of parents must be predictable. When children know that their parents are always there, they grow with a sense of confidence and security. Parents who are



present in the lives of their children are there to listen, to guide, to provide comfort and correction and to protect them from the ills of this age.

To be present for our children will require that we often have to realign our priorities. To be too busy to attend to our children or to attend important activities involving our children will send a signal to them that they are not valued and are unimportant to us.

It is my prayer that when our children call our names, we will all be able to say, "Present".

BE PATIENT. Parenting calls for patience. Our children go through stages of emotional, physical and mental development. We cannot rush their development. Along the growth path, there may be delays, regression, disappointments and resistance. A parent who gives up on a child because of these factors is expressing not only lack of faith in God's ability to take us through difficult seasons with our children, but we may also be signalling that our children are not worth the effort.

As parents, we are but fallible human beings, who are attending

life's parenting school while being full-time parents. We will be tested. I urge you to be in touch with your emotions, know what your triggers are, and have a clear vision of what your child can become. Remember that a calm, decisive approach will accomplish more than an angry outburst.

BE PRINCIPLED. Our children know what we stand for and are deeply affected when they see contradictions between our beliefs and our behaviours. The principles of reverence for God, honesty, faithfulness, servanthood, integrity, and responsibility are some of the key principles that we must teach our children. The most powerful way to teach these and other principles is to practise what we preach and do what we say. Whenever there are contradictions between what we demand from our children and what we practice, our children will be confused, will not trust us, and they will

ultimately lose respect for us. Parents should be exemplary.

BE PLAYFUL. Stern discipline is important to keep a family focussed, but without light moments of play, children will grow not understanding fully that life must be enjoyed. Parents and children strengthen their bonds when they take time to play together. *“Science has shown that when parents play with their child, the hormone, oxytocin, is released. Oxytocin is associated with trust and relationship building”* (Christina Pay). Many parents have given gadgets to their child, allowing the child to be locked in a strange world where he or she can explore, often without boundaries or wise guidance. There is the need to return to the outdoors with our children; there is value in playing board games. There is greater laughter, happiness and relaxation when parents and children play together.

BE PRAYERFUL. To pray with – and for – our children is an acknowledgement of God’s love and power, and our limitations and weaknesses, as we raise our children. Children face many obstacles, challenges, and tough decisions. Parents can fight on behalf of their children by praying for them. A child is a precious gift from God and He cares about our children more than we do. God is not bothered when we constantly bring our children before Him. The Lord invites us in 1 Peter 5:7 to *“..... cast all our cares upon Him, for He cares for us.”*

Our prayer list for our children can never be too long, but it should at least cover the following:

1. Thanksgiving for the precious gift.
2. Blessings on their future.
3. Protection of spirit, body, mind, and emotions from any kind of evil or harm.
4. Salvation at an early age and become committed disciples of Jesus Christ.
5. Pray for wisdom and sound judgement.
6. Pray that their mental faculties remain intact.
7. Pray for good physical health.
8. Pray for protection against spiritual attacks and moral pitfalls.
9. Pray that they be good examples to others.
10. God’s hand would be on them to guide them and give comfort through their life’s journey.

May Hannah’s response to the Lord become our response as we believe in God for answers to our earnest prayers for our children.

“For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore, I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord.” 1 Samuel 1:27-28

■ **Bishop Dr. Roy Notice is the Administrative Bishop of the New Testament Church of God – Jamaica.**

Many parents have given gadgets to their child, allowing the child to be locked in a strange world where he or she can explore, often without boundaries or wise guidance. There is the need to return to the outdoors with our children; there is value in playing board games. There is greater laughter, happiness and relaxation when parents and children play together.

Rising to the OCCASION

NEW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTED

Twelve men have been elected by their peers in conference to assume the highest level of leadership, after the Administrative Bishop, to serve as members of the National Executive Council for the New Testament Church of God – Jamaica for the next two years.

Men and women at all levels of the ministerial rank – exhorters, ordained ministers and ordained bishops – are eligible to vote for this group of men to support the Administrative Bishop at the policy-making level of the denomination. To be eligible to serve in this body,

one has to be an Ordained Bishop in good standing.

Each member of the executive may serve for three consecutive terms, after which he is required to stand down for one term before they again become eligible for election.

Ten of the 12 new council members have served in this capacity in the past, while two, Reverend Lymano Wishart, Overseer of the Parks Road District of Churches, and Reverend Diego Dunchie, Pastor of the Duhaney Park Church, have been elected for the first time.



Front (from left): Reverend Dr. Donald Roberts, Reverend Dr. Ajilon Ferdinand, Reverend Lymano Wishart, Bishop Dr. Roy Notice – Administrative Bishop, Reverend Monroe Wisdom, Reverend Cornel Shaw, Reverend Orville Plummer – Secretary Treasurer.

Back (from left): Reverend Dr. Donovan Knight, Reverend Ruel Robinson, Reverend Wayan Wellington, Reverend Leslie Pinnock, Reverend Diego Dunchie, and Reverend Dr. Rohan Ambersley.

Missing: Reverend Jephitha Reid.

NEW YEAR, FRESH TOUR OF DUTY



REVEREND ONEIL BROWN
CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT IN ST. JAMES

It is the beginning of the 2023/2024 church year, and for many ministers, this time of the year represents new challenges, new fields in which to labour, new congregations with which to become acquainted and a wider reach into the harvest.

eREACH congratulates the following ministers, who have now been given ministerial oversights of various districts. Some were assigned in January, while others took up their responsibility on September 1:

- Reverend Oneil Brown, Cambridge District in St. James
- Reverend Robert Foster, Stettin District in Trelawny
- Reverend Nakia Johnson, Jeffrey Town District in St. Mary
- Reverend Ralston Thompson, Clark's Town District in Trelawny
- Reverend Brian Campbell, Morant Bay District in St. Thomas
- Reverend Ryan Reddie, Yallahs District in St. Thomas

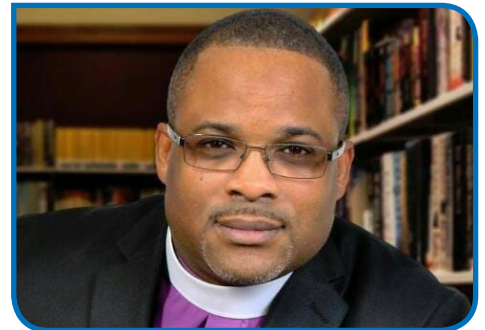


REVEREND RALSTON THOMPSON
CLARK'S TOWN DISTRICT IN TRELAWNY



REVEREND ROBERT FOSTER
STETTIN DISTRICT IN TRELAWNY

Additionally, as the denomination continues to expand, three new Districts have been formed, and three ministers who were local pastors have now assumed responsibility as District Overseers. eREACH congratulates Reverend Lymano Wishart, who takes on the Parks Road District in the parish of St. Andrew. In addition to the Parks Road Church, he will also give oversight to the Cavaliers and Glengoffe churches.



REVEREND LYMANO WISHART
PARKS ROAD DISTRICT IN ST. ANDREW



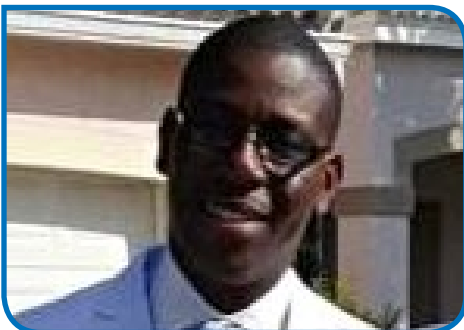
REVEREND NAKIA JOHNSON
JEFFREY TOWN IN ST. MARY

Reverend Courtney Beason goes to the Mountain View District of Churches in St. Andrew and he will be in charge of that church in addition to the Sandy Park and Manley Meadows churches.



REVEREND COURTNEY BEASON
MOUNTAIN VIEW DISTRICT IN ST. ANDREW

Reverend Mario Reid goes to the Steer Town District in St. Ann and has under his leadership, the Chalky Hill and Hermitage churches in addition to Steer Town.



REVEREND RYAN REDDIE
YALLAHS DISTRICT IN ST. THOMAS



REVEREND BRIAN CAMPBELL
MORANT BAY DISTRICT IN ST THOMAS



REVEREND MARIO REID
STEER TOWN DISTRICT IN ST. ANN

FAMILY LIFE AND MUSIC MINISTRIES IN NEW HANDS



Reverend Rhoan Parkins takes up the mantle

Much has been made about the importance of the family to the society. Pastors, sociologists, psychologists, teachers, social workers and so many more professionals have constantly underscored the place of this institution created by God for the perpetuation of societies. This fact is not lost on the New Testament Church of God. The Family Life Ministry, therefore, remains one of the vibrant arms of this denomination. For three years, Reverend James Small anchored that Ministry and now he



demits office after having done yeoman service. Reverend Rhoan Parkins assumed leadership of that Ministry on September 1.

Reverend Parkins currently pastors the Toll Gate Church in Clarendon. He is also a senior teacher at the Glenmuir High School and Head of the Industrial Arts Department. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Theology with a Minor in Guidance and Counselling from Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean. He is married to Ann Marie and they have two adult children, one who is a pastor and the other a student at the University of Technology.

Other members of the leadership team are: Vivienne Thompson, Michael Brown, Sean Thelwell, Levene Giffiths, Donnette Hines, Eaton Hendricks and Olive Wright.

Minister Joelle Notice strikes new chord

The Music Ministry is another one that has made a tremendous impact on the denomination as is evidenced in our worship services at national events and in many local churches. For three years Minister Andrea Roberts was at the helm of that Ministry, and she worked tirelessly and excellently. Minister Roberts has now been given a break, and the mantle has fallen to Minister Joelle Notice.



From an early age, Minister Notice discovered that her voice could be used to glorify God. She surrendered her life to the Lord when she was eight years old. Music and teaching have always been her passion. Over the years, she has witnessed God's guiding hand specifically in those areas of her life.

She graduated from The Mico University College in 2021 with a Bachelor of Secondary Education degree, with specialisation in Music. In 2023, she graduated from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, with a Master's degree in Music and Worship and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Worship Studies at the Robert Webber Institute for Worship Studies. She teaches at Ardenne High School and Bethel Bible College.

Other members of the committee are: Reverend Robert Edwards, Keron Thompson, Oliver Scott, Patricia Archer, Simone Hyde, Abigail Samuels, and Eljay Reid.



Reliving Convention 2023



It is Friday, July 7, 2023. The New Testament Church of God Convention Centre is abuzz with activities, as hundreds of people descend on the venue. Some are seated, waiting patiently. Others are being organised into different groups and marshalled into clearly designated areas. There is a sea of colours – red, white, blue, yellow, pink. At exactly 3:40 p.m., the strains of the marching song fills the area and the long procession begins, heralding the first activity of Convention 2023 – the CredentiaLLing Service.



Three days later, after a flurry of activities, Convention 2023 came to an end, and from anecdotal and statistical evidence, the leaders' prayers were answered and plans executed as envisioned.



“Convention 2023 will never be erased from our collective memories. The enthusiastic worship, the rich fellowship, the powerful preaching all made the convention a faith-building and life-enriching experience,” said Administrative Bishop, Dr. Roy Notice.

A survey conducted shortly after the event also yielded





encouraging quantitative and qualitative results.

“This was one of the best [conventions] in a while. It’s a fact that more improvement [on the building] has taken place and this will continue. To God be the glory,” said one delegate.

Some 438 people responded to the survey. Just over 84 per cent were members and the remainder pastors. Just over 38 per cent indicated that they attended in the physical space, while more than 32 per cent indicated they joined online. Twenty-nine per cent utilised both modalities. Ninety per cent of the respondents rated the convention as very good or excellent, and 93 per cent gave the speakers a rating of very good or excellent.



Meanwhile, 65 ministers, just under 200 lay leaders, 46 chaplains and 23 music leaders received their credentials during the commissioning service on Friday. Additionally, scholarship awards amounting to \$4.5 million were made to 72 students at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

“The 98th Annual National Convention is one of the best I have seen in years ... well organised, planned and executed ...,” shared one respondent.



Flurry of activities ROUNDS OUT BUSY CHURCH YEAR

To say the National Youth and Discipleship Department had a busy year would probably not be a true representation of what took place. From camps to retreats, and to talent shows, the year was awash with activities that kept the young people fully engaged. The year culminated in July with several camps.

There was a children’s camp that attracted some 158 children and 41 workers. Following close on the heels of that camp, it was the teenagers’ turn. For 12 days, more than 100 teenagers engaged in a slew of activities at the end of which there were many testimonies of deliverance.

In the month of August, it was time for the National Youth Retreat. Two hundred and fifteen young people, along with 30 workers, descended on the camp site, under the leadership of Sister Kelly-Ann Fagan, as they grappled with the theme ‘Giving Justly: Serving in Love’. At the end of their time together, three young people were filled with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

“The National Young Adult Ministry Retreat experience was an extraordinary one. For the spiritual areas, they created a magnificent impact on my life and also I had my fair share of enjoyment in the different various activities.



A section of the Jamaican contingent at the competition.

“I would say it’s a place to be, to have a spiritual enrichment to help you matriculate to a higher dimension of yourself in the Spirit, and it is also useful to help build interpersonal relationships,” said Yanique Pusey, from the Old Harbour Church.

Then on July 31, it was time for 121 young people from all over the island and their leaders and chaperones to head to Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, United States of America,

to participate in the International Teen Talent competition. The competition attracts participants from more than 100 countries and is held every two years. Jamaica first participated in 2011, although the competition was established several years prior to that. Activities usually include, song, music, dance, drama and poetry. When all the assessments were completed, Jamaica walked away with 24 trophies, gaining several first- and second-place positions.

INTRODUCING THE NEW YOUTH BOARD



A new board was elected recently that will be supporting National Youth and Discipleship Director, Dr. Kevin Page, in leading the department over the next two years.

Front row (from left): Reverend Dr. Stenneth Davis, Reverend Glennese Dunkley Baker, Reverend Markel Wright, Reverend Dr. Kevin Page – National director, Reverend Owayne Frater, Reverend Orane Williams, and Reverend Kemar Campbell.

Back row (from left): Reverend Everton Robinson, Reverend Stanley Ivey and Reverend Geraud Brown.

Fulfilled by following God's leading

By Tameica Blair

I had been working in Japan for four years, teaching English. In November last year, I began to feel the leading of the Lord to return to my homeland, Jamaica. I felt that the Lord was somehow saying to me that my time in Japan was up, and He had work for me to do back home. Without questioning Him, I decided not to renew my contract and so headed home in April of this year.

When I returned home, I felt a particular tug at my heart, that my place was working with young people, especially girls. By that time, plans were in the making for Teens Camp 2023. I signed up as a volunteer. I had no idea what I was in for, as I had never been to Teens Camp. However, I decided that I could learn fast and so headed off to our campsite in St. Ann.

One night as we were worshipping, I felt an urge to pray over a young woman, who I knew was grieving the loss of her mother. As another sister and I prayed and spoke with her, I reminded her of God's faithfulness throughout her life. I felt like I was pouring God's love into her as I spoke. I felt like Jesus was right there beside us, hugging her, pulling her closer and covering her in the spirit. When I was through speaking and praying, she cried. It was a sound of the releasing of pent-up anger and bitterness.

She then started to recommit her life to the Lord. She reminded God of all of her intimate times with Him and promised to find her way back to Him.

She confessed, she repented, she recommitted and she felt a release of the freedom of hurt and pain.

At the end of the session, it was as if she could not stop smiling. She was testifying of how the Lord had moved upon her, and of the relief she felt as her burdens were lifted. She said she felt a newness and simultaneously sorrow for waiting so long to restore her hope in the Lord.

I am so happy that the Lord used me, and that she was delivered. God is faithful and you can never lose when you are obedient to Him. Right now, I am so ready to be His hands, feet and mouth, as He continues to use me to His glory.

Tameica Blair is a member of the Eastwood Park Road New Testament Church of God in Kingston.





Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean has positioned itself to become the institution of choice for people to access interdisciplinary short courses aimed at enhancing their capacity to serve the church, the community, and their places of employment.

BETHEL BIBLE COLLEGE

filling the gap

IN CONTINUING EDUCATION

By Dr Venesse Morrison-Leon

The significance of lifelong learning cannot be overstated as it plays an instrumental role in shaping individuals into global citizens. By obtaining stackable credentials, professionals may enhance their skills and increase productivity, thereby contributing to personal and professional growth.

With that knowledge in mind, Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean has positioned itself to become the institution of choice for people to access interdisciplinary short courses aimed at enhancing their capacity to serve the church, the community, and their places of employment.

To ensure that we target the needs of prospective students, we prepared a needs assessment survey and disseminated it to all our churches in February 2023. We received over 1,000 expressions of interest for courses in Essential Counselling, Public Speaking, Evangelism, Biblical Foundation,



Events Planning, Media and Ministry, Church Finance, Grief Counselling, Biblical Preaching, Working with Groups, Defending the Faith, Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Mathematics and English Language.

The programme commenced on June 5, 2023 with some 100 participants witnessing the launch. We successfully enrolled and engaged 132 participants in our short courses in summer 2023. The programme ended in July. Currently, there are 148 students registered in another programme that commenced on September 11 and will end on October 20.

The participants transcend denominational and geographical boundaries and we currently have students residing in Canada and the United States of America.

Course evaluations have revealed that overall, 92.3 per cent have expressed satisfaction with the organisation and execution of the programme. Participants shared that the facilitators are knowledgeable, prepared,

experienced, and equipped to facilitate learning in an online environment.

The president of the Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean, Dr. Earlmont Williams, and the Dean, Dr. Ajilon Ferdinand, have endorsed the students' participation in the upcoming graduation exercise scheduled for November 2023.

The students are elated about the graduation and have expressed gratitude to the institution for allowing them the opportunity to participate in this ceremony. For some, this will be their first official graduation ceremony, while others are fascinated with the idea of being associated with one of the leading theological institutions in the Western Hemisphere.

Plans are in place to expand our offerings based on feedback from prospective participants. We will be building out the CSEC offering and pursuing partnerships with HEART/NSTA Trust and other institutions with similar vision.

Our commitment to providing ongoing continuing education opportunities for our members and the community at large remains steadfast.

■ Dr Venesse Morrison-Leon is a Project Consultant.

HAILING OUR HEROES

During the past church year, the denomination celebrated some of the pastors who have served for decades, and have now reached the point in their lives when they are stepping back from active duty and taking time for reflection, and to reminisce on lives well-spent.

Retirement services were held for the following ministers as the members they had won and nurtured over many years got a chance to express their gratitude to them and send them off in style.



REVEREND ALEXANDER AND MRS. LINISHA SIMMS served the New Testament Church of God in Jamaica for 43 years.



REVEREND RALSTON AND MRS. JASMINE SINCLAIR served for 30 years.



REVEREND KEITH OWENS served the denomination for 39 years.



REVEREND UTEL AND MRS. MARTHA ROBINSON served for 29 years.



REVEREND RUDOLPH AND MRS. SILVERA KENNEDY served for eight years.

STRATEGIC UPDATES

– QUARTER ENDING AUGUST 2023 –

TOP 10 CHURCHES IN TITHES PER CAPITA

CHURCH	PASTOR	MEMBERSHIP
1. OLD HARBOUR	Donovan Knight	218
2. RUNAWAY BAY	Deloris Trowers-Huntley	144
3. NEWPORT	Vernon Morrison	97
4. PRATVILLE	Randy Collins	12
5. CORNWALL COURTS	McKennum Prendegast	51
6. OLD HARBOUR BAY	Robin Williams	26
7. PERTH TOWN	Terrence Gayle	12
8. ALBION	Mark Phillips	167
9. BELFIELD	Ralston Johnson	46
10. MALVERN	Joseph Caine	24

(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	MEMBERSHIP
1. MORANT BAY	Nigel Martin	45
2. GREENMOUNT	Allan Brown	4
3. OLD HARBOUR	Donovan Knight	218
4. RUNAWAY BAY	Deloris Trowers-Huntley	144
5. THICKETTS	Raymond Lindsay	11
6. OLD HARBOUR BAY	Robin Williams	26
7. LITTLE BAY	Everod Wright	16
8. PORTLAND COTTAGE	Coleridge Minto	14
9. MALVERN	Joseph Caine	24
10. FLAGAMAN	Sherod Sommerville	14

(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. WALTHAM PARK	Stevenson Samuels
2. PORTMORE	Cornel Shaw
3. MANDEVILLE	Donald Roberts
4. CLIFTON	Monroe Wisdom
5. OLD HARBOUR	Donovan Knight
6. SPANISH TOWN	Osbourne Fisher
7. EASTWOOD PARK	Clement Clarke
8. MONTEGO BAY	Ruel Robinson
9. ESCARPMENT ROAD	Leslie Pinnock
10. ST. ANN'S BAY	Winston Foster

TOP 10 CHURCHES IN OFFERINGS FOR THE QUARTER

CHURCH	PASTOR
1. WALTHAM PARK	Stevenson Samuels
2. MANDEVILLE	Donald Roberts
3. OLD HARBOUR	Donovan Knight
4. PORTMORE	Cornel Shaw
5. CLIFTON	Monroe Wisdom
6. RUNAWAY BAY	Deloris Trowers-Huntley
7. MONTEGO BAY	Ruel Robinson
8. SPANISH TOWN	Osbourne Fisher
9. EASTWOOD PARK	Clement Clarke
10. ESCARPMENT ROAD	Leslie Pinnock

TOP 10 CHURCHES IN GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP

CHURCH	PASTOR	ADDED
1. OLD HARBOUR	Donovan Knight	32
2. ORACABESSA	Wesley Daley	24
3. NEGRIL	Gregory Haughton	22
4. POINT HILL	Dennis Surgeon	15
5. SALEM	Martin Murphy	11
6. GRANTHAM	Seprena Simpson	10
7. CHANTILLY	Lamar Wildman	9
8. DUNCANS	Kirk McFarlane	8
9. SALT SPRING	Carl Wisdom	8
10. GEORGE'S PLAIN	Joseph Jackson	7



TOP CHURCHES IN NUMBER OF PEOPLE BAPTISED IN THE HOLY GHOST

CHURCH	PASTOR	HOLY GHOST FILLED
1. OLD HARBOUR	Donovan Knight	28
2. WALTHAM PARK	Stevenson Samuels	22
3. PORTMORE	Cornel Shaw	20
4. MAY PEN	James Small	18
5. RICHMOND	Leonie Samuels	16
6. ESCARPMENT ROAD	Leslie Pinnock	11
7. PORT ANTONIO	Desmond Green	10
8. MOUNTAIN VIEW	Courtney Beason	8
9. HAYES	Kirk Davis	8
10. JORDAN ROAD	Rhodson Walters	8

TOP 10 IN NUMBER OF PEOPLE BAPTISED IN WATER

CHURCH	PASTOR	W/BAP
1. OLD HARBOUR	Donovan Knight	19
2. JORDAN ROAD	Rhodson Walters	15
3. SPALDING	Steve Hepburn	13
4. ROCK ROSE	Joycelyn Brown	12
5. PORT ANTONIO	Desmond Green	12
6. NEGRIL	Gregory Haughton	11
7. PORTMORE	Cornel Shaw	10
8. SANTA HILL	Marcia Knight	10
9. SCARLETT HALL	Dexton Samuels	9
10. RUNAWAY BAY	Deloris Trowers-Huntley	9

2023 CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2023

KEY VERSE – 1 PETER 4:10

Christian stewardship refers to the responsibility that we have as believers in maintaining and using wisely the gifts and resources with which God has blessed us.

Use this month to remind believers that God is our Source, and we should respond to His love and kindness with generosity and faithfulness. Encourage them to be grateful for God's blessings and to use God's resources well. Preach, teach and promote values and practices such as kindness, tithing, care of the environment, faithful attendance, and time management. Make an effort to connect your stewardship focus to families.

STEWARDSHIP MONTH

DATE	ACTIVITIES/EVENTS	LOCATION
7	Discipleship Training for Leaders	Surrey
15	National Heritage Sunday	Local churches
16	LifeBuilders Family Fun Day	Convention Centre
22-27	National Women's Week	Local churches
26	Annual Ministers' Conference	Mandeville Church
29	Stewardship Sunday (Break the Record Sunday)	Local churches
29	Retirement Service-Rev. Lensworth Gooden	Glasgow
29-Nov. 5	Bethel Week	National
31	Deadline for Submission of Credentialing Application	

KEY VERSE – PSALMS 96:3

Christian missions is sharing the Gospel with the lost world through words and deeds.

During this month, churches are encouraged to increase their awareness of global missions. All Christians should increase their knowledge of what is happening to believers who live in places that are hostile to the Christian faith. Members should be encouraged to pray earnestly for missionaries and persecuted Christians and support them with prayers and financial donations. Attention should also be given to local missions, especially in our communities.

Suggested activities for the month include, missions service, community outreach, special Bible studies, and sharing of information on persecuted countries.

NOVEMBER 2023

MISSIONS MONTH

DATE	ACTIVITIES/EVENTS	LOCATION
4	Music and Worship Workshop	Northern Region
5	Retirement Service – Reverend Leroy Muir	Yallahs Church
5	Missions Sunday	Local Churches
7	Female Pastors' Enrichment Session	Virtual
11	God-Style Lifestyle – Eastern	Eastern Region – EPR
12	Bethel Bible College Graduation	Mandeville
16	New and Young Ministers Wives Meeting	Virtual
25	Diaspora Youth Forum	Online
26	National Boys' Sunday (LifeBuilders)	
26	Retirement Service – Reverend Bertram Tomlinson	Clark's Town Church

KEY VERSE – JOSHUA 24:15

Let us use the month of December to bring our families to church. Plan activities and programmes that will impact family members. These may include, socials, family-based competitions, special Bible studies and sermons.

DECEMBER 2023

FAMILY AND CHURCH CONNECTION MONTH

DATE	ACTIVITIES/EVENTS	LOCATION
1-3	Boys and Young Men's LifeBuilders Camp	Campsite – St Ann
11	Ministers and Spouses Marriage Enrichment Session	Virtual
21	National Office Closes (Re-Opens January 3)	
24	Christmas Sunday	Local churches
31	Watchnight and Thanksgiving Services	Local churches