

# eREACH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD – JAMAICA

VOL 3 NO 4 | DEC 2022

UNWRAP THE  
NEW YEAR  
WITH HOPE

PARTNERING  
WITH GOD  
THROUGH  
PRAYER

HE HAS  
BROUGHT ME  
A MIGHTY  
LONG WAY

PARISH TOURS  
START WITH  
A BANG

DIPLOMATIC  
IMMUNITY  
AND DIVINE  
ACCESS

LENNOX WALKER'S LONG WALK FROM

**SIMPLETON  
SAGE<sup>TO</sup>  
SAGE**

# CONTENTS

## EDITOR'S NOTE

**EDITORIAL TEAM** 3

**UNWRAP THE NEW YEAR WITH HOPE** 4

**LENNOX WALKER'S LONG WALK FROM SIMPLETON TO SAGE** 5

**PARTNERING WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER** 7

**HE HAS BROUGHT ME A MIGHTY LONG WAY** 8

**A CALL TO STAND UP FOR JUSTICE** 10

**PARISH TOURS BEGIN WITH A BANG** 11

**DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AND DIVINE ACCESS** 13

**STRATEGIC UPDATES** 15

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS** 16

**COVER IMAGE:** A worship session in full swing at the Praise Cathedral Worship Centre built by Bishop Lennox Walker in Canada.

# 14

**MEN'S MINISTRY LIFTING BOYS TO A HIGHER PLACE**

# STEPPING INTO ANOTHER PRODUCTIVE YEAR

**W**e are already four months into the new church year, and if the reports and observations are anything to go by, then we are once again in for another productive year.

It is our understanding that Stewardship Month, observed in November, saw a bevy of activities as auxiliaries in many of the churches organised creative programmes in an effort to exemplify what it means to be a good steward of the resources with which human beings have been blessed.

Fellowship Month in December also went well, as churches organised activities for the spiritual and social upliftment of the constituents, and many members have come out of the month with a greater understanding of the true meaning and origins of the word 'fellowship'.

For the quarter ahead, the focus will be on spiritual enrichment, community outreach projects and empowering men within your church and community. We encourage you to pay special attention to the suggested activities, particularly for the month of February, as together we endeavour to add value to the lives of people within our church and community.

This issue of **eREACH** is chockful of features. We bring you the Bishop's new year's message; there is an interesting exposition on prayer that we hope will be of immense benefit during the Spiritual Enrichment Month. There is a feature on Bishop Lennox Walker, who continues to create waves in the Diaspora. In fact, this article is the first of a series that we will be carrying in each issue of **eREACH** as we bring you stories of members of the Diaspora.

In this edition also, we feature one of our local pastors, Reverend Kevin Wilson, who tells an inspiring story about learning to read by going to the Bible. There is also report on a new effort to allow the Administrative Bishop to connect with members in many of the churches. We hope you will find the articles interesting.

We look forward to receiving the reports of success for the new quarter. You may reach us at [communications.ntcogja@gmail.com](mailto: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

Andewale McLaughlin

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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

[communications.ntcogja@gmail.com](mailto:communications.ntcogja@gmail.com)

## ABOUT US

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

## 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](http://www.ntcogjamaica.org)

# UNWRAP THE New Year WITH HOPE

**W**e bid farewell to 2022 with a sense of gratitude and a sigh of relief, thanking God that we have made it. We made it through many challenges and setbacks, even when others predicted that we would have failed. We made it and are stronger, wiser, and more mature. Even as we raise the song of victory and prepare to do the praise dance, I am conscious of those who have suffered one loss or another during the year. Some have lost loved ones, their marriages, their jobs, their health, and their businesses; but the most painful loss is the reality that some have abandoned their faith. Real life is indeed mixed with gratitude and grief. We rejoice in our Lord who is God of the mountain and God in the midst of our valleys.

As we unwrap the gift of a new year, I ask us to do so with a sense of hope and a spirit of humility. We can accomplish much this year, but let us remember that our dependence must be on our Lord Jesus.

As we reflect on 2022, we echo, "If it had not been for the Lord on our sides ..." (Psalm 124:1), we would have been consumed. Be reminded that it is the same Lord who will go before us and journey with us in 2023.

My prayer for the Church of God is that we honour God as we seek to fulfil His mission in this time and season. I pray that our evangelistic efforts will intensify, and that the harvest of souls



will multiply. I pray that many more believers will become God's harvest partners, sharing faith and supporting the evangelistic ministries of the church. With the increase in evangelism, I pray that 2023 will also be a year of deepening discipleship, and a stronger commitment to stewardship and passionate worship.

I pray for every pastor and every member that 2023

will be a year of progress. This is not a year for cowards. We must step out with confidence and with a renewed commitment to justice and loving service. Let us push back against the subtle and overt forces of evil. May the Lord give us discernment to recognise the principalities and powers and the courage and strength to raise the sword of the Spirit to defeat them. We can, with the Spirit's enabling power and the cutting edge of biblical truth.

I pray for our young people that they will not give in to the darkness around them. We pray that they will complete their education and training, maintain moral purity, and give of their time and treasures in furthering the work of the Kingdom of God.

Thank you, brothers and sisters, for giving to the Lord. May your tears turn into joy and your mourning into dancing.

May the words of Psalm 31:23-24 guide you in the year ahead: "*Love the LORD, all his faithful people! The LORD preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.*"

Happy New Year!

*Bishop Dr. Roy Notice*

ADMINISTRATIVE BISHOP

# LENNOX WALKER'S LONG WALK FROM SIMPLETON TO SAGE

Forty years ago, Lennox Walker was labelled a dunce. Today, he is being hailed as one of the great success stories of the New Testament Church of God in Jamaica.

“When I started in primary school, I was the most brilliant kid . . . . At about grade three, I started to regress and I regressed to the point where I became a dunce. So when my mother came back from England, she found a young man at nearly age 15 that couldn’t read . . . . She nearly kill me wid lick,” Bishop Walker reveals.

“But that did something for me,” he continues, “because in a short time, I rediscovered myself – that I wasn’t a dunce, that I was brilliant as anybody.”

Unlike his two siblings, the Senior Pastor of Praise Cathedral Worship Centre in Canada for 26 years and former Administrative Bishop for Eastern Canada did not have the benefit of a secondary education and felt as if life had dealt him an unfair blow.

However, all that changed in 1976, when he walked to the altar at the Crooked River New Testament Church of God and said “yes” to Jesus.

“I was totally sold out; my life was a total reverse. My pastor, the late Dermot Walden, said to me, ‘There is something special about you’, and he prophesied to me that the Lord had called me to ministry. I realised if I’m going to do ministry effectively, I needed to be trained, and hence I went off to Bethel Bible College.”

It was at Bethel that he developed a voracious appetite for the Word of God. When he completed his programme of study, he thought he still needed to become even more engrossed in the Scriptures. That search led him to Tyndale

University in Toronto, Canada. But getting to Canada would see Bishop Walker surviving disappointments and a nervous breakdown.

His first pastorate was the Old Harbour New Testament Church in St. Catherine.

“Bishop [James] Douglas at the time was my overseer . . . . It was like they didn’t have anywhere to put me and they sent me to two churches in Hanover, Maryland and Medley, and the people said they didn’t want me because I was a young man. They sent me to Old Harbour. Bishop Douglas told me that for two-plus years not one soul has been saved, not one soul had been baptised in water and the church was dying. He said, ‘Will you go, young man?’, and with tears in my eyes, I said, ‘Yes, sir.’”

After being at the church for one year, he met and married Dorett, with whom he now shares five children. He remained at the Old Harbour Church for three-and-a-half years

before he was transferred.

That move came at a time when his wife had just given birth to their first son, the church was growing, and he was beginning to feel comfortable. His spirit was broken to the point where he had to seek psychiatric help as he went into depression.

## WEST PROSPECT'S REVIVAL

Three months into receiving the help he needed, he was ready to take up the pastorate at O’Meally and West Prospect in St. Catherine.

“When we went to West Prospect, another church that wasn’t going anywhere, we had the greatest revival; 31 young people in a short time, in less than two months, I baptised [them] and the revival started,” says Bishop Walker.

It was while at West Prospect that he received the invitation to travel to Canada, and after a few visits, he decided that he would settle there.

But in Canada, he felt that he no longer wanted to be in ministry and toyed with the idea of becoming a helicopter pilot. That, however, was only a momentary thought and he was back in ministry after seven years.

“So my first pastorate in Canada was 11 people at the church in East Toronto called East Toronto Church of God. And in two years, the church was running nearly 250 people.”

After two years at the East Toronto Church, he was transferred to the Erin Mills Holiness Church of God, which had \$1 million in debt.

“I sold the church; brought the people into a school room, paid off the \$1 million and we had less than \$50,000, and I told them I’m going to build Praise Cathedral Worship Centre . . . . Some people left, some thought I was an idiot, some thought I was a dictator. But I was listening to the voice of God,” says Bishop Walker.

Today, the church owns and

**CONT'D AS WALKER'S WALK ON PAGE 6**





# WALKER'S WALK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

operates a daycare facility with a capacity for 48 children and a full-service funeral home.

For his contribution to the development of society, Bishop Walker has been featured in the **150 Extraordinary Canadians: Our Leadership And Innovation Legacy** book; received the Excellence Award for Leadership presented by Afroglobal Television in October 2018; he was on the cover of **Destiny** magazine in 2017; and in 2013, he received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Government of Ontario. In 2020, he was honoured by the Jamaican government with the Order of Distinction (Officer Class).

He currently serves on the Council of 18 – the highest executive council of the Church of God and on the World Missions Board, as well as the Pentecostal Theological Seminary and the European Theological Seminary boards.

He gives back to others by sponsoring students at the Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean, Northern Caribbean University and the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. For the past four years, he has given 55 scholarships to students in Cameroon and has sponsored students in Indonesia for a mission trip to Singapore. He has also been instrumental in helping to build a medical clinic in Uganda.

“In Cameroon, I was able to release 13 prisoners from prison because they couldn’t pay their fines and they were kept in prison for all these years and I was privileged to have done that. My heart is about humanity and I don’t care who you are, as long as you are a human being, you’re valuable to me,” says Bishop Walker.

“I have said to people, do not despise the least among us. I have lived by that . . . I am more motivated to hang out with [and] talk with people who are underprivileged. So my greatest joy is lifting up people, allowing people to see light when they once lived in darkness,” he adds.



# PARTNERING WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER

By Diego Dunchie

When God created man, He gave him dominion over the earth, which simply means man is primarily responsible for what happens on earth. God will only act or intervene on earth if man invites Him to do so, and one way of extending this invitation to God is through prayer. Based on the laws of territory, that approach is known as shared dominion.

God will not act by Himself, and man cannot act by himself. Prayer then is a joint venture between the Creator and His creatures. The omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and transcendent King of the universe invites us into a relationship to partner with Him to colonise earth with the ambience of heaven.

Prayer is not a new product to be promoted or an invention that comes with a manual; prayer is an intimate encounter with God.

Prayer may be defined as a wish, a desire, or a vow. Prayer was usually used to depict a person who made a vow to God because of a need in his or her life. According to Renner 2021, *“This individual would come to an altar, and instead of offering the sacrifice of an animal, they would vow to give something of great value to God in exchange for a favourable answer to prayer. A perfect example of this can be seen in the story of Hannah – the mother of Samuel.”*

It is Leonard Ravenhill, who says, “God doesn’t just answer prayer; He answers desperate prayers.” The believer cannot survive without having daily intimate exchanges with the Lord, where the transcendent and immanent One becomes a reality in the prayer closet. If this is going to be our experience, then, we must move from a prayer meeting mentality into a prayer culture mindset, where our days are punctuated with periods of prayer.

No one is greater than his or her prayer life. The most accurate measure of the health of your spiritual life is your prayer life. God is measuring the church by its prayer life and not by its seating capacity. If the church is not obtaining victory, it means that the church is not partnering with God and, as a result, is losing territory.

If we are going to partner with God in prayer, we must pray scripturally and not just emotionally. The New Testament uses several Greek words that will help us pray from a scriptural standpoint. Each of these forms of prayer is different and is symbolised by the multiple types of Roman lances (Eph. 6:18),

that were used to battle against enemy forces.

Each form of prayer is continually at our disposal to use in our fight of faith, as posited by Rick Renner in his book, **Different Kinds of Prayer**. Those types of prayers may be categorised as:

- 1. Prayer of Consecration** – This is the first type of prayer spoken about throughout the New Testament. It is taken from a translation of the Greek word *proseuchomai*, which is the compound of the words *pros* and *euchomai*. The word *pros* denotes something that is close or intimate. This is very important because it tells us that prayer is intended to bring us into a place of divine intimacy. Until you are consecrated and set apart from that which is unholy, you cannot experience intimacy with God.
- 2. Prayer of Petition** – This type of prayer is derived from the Greek word *deesis*, which literally describes a need or a want. It appears in various forms, and is used more than 40 times in the New Testament. It is the second most common word for prayer in Scripture. Through this prayer, we make our wants and needs known to God.
- 3. Prayer of Authority/Prayer of Faith** – This type of prayer is taken from the Greek word *aiteo*, and is used approximately 80 times in the New Testament. Jesus used it in John 15:7 to describe asking God for something based on His Word abiding in our hearts. The *aiteo* really means to demand or to command that something be done. This word tells us that when we know and are confident of what the Bible says, we do not have to be sheepish when we pray.
- 4. Prayer of Thanksgiving** – This type of prayer is taken from the Greek word *eucharisteo*, which is a compound of the words *eu* and *charistia*. It describes something that is good or well, and a generally good disposition or feeling about someone or something. This prayer is seen all over the New Testament, especially in Paul’s epistles, where he joyfully thanks God for certain people and the churches he was privileged to guide.
- 5. Prayer of Supplication** – This type of prayer is found in the New Testament. It is derived from the Greek word *enteuxis*, which means to fall into a situation or to happen into a circumstance with someone else. It depicts us falling into a place of love with Jesus when we pray, and it is used only five times in the New Testament.
- 6. Prayer of Agreement** – In Matthew 18:19, Jesus says, “Again, I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything ...” The word ‘agree’ in the verse is *sumphoneo*, from which the word symphony is derived. It means to agree together or to come into agreement, and it conveys the idea of harmony and unity in prayer. When we get into harmony with each other on any issue God has promised in His Word, He moves into action.

7.

CONTINUED AS PRAYER ON PAGE 9



HE HAS BROUGHT ME A

# *mighty* **LONG** *way*

---

## THE STORY OF PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS

---



**A**t the age of 14, while many of his peers were looking forward to a bright future, Kevin Williams had no hope. What he had was an absentee father, a poverty-stricken single mother and five siblings.

Williams could not read. His situation seemed hopeless, but looking back, he now knows that God was getting ready to perform a miracle in his life.

“At 15, I started going to church and I had only one wish: I asked the Lord to help me to learn to read before I die. That’s all I wanted,” said Rev. Williams, who now leads the John’s Hall New Testament Church of God in St. James.

“The Lord gave me inspiration and I found a Bible and miraculously, the way that I learned to read was through reading the Bible. Nobody taught me. I would just pick up the Bible and try,

and one day, I found myself reading.”

Everyone was shocked when they realized that he had learned to read by studying the Bible – arguably one of the most difficult pieces of literature.

“Even my mother was overwhelmed the first time she heard me reading,” Rev. Williams said.

He was not aware that this was the first of many miracles, and that God would orchestrate a series of events to reveal His goodness in his life.

With his newfound skill, Williams immediately knew he had to go back to school. But at almost 16 years old, no high school would accept him.

“I took my younger brother’s birth

**CONTINUED AS  
WILLIAMS’ WAY ON PAGE 9**

... Miraculously, the way that I learned to read was through reading the Bible. Nobody taught me. I would just pick up the Bible and try, and one day, I found myself reading.

# WILLIAMS' WAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

paper to the high school I wanted to attend. I gave it to the principal and admissions person myself. So I enrolled under my younger brother's name and the school thought I was 14 years old," Rev. Wilson reminisced.

Once he enrolled, he took his studies seriously and was soon regarded as one of the top students in his grade. But his stolen identity could not stay buried for long and the administrators eventually found out that he was not the person he claimed to be.

"One day the principal called me in her office and said to me, 'I know that your name is not Omar, so tell me the truth.' That's when I told her. But she didn't turn me out of the school, she just corrected the name on my file. That same principal eventually made me the head prefect of the school. Other students were chosen by teachers, but the principal chose me," Rev. Wilson said.

At the end of high school, Wilson was sure he was not called to live a mediocre life and that God had a lot in store for him.

He beamed with pride as he told eREACH how the Lord told him to enrol at the Bethel Bible College in Manchester. Those years would be some of the most challenging, but God allowed it all so His glory could be seen.

"The years at Bethel were very difficult and it was God who helped me to finish. That was the first time in my life I had to use a computer. I had to research and prepare papers of a certain quality. But the Lord touched my mind and my spirit and gave me the appetite and the interest to learn. God also provided other students to help me with a lot of the school work and research," Rev. Wilson stated.

## LIFE THREATENED

And just when he thought his worst challenges were behind him, his life was threatened by appendicitis.

"By the time I found out it was appendicitis, the doctors thought I was going to die because it was far gone. While I was in the hospital, friends and colleagues came and bade me farewell," Rev. Wilson testified. "Others came to me and made things right because they thought I was going to die. But I said, 'God I can't die because I have your Word to preach and I don't want anybody else to marry the lady I am courting'," he said between chuckles.

Two weeks after an all-night prayer meeting and surgery, Wilson was healed.

His fast recovery stunned even his doctor who initially predicted that it would take some three months to recover from surgery.

He eventually finished his studies at Bethel, married the woman he was courting, and has been preaching and teaching the Word of God for some 10 years now.



The father of one credits Reverend Clement Clarke and the saints at the Montego Bay New Testament Church of God for much of his development as a young pastor. He believes his years of service at that church prepared him to lead the members at the John's Hall New Testament Church of God, where he currently serves.

He still has a zeal and passion for education, which led him to the International University of the Caribbean, where he is pursuing a Master's in Counselling and Psychology.

He wants those struggling with different challenges in life to know that God still works miracles in the lives of His people.

"You have to have a personal conviction that God is a good God. I realise that when you have a personal conviction that God is Jehovah Jireh, then He will provide. I don't know how He does it, but He always does," said Rev. Wilson emphatically.

## PRAYER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

**Prayer of Intercession** – This type of prayer used in the New Testament is taken from the Greek word, *huperentugchano*. It is the rarest of all the words denoting prayer and is only found one time in the entire

New Testament. It was created directly by the Holy Spirit just for Romans 8:26, and it denotes supernatural prayer or intercession by the Holy Spirit Himself.

When it comes to prayer, it is not a one-size-fits-all. The Christian's spiritual arsenal is filled with different types of weapons, inclusive of prayer. As a church, we must learn to pray

targeted or focused prayers, using the list posited above.

Dr. Myles Munroe posited, "Time spent in prayer is not time wasted, but time invested." It is time to invest with God.

■ Reverend Diego Dunchie is pastor of the Duhaney Park New Testament Church of God.

“

**Justice is a duty that calls us to account for actions even when those actions aren't ours.**

”

A CALL TO  
STAND UP FOR  
**JUSTICE**

### By Sherine Williams

**J**ustice is a central theme of the Bible that should be spoken about more. God's justice shows up as early as Genesis 3:23, when Adam and Eve are cast out of the Garden of Eden for disobeying God. It was a consequence for an action they were warned against. God delivered justice after they broke the law, for He is just and believes in treating people fairly even when they are wrong. He has also called His people to be “just” like Him.

Justice may be seen as fairness –meting out treatment that fits people's actions. More important, justice is about what we do when we observe others being wronged. It's a duty that calls us to account for actions even when those actions aren't ours. Justice is a duty that shouldn't be ignored. Yet, as Jamaicans, we ignore it quite often.

Over the years, injustice and the unjust have dramatically increased in our society. New subcultures of crime, violence and inequality have emerged and have even worsened since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those subcultures have given us new opportunities to become even more selfish, as we are forced to focus on our own protection and prosperity, and ignore the suffering of others. We think it is quite in order to ignore the wrongs as long as we are not the perpetrators or victims.

But we are God's representatives in Jamaica. As the church, we have a duty to counteract the crime that is sweeping our nation, and to fight the corruption that has beset high and low places in our society. We do not have to take over the job of the police, government or the courts of law to do so. We can do what the church does: pray, live, teach, preach, act and develop our own initiatives that directly counteract the agents of injustice, crime, violence and corruption in our society.

Whatever we do, we have to take a stand against injustice in this society.

Throughout history, the church has played a role in changing cultures and advancing the welfare of many who were facing injustice. For example, there was a time, not too long ago, when illiteracy swept our nation. The church gave land, established schools and helped to educate the nation's children. Today, generations have been lifted out of poverty because of schools started by local churches. Because of the church, illiteracy is no longer a major problem in the country. It took time, but the church played its part in changing culture and it can do the same now.

It's time for Christians to stand boldly against crime, violence, corruption and the injustices brought on by those scourges. Individual Christians can play a part by living justly and speaking against acts of injustice. As a church, there is a need to strategise and formulate ways to lead our nation back to justice. We can change the culture of injustice if we do it by faith. After all, the just shall live by faith (Romans 1:17).



# PARISH TOURS BEGIN WITH A BANG

**N**ovember was a special month for the members of the denomination in Westmoreland and Clarendon.

It was during those months that the national leadership team, led by the Administrative Bishop, Dr. Roy Notice, descended on those churches in a new initiative called ‘parish tours’.

This approach is aimed at providing the leadership of the denomination with a first-hand view of the members in their environment and the churches and to give members an opportunity to interact with the leaders.

The four-day tours – two in each parish – were divided into three segments: visits to the churches, interaction with members and pastors, and a general members’ consultation and worship session.

“The parish tours blessed me beyond expectations. I call them field tours. I was deeply inspired by the members and pastors I interfaced with. I was humbled by the evidence of their sacrificial service and their loyalty to the church,” said Bishop Notice.

Over the period, the team visited 21 of 26



churches in Westmoreland and of the 21 pastors in the parish, 20 participated in the tours. For Southeast Clarendon, nine of the 13 churches participated and 11 of 12 pastors in that region joined the tours.

Accompanying the Administrative Bishop on the tours were: National Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. Orville Plummer; National Youth and Discipleship Director, Rev. Dr. Kevin Page; National Men’s Ministries Director, Rev. Nigel Martin; National Director of Ministerial Care and Development, Rev. Cavon Campbell; Administrative Assistant, Josette Benjamin; and Rev. Jephitha Reid, Lower Clarendon Parish Coordinator.





# PARISH TOURS BEGIN WITH A BANG



Williamsfield  
New Testament Church of God

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Sunday	Sunday School..... 9:30am - 10:45am
	Divine Worship..... 11:30am
	Evangelistic Service..... 6:00pm
Monday	Family Life Ministry..... 7:00pm
Tuesday	Fasting Service..... 9:00am
Wednesday	Bible Studies..... 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Thursday	Life Builders 1 <sup>st</sup> / 3 <sup>rd</sup> ..... 7:00pm
	Ladies Ministry 2 <sup>nd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> ..... 7:00pm
Friday	Choir Rehearsal..... 7:00pm
	Youth Fellowship..... 7:00pm

Host Pastor: Rev. Patrice Butler



# DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AND DIVINE ACCESS



By Renee DeLeon

During my recent travels, I was in transit in Miami, Florida. When I arrived at the airport, I realised that the lines to go through immigration were long. I believe there must have been about 1,000 people or more waiting in line. I spotted reggae artiste Chronixx, who had come in on the same flight, but was in first class. I saw him and Health and Wellness Minister, Dr Christopher Tufton, when I entered the aircraft.

Anyway, I was close to the lavatory – all the way around the back. I was last to get off the aircraft as a result.

Now, standing in immigration, I was becoming a little anxious because I had to catch a connecting flight. My flight would have been for 4:30 p.m. and at 3:50 p.m., I was nowhere close to being called by an officer, plus I had to get my luggage and check in again. And my gate was far away, too!

I started praying, asking the Lord for favour and the grace for speed. I also remember texting a friend and telling her I thought the artiste had diplomatic immunity and would not need to join those long lines, especially since I didn't see the government minister in the large gathering.

I prayed and prayed again, then decided that I needed to speak with someone because faith without works is dead. I walked over to a man,

who, without even looking up from his computer, explicitly told me I would have to get on another flight as there was no way I would make it out of the immigration and customs areas in good time.

I felt in my heart, though, that the Lord was going to “pull a string” for me, especially since I pride myself on being a Kingdom citizen.

While that man was unable to assist, he told me to ask someone else. I walked over to a woman in uniform and before I could even finish speaking she said, “Come, go into this line.” It was an express line reserved for pilots. In less than two minutes, I was processed with enough time to get my luggage, check that in, and grab a bite to eat. I was last off the aircraft but first out of immigration. *“But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” (Mark 10:31)*

I was also the last person to board the second flight, but I made it. Reggae artistes and other folks may not have diplomatic immunity, but I do. As Kingdom citizens, I believe we are not confined by the systems of this world. Deuteronomy 11:24 outlines clearly, *“Every place where you put your foot will be yours: from the wasteland and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates as far as the Great Sea, will be the limits of your land.”*

As children of God, remember the next time you enter a room, the Kingdom of God has arrived.

“As Kingdom citizens, I believe we are not confined by the systems of this world.”





# MEN'S MINISTRY LIFTING BOYS TO A HIGHER PLACE



The month was December. The year 2022, when 108 young men and boys at different stages in life descended on the camp site in St. Ann for the first-of-its-kind young men and boys camp.

Organised by the LifeBuilders Men's Ministry, the aim of the camp was to bring that population together to find practical solutions to the challenges facing them.

"This intervention strategy sought to help young men discover a path to transformation and impact. Through this L.I.F.T. [Loving Intervention For Transformation] strategy, we are seeking to lift our young men and boys from the ashes of indifference, the grave of despair, the shackles of crime and violence,

and position them to be men of courage, justice, and service. In so doing, we advance the kingdom of God and, by extension, LIFT Jamaica," says Rev. Nigel Martin, President of the National LifeBuilder's Men's Ministry.

Those offering service to the campers were chefs, a medical doctor, a trained counsellor, a sports coordinator and six male dorm leaders.

Facilitators included Inspector Craig Welsh, Rev. Stanley Ivey, Rev. Dr. Kevin Page, Rev. Orville Plummer, Rev. Coleridge Minto and Rev. Nigel Martin.

At the end of the three-day camp, six young men indicated that they had made a decision to follow Christ.



# STRATEGIC UPDATES

## TOP 10 CHURCHES IN TITHES PER CAPITA

CHURCH	PASTOR	MEMBERSHIP
1. MOUNT PEACE	Stephanie Kirlaw	8
2. RUNAWAY BAY	Deloris Trowers-Huntley	132
3. NEWPORT	Vernon Morrison	68
4. PERTH TOWN	Terrence Gayle	12
5. ALBION	Mark Phillips	167
6. CORNWALL COURTS	Mckenhum Pendegrast	43
7. BELFIELD	Ralston Johnson	39
8. EXCHANGE	Michael Cameron	116
9. BUFF BAY	Michael Asphall	64
10. WYNTERS PEN	Errol Duncan	82

(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. MALVERN	Joseph Caine	20
2. MOUNT PEACE	Stephanie Kirlaw	8
3. RUNAWAY BAY	Deloris Trowers-Huntley	132
4. SCARLETT HALL	Dexton Samuels	55
5. NEWPORT	Vernon Morrison	68
6. PERTH TOWN	Terrence Gayle	12
7. PRATVILLE	Randy Collins	12
8. EXCHANGE	Michael Cameron	116
9. SANDY BAY (Clarendon)	Antonio Mitchell	138
10. LITTLE BAY	Everod Wright	16

(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 IN NUMBER OF PEOPLE BAPTISED IN WATER

CHURCH	PASTOR	W/BAP
1. FRANKFIELD	Hopeton Jarrett	21
2. DUANVALE	Terrence Gayle	12
3. BULL BAY	Roy Warren	10
4. RIVERSIDE	Alton Thelwell	9
5. FALMOUTH	Lloyd Lawrence	7
6. PORTMORE	Cornell Shaw	7
7. STEER TOWN	Mario Reid	7
8. AENON TOWN	Steve Hepburn	4
9. MANDEVILLE	Donald Roberts	4
10. NEW HOPE	Shantel Anderson	4

## – QUARTER ENDING NOVEMBER 2022 –

## TOP 10 CHURCHES IN TITHES FOR THE QUARTER

CHURCH	PASTOR
1. PORTMORE	Cornell Shaw
2. WALTHAM PARK	Stevenson Samuels
3. CLIFTON	Monroe Wisdom
4. ST. ANN'S BAY	Winston Foster
5. SPANISH TOWN	Osbourne Fisher
6. ESCARPMENT ROAD	Leslie Pinnock
7. PORT ANTONIO	Desmond Green
8. LINSTAD	Jephitha Reid
9. COBBLA	Errol Gooden
10. MONTEGO BAY	Ruel Robinson

## TOP 10 CHURCHES IN OFFERINGS FOR THE QUARTER

CHURCH	PASTOR
1. PORTMORE	Cornell Shaw
2. WALTHAM PARK	Stevenson Samuels
3. CLIFTON	Monroe Wisdom
4. ESCARPMENT ROAD	Leslie Pinnock
5. MANDEVILLE	Donald Roberts
6. MAY PEN	James Small
7. SPANISH TOWN	Osbourne Fisher
8. LINSTAD	Jephitha Reid
9. OLD HARBOUR	Alexander Simms
10. ST. ANN'S BAY	Winston Foster

## TOP 10 CHURCHES IN NUMBER OF MEMBERS ADDED

CHURCH	PASTOR	ADDED
1. PORT ANTONIO	Desmond Green	14
2. ESCARPMENT ROAD	Leslie Pinnock	13
3. GLASGOW	Reckonel Simpson	13
4. LOWER BUXTON	Lainel Lewin	8
5. ROCKY SETTLEMENT	Coleridge Minto	8
6. DUTCH HILL	Nicola Walcott-Robinson	7
7. MOUNTAIN VIEW	Courtney Beason	7
8. AUGUST TOWN	Brian Campbell	7
9. BULL BAY	Roy Warren	5
10. RUNAWAY BAY	Deloris Trowers-Huntley	5

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

CHURCH	PASTOR	HOLY GHOST FILLED
1. FFRENCH PARK	Janet Forrest-Cuff	13
2. PORT ANTONIO	Desmond Green	10
3. FRANKFIELD	Hopeton Jarrett	7
4. FALMOUTH	Lloyd Lawrence	4
5. LAWRENCE PARK	Bernard Riley	3
6. CAVE	Owayne Frater	3
7. DUANVALE	Terrence Gayle	3
8. MASON RIVER	Clive Cole	3
9. SANDY BAY (Hanover)	Everton Robinson	3
10. SPRING GARDEN	Chez Cameron	3



*Congrats to all our top churches!*

# 2023 CALENDAR

## JANUARY 2023

### SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT MONTH

DATE	ACTIVITIES/EVENTS	LOCATION
1	New Year's Sunday	
3	National Office reopens	
7	Let the Men Pray (LifeBuilders Prayer Session)	
7	Lay leadership training. Third cohort begins	Virtual
9	Credentiailling and Ministry Preparation Seminar	TBD
16	District Pastors' Quarterly Enrichment Session	Virtual (p.m.)
19	Parish Prayer and Word Conference	Each Parish
29	National Prayer and Testimony Sunday	Local church

## FEBRUARY 2023

### L.I.F.T. MONTH

#### (LOVING INTERVENTION FOR TRANSFORMATION)

DATE	ACTIVITIES/EVENTS	LOCATION
1	Launch of Bethel's 80th Anniversary Celebration	
1-28	Sunday School Expansion Campaign	Local Church
2	Ministers' Enrichment Session	TBD
3	Youth and Discipleship Eastern Arts Celebration	Eastwood Park Church
5	National L.I.F.T. Sunday	Local church
6-10	Regional Evangelism Seminars	Regions
11	National Sunday School Seminar	Mandeville Church
16	Hour of Power	Virtual
18	Regional Talent Showcase Competition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastern</li> <li>• Central</li> <li>• North-Eastern</li> <li>• Western</li> </ul>	Eastwood Park May Pen Ocho Rios Montego Bay
20	Ministerial Examinations	Bethel Bible College
22	Ash Wednesday – Beginning of Lent (40 days)	
	Women's Ministries Regional Convention– Cornwall	TBD
25	Music and Worship Workshop	National
26	Baptism Sunday	Local Church

## MARCH 2023

### MEN'S EMPOWERMENT MONTH

DATE	ACTIVITIES/EVENTS	LOCATION
1-31	Bible Reading Month – Youth and Discipleship	Local Church
8	International Women's Day Conference	Virtual
11	Children's and Teens' Bible Quiz Competition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Play-offs</li> </ul>	Eastwood Park, May Pen, Black River, Oracabessa; Montego Bay
17-19	National Tertiary Students Ministry Retreat	TBD
21	District Pastors' Quarterly Enrichment Session	TBD
26	National Men's Sunday	Local Church
26-31	Men's Week	Local Church
31	Men in Praise Dominion Parish Fest	Parish

*Happy  
New Year!*