



BETHEL FOCUS



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

by Anna-Kaye Mighty,
ICT Director



As our Saviour made sacrifices for us, stalwarts have made this institution a beacon of hope. In this edition of the Bethel Focus, we honour their sacrifices, as well as highlight work being done at the college. May we be inspired to follow their example.

Enjoy reading!

BBCC-J RECEIVES REACCREDITATION

The Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean - Jamaica has received reaccreditation for its Bachelor's Degree and Diploma programmes by the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ). This is a significant achievement for the institution and its commitment to providing quality theological education.

This reaccreditation is proof of the college's hard work and dedication to providing students with a transformative theological education. The Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean - Jamaica is proud to continue its mission of preparing individuals for effective Christian ministry, and the reaccreditation gives assurance to students and the wider community of the high quality of education offered. Graduates of the college will not only possess a recognized qualification but also be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to make a positive impact in various aspects of Christian ministry and service, both locally and internationally.

As we celebrate this achievement, we give thanks to God for His faithfulness and guidance in the journey towards reaccreditation. We also extend our appreciation to the UCJ for its support and recognition of the college's academic excellence.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Rev. Dr. Earlmont Williams



In this post-pandemic world, Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean - Jamaica continues to realize its mission to prepare God's people from varying backgrounds for effective ministry in the Church and transformational service in the world. This institution has survived many transitions, challenges, and storms, literally and figuratively. Its continued existence is testament to its divine origin and the tenacity and invaluable contributions of several denominational leaders, principals/presidents, administrative and ancillary staff, and faculty members over the years.

As we continue to celebrate Bethel's 80th anniversary, we are grateful that the College is in a healthy and stable condition. We dare not forget or overlook the significant commitments that many servants of the Lord have made to ensure that Bethel has survived and thrived for so long. We salute all the past board chairpersons, presidents, and academic deans for their sterling contributions to the growth, development, and success of this esteemed institution.

In the spirit of our 80th anniversary theme, *"Bethel 80: Rooted, Relevant, Repositioned,"* we must acknowledge the deep roots that have been established by the sacrifices of the aforementioned individuals who have served this institution with unwavering dedication.

Foremost among the noteworthy servants of Bethel's cause and stewards of its heritage is my immediate predecessor, Rev. Dr. Donald Roberts. His visionary leadership over a decade has been influential in shaping the course of BBCC-J. His tireless efforts and innovative ideas have left an indelible mark on the institution, and his legacy continues to inspire us as we move forward.

Someone who is also deserving of recognition is Mr. Winston Barrett, our gardener and groundsman. He has served us faithfully and tirelessly for about 21 years. His dedication to maintaining the beauty and tranquility of our campus is a testament to his love for Bethel. His work, often performed behind the scenes, has contributed significantly to the atmosphere of peace and serenity that is conducive to learning and spiritual growth.

Mrs. Neveene Clarke-O'Brien, our longstanding Business and Finance Director, has served with unwavering dedication and professionalism for many years. Her steadfast commitment has been helpful in maintaining the financial and administrative health and stability of our institution. We also pay tribute to our faculty members who have served sacrificially for over 20 years. Rev. Dr. Roy Notice, Rev. Dr. Clement Clarke, and Rev. Cornell Shaw have each displayed an extraordinary dedication to our mission, imparting wisdom and knowledge to countless students and shaping the future leaders of our Church.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the New Testament Church of God in Jamaica. Through the years, many administrative bishops, national leaders, district overseers, and local pastors have consistently contributed to Bethel, both in cash and kind. Their unwavering support has been a pillar of strength for us, enabling us to weather the storms and challenges that have come our way.

The sacrifices made by these individuals, and many others, are the bedrock upon which Bethel stands. They remind us of our roots, keep us relevant in our mission, and reposition us for the future. In this year of celebration, we honor them and their contributions, and we pledge to continue the work they have begun, in service to God and to the world.

In closing, let us remember Bethel is not just an institution; it is a community, a family. Like any family, therefore, we are united by shared experiences, shared sacrifices, and a shared vision for the future. As we look forward to the next 80 years, let us continue to uphold the values that have brought us this far, and strive to make Bethel even stronger and better.

May we all continue to be blessed as we work together to fulfill the mission of Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean-Jamaica, all for the glory and honour of our great God.

WINSTON BARRETT: TENDING TO WHAT MATTERS

Plant life grows under specific conditions. For them to flourish, they need sunlight, water and proper nutrients in the soil. They also need to be tended to regularly and intentionally. This has been the mandate of Mr. Winston Barrett, Gardener, at the institution. He is the mastermind behind the beautiful flora at BBCC-J's main campus.

Mr. Barry, as staff and students affectionately call him, has been in this post since 2002. He has not left it up to chance to keep the campus in tip-top shape. In fact, he has been diligent in his efforts. Most mornings at the break of dawn, Mr. Barry is found tending to the lawns of the Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean - Jamaica. The campus is never in bad shape. He carefully organizes his time and obtains materials to ensure that he produces a job well done. He does this even when ill. He does work hard. He also works well. Such is the nature of the man.

In addition to this, Mr. Barrett is known for his warm and inviting personality. He is kind and is always offering staff food items grown on the campus. He is a helpful and loyal individual.

We salute you, Mr. Barry! Thanks for mirroring the Divine Gardener with your faithfulness and intentionality. May you continue to grow in the knowledge and grace of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



BETHEL 80TH ANNIVERSARY LAUNCH SERVICE

On Sunday, April 30, 2023, BBCC-J commenced its 80th-anniversary celebrations at the Waltham Park New Testament Church of God, with Rev. Dr. Clement Clarke as the guest speaker. The service commemorated the institution's rich history and expressed gratitude to God for His guidance and faithfulness over the years.

The theme for the year-long celebration is "Bethel 80: Rooted, Relevant, and Repositioned," which highlights the college's commitment to remaining grounded in its roots while adapting to the changing times and providing quality theological education. Rev. Dr. Clarke emphasized the importance of staying rooted in God's Word while addressing the needs of today's society.

As the celebrations continue throughout the year, we invite readers to stay tuned to more exciting events planned for 2023. The BBCC-J is grateful for the opportunity to celebrate its 80th anniversary and looks forward to many more years of transforming lives through Christian education.



REV. MAJORIE PENNANT'S GENEROUS GIFT TO BBCC-J

Rev. Majorie Pennant, Pastor of Broad Leaf New Testament Church of God, made a sacrificial gift to the college by purchasing a new stove for the school's kitchen. Her generous donation was a result of the impact that the Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean - Jamaica had on her life. Although she was not a student, Rev. Pennant had audited several courses and formed deep friendships with former principals and alumni. The college had given her so much, and she wanted to give back in a meaningful way. The new appliance will be a welcome addition, as the old stove had become outdated. Her gift will benefit countless students and staff members, and it is a testament to the transformative power of sacrificial giving. BBCC-J is grateful for Rev. Pennant's kind donation and continued support.



SACRIFICES AND TRIUMPHS: ISSACC BROWN'S JOURNEY

On his path to The Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean-Jamaica, Issacc Brown faced numerous hurdles, particularly in terms of finances. However, his unwavering determination and the support of others propelled him forward. Resigning from his job as a records clerk, Issacc committed to full-time study with only one semester's fee when he enrolled in 2019.

Issacc diligently pursued financial aid and scholarships, investing countless hours in applications and essays, though success proved elusive. To sustain himself financially, he turned to agriculture, cultivating crops for sale. The proceeds provided necessary funds for phone credit, enabling him to access online classes.

Through steadfast prayer and divine intervention, Issacc's needs were miraculously met. Starting with one semester's fee, he now nears completion of his programme. This serves as a testament of God's provision which surpassed all expectations.

Issacc's journey to BBCC-J was marked by significant sacrifices, including financial resourcefulness and unwavering faith. Despite the challenges, the steadfast support of his community and divine intervention propelled him toward his goal. With resilience and a determined spirit, Issacc overcame financial obstacles, poised to make a profound impact in the realm of faith and leadership.



**APPLY TO OUR
PROGRAMMES
TODAY**


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