



BETHEL FOCUS

October 2019



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

by Anna-Kaye Mighty,
ICT Manager

The Bethel Focus is publication of the Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean – Jamaica. It seeks to highlight the occurrences of the institution and to keep members of the New Testament Church of God informed of same.

For a few years, this newsletter has been dormant. We have now opted to revamp the publication that you may have a front row seat of the "Bethel Experience."

Happy reading!



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Rev. Dr. Donald A. Roberts

In 1726, William Tennent founded a 'seminary' at Neshaminy, New Jersey, to train his sons and others for the ministry. It was called the 'Log College'. The young men trained became pastors of powerful influence. A revival broke out from the college that

became known as the "Great Awakening" from which the Holiness movement came, which gave rise to the Pentecostal movement. In 1901, at a Bible school in Topeka, Kansas, operated by Charles Fox Parham, students began to speak in other tongues.

William Seymour became a part of the school and accepted the teaching of Parham concerning the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was through him that the worldwide Pentecostal movement began at Azusa Street, Los Angeles, California.

Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean – Jamaica has been training young men and women for the ministry since 1943. They have gone into the world and have been used mightily of God. May the church value the role of Bible schools in God's church and world. May God be pleased to continue using the students to do exploits for him.

MINISTRY PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

by Rev. Everton Robinson, Student Services Director

Prior to about five years ago, the average student at Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean - Jamaica would not gain much practical experience in ministry at a church until his/her final year of study, where they do internship. Thanks to the introduction of the Ministry Participation Programme, this is no longer the case. The programme was therefore launched to facilitate practical ministry/church experience from year one through to year three.

How does it work? Collaboration is critical between the institution and the local churches in the New Testament Church of God in and around the parish of Manchester, as well as, sections of St. Elizabeth and Clarendon. Pastors and churches are contacted to confirm their willingness to facilitate the programme. Once this is done, students are assigned to same and dispatched accordingly for one year. Students are rotated each year for a different experience elsewhere.

The students are at the disposal of the pastor and church to be utilized accordingly from Friday evenings to Sunday evenings. The students make themselves available to be used in areas to include, but not limited to, preaching, teaching in Sunday School, moderating services, assisting with youth fellowship and other special services. A ministry participation form is sent to the pastor to indicate the areas of ministry within which students have participated.



SAM SHARPE LECTURE

Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean – Jamaica hosted the Sam Sharpe Lecture on October 15, 2019, at the College Chapel. The event hosted persons including faculty, staff, other members of academia, ministers and persons from the wider community. The theme of the lecture was, 'Speaking truth to power: Sam Sharpe and the urgency of the now', was passionately addressed by the presenter, Rev. Dr. Delroy A. Reid-Salmon.

Rev. Dr. Reid-Salmon is Pastor of the Grace Baptist Chapel, Bronx, New York, Research Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Christianity and Culture at Regent's Park College, Oxford, and an author. The Bethel alumnus expressed to the audience his delight in giving back to the institution in this manner. He mentioned that things were poured into him while being a student of the institution by stalwarts in the New Testament Church of God.

In the lecture, Rev. Dr. Reid-Salmon compared and contrasted the life and actions of National Hero Sam Sharpe with that of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights leader in the USA. He also mentioned that Sharpe's fight for freedom was from a moral, economic, social and theological standpoint. He had no accolades, fame, or an army. All he had was truth, which he used to transform the political and social landscape of the day, thereby shaping the Jamaica we have today. It was God's will that His people were freed, not only from sin, but injustice.

This same narrative applies today. The audience was challenged to urgently speak truth to the powers that be. This is the responsibility of God's people in modern society.



BETHEL EXPANDING BOUNDARIES

by Rev. Patrice Butler, Savannah – La – Mar Extension Coordinator

Bethel Bible College of the Caribbean – Jamaica, Savannah-La-Mar Extension, was officially opened on Monday, September 30, 2019. Twenty - four students were enrolled from local churches across the five Districts in Westmoreland for the Certificate in Christian Ministry. They will do both Level 1 and Level 2 courses.

The opening was one filled with much excitement and anticipation. The atmosphere was bursting with a spirit of great expectancy from both the students and faculty members. This campus is a dream come through for ministers and members in the region.

The campus, located at the annex of the New Testament Church of God, 1 Lewis Street, Savannah-La-Mar, is equipped with fans and an air conditioning unit. There is wireless internet access to facilitate the teaching-learning process. Courses for this semester are Communication (Monday), Interpreting the Bible (Tuesday) and Understanding People (Thursday). Plans are afoot to develop a library for students at the campus, obtaining sponsorship for more furniture and equipment for classrooms. There is the intention to obtain another air conditioning unit, making the classrooms more user-friendly.

The Coordinator can be contacted at 876-378-5674.



— 2019 Graduation Ceremony

*Sunday, November 3, 2019 || 4:30 p.m.
Mandeville New Testament Church of God (18 Knowles Road, Mandeville)*



MORE THAN A LIBRARIAN: THE AMBROZENE JOHNSON FEATURE

On Orientation Day, 2019, Miss Ambrozene Johnson, the librarian at the James L. Gooden Library, rose to her feet to address the students in the chapel. Everyone smiled as she spoke. It was clear that she has this effect on people.

Although she has been employed to the institution for only two years, she has made an indelible mark on persons who seek to access the services of the library. Her love for books makes her view her work at the institution as not just merely a job, but an act of service to God and her fellow men.

This lady, though short in stature, is not 'short' in intellect and personality. Her riveting conversations challenge the hearts and minds of persons she engages. She demonstrates genuine care for persons she encounters. This makes her beloved by students and staff alike. Her character is one for the books and is worthy of emulation.

Miss Johnson retires from her post this semester. The faculty, staff, and students will miss her, but they wish her all the best in her future endeavours.



Available January 2020

**Contact us at bethelonline@bbcc.edu.jm
for more information and updates.**

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