



Volume 2 July 2012

Bethel Focus

A publication of Bethel Bible College, located in Mandeville, Jamaica

Bethel Bible College has been in existence since 1943. Over this time it has carved out for itself a rich legacy in Pentecostal training and ministerial formation. The strength, dynamism, survival and growth of the New Testament Church of God are due largely to the impact of Bethel. The College has experienced many years of struggle and change but it has survived and is poised to continue to help in shaping the theological and ministry landscape of Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean.

The College's vision and mission are more precisely stated as follows:

VISION:

We are a growing Pentecostal institution providing training in theology and Christian ministry that produces balanced and holistic individuals impacting the church and the nations.

MISSION:

The mission of Bethel Bible College is to advance the Kingdom of God by producing spiritually equipped, socially aware, morally sound and servant-oriented individuals who will contribute to the transformation of the church and the world.

Bearing the above in mind we will now proceed to highlight some key achievements over the past three (3) academic years.

Academic Highlights

1. The College's Degree and Diploma programmes were re-accredited by the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ) in 2011 for five years to 2016.

2. There was a total overhauling of the programme offered in the extension centres. A one year Certificate in Christian Ministry replaced the 3 year Certificate in Theology. This new programme has proven to be more student friendly and better suited to equipping lay leaders for ministry effectiveness. Popular features of this programme are the electives in Leadership Principles and Practices, Introduction to Music and Worship and Ministry to Youth & Children which attract not just students

of the programme, but Ministry Personnel across denominations to its intense 3-credit weekend sessions. Participants are provided with Certification at the end of the programme.

Plans are in high gear to try and obtain CETA (Caribbean Evangelical Theological Association) accreditation by 2014 for the Certificate in Christian Ministry which is offered at the Main Campus and five Extension Centres across the country – Lucea, Montego Bay, St. Ann's Bay, Port Antonio and Portmore.

The extension centres are now all being managed more efficiently with proper record keeping and a more efficient system for collecting fees and paying lecturers.

Two new extension centres were opened over the past two years; one in Portmore and the other in St. Ann's Bay.

Over the last three years the Extension Centres have recruited over 300 participants with the possibility of many more persons accessing this incredibly flexible programme, ideally crafted for Believers and Ministry Personnel in any denomination.

3. Programme Innovation is something the College is always pursuing and to this extent it is considering designing and/or identifying programmes in music and education and post graduate studies in Theology or Counselling. Partnership with other accredited institutions is an option the College is considering in order to make this a reality.

Distance and Online Learning is another feature that is closer than ever to being realized. In the past month the Dean





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and one member each of the administrative staff and faculty engaged in e-learning certification for e-faculty with Bakke Graduate University in Seattle, Washington. It is anticipated that with the appropriate financial support a student management system will be procured by September 2012, or soon thereafter, to enable the introduction of on-line learning.

4. As far as Faculty is concerned, encouragement and support is provided for Bethel Faculty who have all attained or are registered in masters programmes. In addition two members are enrolled in doctoral programmes with another to follow in September.

After 69 years the academic strength of the College is unquestionably on par with other Colleges in its genre and the New Testament Church should be proud of its achievements.



Truly a delightful milestone for the College is the publication of two issues of its Journal – the first in 2010 and the second in 2012. The Journal provides an opportunity for research, reflection and creative conversation on theology and ministry related issues that we have to contend with in academia and in the wider church community. As an academic institu-

Bethel Journal of Christian Theology and Ministry

tion Bethel not only seeks to promote a culture of research and reflection but to also establish a track record in publishing. This will not only help to preserve the insights gained from our theological discourse and reflection but will give many others outside of the immediate community the opportunity to participate in and benefit from our scholarly and professional discourse and writings.

The Journal also provides a forum for exploring new ministry ideas and forums, where church and ministry/lay leaders can discover new perspectives on how or what to do, given a particular situation.

The Lindsay Arscott Lecture



The most recent Lindsay Arscott Lecture was presented on February 16, 2012. It was the third in this annual event organized and hosted by the College. The Lectures are a celebration of the rich academic traditions of the College and are done in honour of Lindsay Arscott, an outstanding educator and former Principal of the Bethel who epitomized servant leadership and academic excellence.

The theme of each year's Lecture is twinned with the theme of the preceding year's Journal (the Bethel Journal of Christian Theology and Ministry, first produced in July 2010). Rev. Dr Donald Roberts, pastor of the

Clifton New Testament Church of God and member of the Executive Board of the Denomination, was the speaker at the Inaugural Lecture in February 2010. He presented on the theme, "A Case for the Church's Teaching Ministry." In 2011 Rev Dr Las Newman, President of the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology, presented on the theme, "Strengthening the Church through a Renewed Commitment to Discipleship." At the most recent Lecture, presented in February 2012, the speaker was Rev. Wayne Vernon, pastor of the Fellowship of Love Community Church in Oshawa, Canada and Academic Consultant/ Adjunct Faculty of International Bible College in Canada. Rev. Vernon addressed the theme, "A Commitment to Personal Morality and Social Transformation."

The Lectures are usually attended by a cross-section of persons, mainly from the Mandeville community, and the student population from Bethel.





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Bethel Bus a Reality!



Students and faculty pose for a picture beside the new bus. Ready to roll!!

Thanks to everyone who gave! Our expressions of thanks extend to the churches and individuals in Jamaica, the New Testament Church in England

and the New Testament Church in Canada. The Bethel 15-Seater Bus is being put to good use and has opened up the way for much to happen in terms

of student ministry outside the walls of the College. What would have been a costly venture in terms of travelling cost has been minimized considerably.

Student Outreach Activities – Bethel Week 2012

Community outreach projects were undertaken by Bethel students with the assistance of students from International Bible College of Canada at Handbury Children's home and the Manchester Infirmary.

- A team of students from Bethel Bible College re-painted the chapel at the Children's Home, providing it with a well needed facelift. Students from both Colleges also teamed up and ministered to the children. They read them stories, played games with them did sing-a-longs and prayed for them. Each child received a toy from IBC and the institution received toiletries from Bethel.
- Another team of students and administrators from Bethel and IBC did ministry at the Infirmary. Students provided grooming services, played games, sang songs shared the Word and prayed with the inmates. Bethel provided articles of clothing, shoes and toiletries for the inmates.



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Graduation over the three years (2009-2011)

In 2009 we had 16 Degree, 1 Diploma and 31 Certificate (in Theology) students graduating. In 2010 we had 8 Degree, 1 Diploma and 52 Certificate (in Christian Ministry) students graduating. The 2011 event saw 45 students graduating: 10 Degree Students, 2 Diploma students and 33 Certificate students, the latter representing all five Bethel Extension Centres.

Annual Spiritual Renewal Retreat

This Retreat for staff and students was held at Kendal Retreat Centre in Manchester on April 24, 2012 under the theme "Living in the Spirit: A Call to Authentic Spirituality". Main presenter for the event was Rev. Marvia Lawes. In the words of the President, this was a time "to draw nearer to God and to shed the things of the world that tend to weigh us down ... a time of reflection, prayer, fellowship and worship ... to hear from God, to speak to each other and to listen to each other ... to allow the Holy Spirit to minister to all of us so that we would recommit to a spirituality that is authentic, rooted in the Bible and inspired by the Spirit of God." For all it was a deeply moving experience as we fellow-shipped, worshipped, listened to and reflected on the spoken Word, and spent time in solitude with God.



Support the Bethel Bible College Development Fund

- Construction of a new Multi-Purpose Building to provide:
 - A student services and recreational centre with vending service
 - A 2800 sq. ft. conference centre with seating capacity for 350 persons, convertible with partitioning to classrooms
 - Offices for property development and management personnel
- Construction of 10 additional rooms and 5 bathrooms to house 30 students
- Purchase of promotional and audio visual apparatus including display boards, video camera, television and DVD player, LCD projectors, laptop, portable screens
- 10 computers for online library access
- Air conditioning units

A word from outgoing President – Rev. Dr Roy Notice

I thank God for the opportunity given to me to serve as President of Bethel Bible College for the past four years. The memories will remain etched in my mind for years to come. I am deeply indebted to the team of persons that shared leadership with me including administrators, faculty and staff. I am looking forward to and preparing for my return to the pastorate and I crave your prayers.



I urge you to give full support to the new President who will assume office in September 2012. I am convinced that with his enthusiasm, fresh vision, leadership skills, maturity and integrity he will take Bethel to the next level.

I remain deeply committed to Bethel and will make whatever contribution I am called upon to do.



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Extension Centres

- Lucea—462-4811
- Montego Bay—818-3379 (after 1pm)
- St. Ann's Bay—972-7054; 359-6890
- Port Antonio – 993-2932
- Portmore— portmoreextension@gmail.com