

BBC eVoice

MAGAZINE

BOULEVARD BAPTIST CHURCH

May 2024



It's a Family Affair

God's presence, provision, and protection

May Fellowship Testimony Service - May 8, 2024

For the past two and a half years I was very sick. It started when I collapsed in my kitchen from a high stool. I went to the doctor and all the specialists. The last one was Dr. Neil Gardner who said to me after four treatments, "I will not eat any more of your money aunty, only God can help this back. The bones in the back was resting on my nerves. I got physiotherapy but after a while it got worse... and I was bedbound. Deacons and group members came and gave communion and helped to do household shores. I started to make plans for funeral because I know I was going to meet my Saviour, never going to make it, but God has other plans for me... Glory be to God I am feeling better... Monday was my 80th birthday, which is not so significant, as September coming will be 61 years since I accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Pray for me, I am not out of the woods yet.



Gloria Walton

Recently, I said to God I would be more outspoken about what he has done for me. Sometime ago when I just left school I didn't have any direction of where I wanted to go. I was on a journey where I was seeking a job and was not able to, no matter how many jobs I applied for I didn't get through. I became very depressed about it. Among me I see people living their purpose, and it was as if I didn't have one at the time. It was 2019 when I was sitting at home and my mother said she was going to the nursing home to feed some people there. In my mind I was saying what is my purpose there. I still went and it was actually a nice experience. There I met a lady from church who asked, "Do you have a job?" I said I don't. She said I know someone, you need to apply for this job. This was not of any links, it was because of God. I relied on him and went to the interview at a government institution in the field of study I did. Because of that one visit to a nursing home I met someone who gave me another opportunity to prove myself. God has been very good to me. Even if you are in a situation where things are not connecting in your mind, God clearly sees the path that leads to the next step... I want to thank God for his goodness.



Bianca Powell

I was at work today, just finished a meeting when I noticed I had a hundred calls on my phone. When I called back I got a message that my child was missing from the school—that's my son Michael. From that time we have been searching and sending out messages. Thanks be to God we have found him. He was found on the I-95 Highway. This is a testimony of God's protection. He is six years old walking alone on that highway with cars from the left and right. He walked from Belmont Park Primary and all the way close to Ackee Village walking in the bushes. Somebody saw him looking dehydrated and stopped to give him water and asked him what he was doing there. At the same time they flagged down the police who knew the principal for his school. They called the principal and that's how we knew he was found. By God's grace and protection he was not harmed. Thank God for his protection... God is the protector of our children, not us.



Kameeka Duncan Pottinger



A little more faith

On Mothering Sunday

“A little more faith”. Reverend Stacey Lalor Knowles declared that her chosen theme is at the heart of the lesson found in 2 Kings 4:18-23. The text records the story of a little-known woman of Shunem referred to as the Shunammite woman. Hers is a story of faith, noted Rev. Stacey Lalor Knowles. She is portrayed as a faithful and fervent servant of God who showed hospitality to Elisha, opening not only her heart, but her home to him. Eventually, God rewarded her and blessed her with a son. Her world turned upside down as the child she hoped and prayed for suddenly fell ill and died. On Mothers’ Day, May 12, 2024 Reverend Stacey Lalor Knowles highlighted the lessons to be learnt from the depth of faith displayed by this woman.

Faith tested

The mother’s faith was tested in a most dramatic and devastating way. A day like today may remind us of the loss of a child or a wayward child. Loss presents a crisis of faith, but God brings comfort and joy.

Demonstrated faith in God

She took the dead child and laid him on the bed of Elisha—her husband was skeptical, but she refused to give up. God’s last word to us is not death! In this woman’s mind God can do the impossible.

Faith rewards

Her son being restored to life, her faith is vindicated. Her husband would develop faith, and as mothers we can pass on to our children our faith and belief in God.

Proclaiming Youse-ful Treasures

Youth Sunday

Pentecost Sunday / Do you believe this?

"I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me will live [life in eternity] even though he dies [physically] and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25-26). Do you believe this? Reverend Devon Dick delivering his sermon on Pentecost Sunday, April 19, 2024, asked this question in relation to the paradoxical statement by Jesus to Mary, the one who anointed her feet with oil, in light of the death of his good friend Lazarus four days prior. Reverend Devon Dick emphatically affirmed the resurrection in the present. Do you believe this?



DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?

That was a hard one to swallow, because Mary knew that Lazarus died four days ago.

Mary did not say yes to Jesus being the resurrection and the life. That was a step too far.

Jesus is the resurrection: Now is the resurrection! Let that sink in.

Jesus helps us with grief, sudden death and brutal deaths. When we move from grief we glorify God.

Because of the resurrection we have our thirst and hunger for righteousness satisfied.

His resurrection through the Holy Spirit, changes our sexual ethics, consumption habits; conversations, witnessing, financial giving and management, and our willingness to serve.

Youth on the Ball



The children's choir proclaimed, "What a beautiful name" on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024 with lead soloist, Victoria Robinson and choir director, Jhillissa Bailey. Youth on the Ball !!!



It was fascinating to see Aliyah Bernard on drums! A member of Dundee Baptist Church (St. Leonards Baptist Circuit, in Westmoreland) and one of the talented musicians. Asked how she learned to play, she said she watched the former drummer play for the church. Now she is the only drummer playing each Sunday. God is always there to use us and to fill the gap once we make ourselves available. She learned by just watching! No tutoring! Youth on the Ball !!!



Preparing for Tertiary Education

A Family Affair

At the church's Ministry Empowerment session on May 19, 2024 guest presenter, Mrs. Pauline Madourie, scholarship officer and part-time lecturer at the University of Technology sought to guide aspirants on the journey to tertiary education. Applicants may pursue the following path in order to successfully navigate the route to tertiary studies:

- ◆ Tertiary education involves hard work and a lot of sacrifices.
- ◆ Select the right subjects for your career choice; for example to pursue nursing you will need Biology and Chemistry, in addition to English Language and Mathematics. Also, research your programmes.
- ◆ Sharpen your study skills in high school; focus on time management, organization and effective note taking. These skills will be crucial to your success in college.
- ◆ Financial Planning: Explore family resources, Students Loan Bureau, scholarships and grants offered by colleges. The earlier you start the more opportunities you will discover; look at ALL options.
- ◆ Budgeting: Learn to manage money effectively; create a budget that accounts for tuition, housing, food, text books, and personal expenses.
- ◆ Personal Development: You come not only for academics, but all-roundedness—your behaviour, actions, how you treat people. College fosters independence, which involves prioritizing tasks, taking initiatives in your learning; honing your communication skills is vital to your success in college and beyond.
- ◆ Social Skills and Well-being: Join clubs, participate in activities, build strong supportive network, prioritize your physical and mental well-being.
- ◆ Parental Support: Celebrate the achievements, example, say, “I am proud of you”; offer emotional support—be a safe space for children to vent their frustration and anxieties; guide them in their decision making but allow them the space to learn from their choices; stay involved with the institution; maintain positive relationships; respect their choices.

WHY DO I TEACH?

A passion delivered for 43 years! In poetic form Sylvia Kelly shares the cherished moments with students, and parents. She noted the illustrious Mico Teachers College (now Mico University College) and the University of the West Indies that prepared her for this journey. Her selfless contribution to education has been diverse, and though retired from formal teaching, she is still a working member of Boulevard Baptist Continuing Education team. Be inspired!

I teach because I love it!!!
It's in my DNA.
I like to see my students grow
and change from day to day.

Sometimes I make a difference
that can transform a life.
Unearth their true potential,
give them the tools to thrive.

I like to be creative.
Use new and different ways
of sharing information
in ways that will not fade.

Although I am the teacher,
it's my delight to learn
as students open up
and share their knowledge in return.

I love the funny moments
that spark from day to day.
These come from things that students
do or even things they say.

My students are all different.
They learn in various ways,
so I enjoy supporting them
no matter what it takes.

And oh, I love my parents
for we are all a team
and when we work together
we help to shape big dreams.

Then there's that bond with students.
Soon they're like family
sharing life's questions and concerns
of what they'll do or be.

And if they love and trust you,
They'll share their hearts and souls.
This kind of love is priceless
helping to open doors.

I love their trusting nature.
Enjoy their prying minds
asking questions to find out
where, what, how, when or why?



I realize the value
of having that safe space
where they can feel loved and secure
to learn at their own pace.

As much as I love teaching,
it's filled with challenges
that sometimes make me question
or rethink my life choices.

But then I see a student smile,
their eyes light up with joy
as we debate or sing a song
or varied games enjoy.

Thank God for giving me this gift
that really satisfies.
where I can give and receive love
no matter how time flies.

SYLVIA KELLY

100 Years and Counting

Bro. Clifford Williams Birthday Celebration



Brother Clifford brought joy, and recollections of the past, as he basked in the presence of family members and friends at his 100th birthday celebration on May 14, 2024. Members of May Fellowship joined in the celebration, presenting him with a gift basket.

Fun facts about Bro. Cliff shared by his children

Faraway travels

Dad travelled to Canada to give her daughter Marlene away at her wedding in 1997.

In 2003, he visited England to see his daughters, Sharon and Judith. He also visited brothers, Ever and Lester, and his sister, Orinthia and other family members.

World War 11

Clifford lived through this time.

Singer Extraordinaire

Dad was a member of the Boulevard Baptist Choir and Men's group for many years.

Good Samaritan

Clifford enjoyed giving people lift to school or work.

After church, he would drop as many people home as he could hold in the car and it didn't matter how faraway they lived.



Jacqueline McCormack

I was introduced to Industrial Relations in the 1970's when workers were militant and their trade union representatives devoid of formal Industrial Relations training, who represented the workers with zeal and gusto. Some of them were graduates of elementary schools or not, but they had a command of the English language and how to use it.

Although their presentations in some instances could be described as flamboyant, they argued with such intensity that you wondered if they had swallowed a dictionary.

The Ministry of Labour's conciliation officers understood them well and must be commended for their patience and savvy of what was required of them.

Allow me to share with you some of these submissions which served the desired purpose.

1. "Mr. Chairman, the company's, Legal Luminary is trying to convince us that they are in dire straits and so cannot meet our demand for a reasonable rate for these poor overworked and underpaid workers."

2. "Mr. Chairman, if the employing authority is not prepared to afford the workers this paltry sum for their dedicated service then it would be better to close the establishment."

3. Then, there was the time when the company's lawyer protested at which point the venerable union representative invited the gentleman downstairs and outside so that he could introduce his shoemaking to his tailoring.

4. Then, there was a great uproar at a certain negotiation when a fist fight broke out between a delegate and a union representative both from different unions. The meeting had been going on from 10 in the morning. It was now way past midnight and the country was under a state of emergency.

The Army was called in to restore order.

At resumption after a break, the noted union officer declared, "Mr. Chairman, sanity seems to have fled the mind of the Permanent Secretary for him to take the unprecedented step to call in the Army. Mr. Chairman, I will not be a participant in this debacle and so ask to adjourn at this stage for another date."

5. Also there is the time when a journalist who walked with a "dignified limp", the press, having been barred from this particular meeting, the resourceful gentleman climbed the ackee tree by the window of the conference room in order to get the scoop.

Ministry Matters

Sunday School



Presentations to top performers of the Sunday School Emphasis Month Quiz Competition on May 5, 2024. The competition was opened to older children, youth and adults. In pics L-R: Imani Wint 1st place prize \$10,000, Sis. Dorothy Paragh 2nd place prize \$5000, Joshua Martin and Kaira Bryan 3rd place prize \$3000. Presenter: Bro. Carl Ranger. In pic below younger children performed.

Women's Federation



BBC Women's Federation acknowledged the invaluable service of some of its members. Recognized were Alice Watson, Olive Lawes, and Karlene Gager Vassell on Mothers' Day, May 12, 2024.

The People Who Came



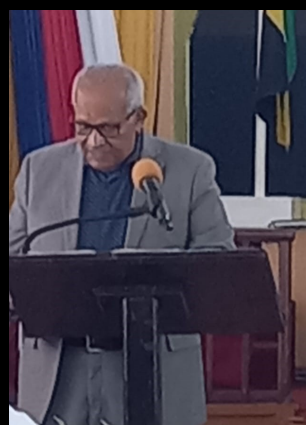
Sis. Nichola Thompson on May 5, 2024 sang, "Over Me" in tribute to her mom, Sis Gloria Walton on her 80th birthday.



Dedication of Sai Wallace (first grandchild of Bro. Fitzroy Wallace) and Amir Beckford on May 5, 2024 by Rev Devon Dick. The parents received gift of a Bible on behalf of their child.



Kenzo Lawrence, Adira Glaze, Tailah Butler, and Jayden Lemnard were dedicated on May 19, 2024. Rev Devon Dick presents the gift of a Bible to the parents on behalf of their child after performing the act of Infant Dedication. Family and friends shared in the occasion.



Members of the Rotary Club of New Kingston joined BBC in worship on May 19, 2024. In pics L-R: Greetings from President Travis Graham, who also made a presentation to Rev Devon Dick.; Ivan Stephenson who read the New Testament lesson; and all members posed for a group photo.



Notes from the editor

When we pray God delivers!

While visiting my home church on the first Sunday in May, the preacher asked the congregation to observe a minute of silence for a member who recently passed. In making this request, he spoke of the struggles this member had in her quest to be baptized to become a member of the church. The obstacle she faced was that she was living in a common-law relationship. The preacher recalled that the church had a special prayer meeting dedicated to this member and her circumstances. It was not long after she got married and was subsequently baptized, becoming a faithful and dedicated member of the church.

We can agree that her case is not an isolated one, as many such scenarios exist. While attending the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI), I would trespass on a few denominational classes for the Baptist students taught by Rev. Glenroy Lalor who was the Baptist warden at the time. Each student would relate their experience with the church they were assigned and challenges faced. In one of those Monday morning classes one of the problems highlighted was women in common-law relationships who had the desire for baptism and the dilemma faced by the student pastors of what to do.

Rev. Glenroy Lalor related a similar situation he had while he pastored a church, where members of the community were cynical about a young lady becoming a member of the church. However, she soon got married and serving her church well. Additionally, in one of my classes, a Methodist student related a similar experience at his church. He said the church went into a series of prayer meeting and God delivered! The young lady got married, leading to her baptism and church membership.

Prayer is a powerful force to turn around difficult situations faced by families, both in our personal family and the family of God. Once families thrive, this filters into society, and what a world to behold.

Social Media Fave the editor's inspirational pick

HOW TO LIVE IN JAMAICA 🇯🇲 101

1. Having a Police fren
2. Having a JP fren
3. Having at Doctor fren (best: one who works at a hospital)
4. Having a contact for a reliable handyman who paints, tiles, mounts TVs, chop bush, etc
5. Having a fren that works at your Bank
6. Having a fren at JPS & NWC
7. Having a fren at Tax Office & Examination Depot
8. Having a lawyer fren (optional)
9. Having a fren at NHT
10. Having a helper (even if she gives you a "day's wuk" every week)

Yes, Jamaica is a Linksocracy

#inspire
me

Mission Statement

To develop our spiritual lives, evangelize the wider community and influence the world through Christ by organized preaching, public and private worship, Christian education and fellowship, while co-operating with other Christian bodies.



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Devon Dick

Opportunities for Worship

Sundays: Divine Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Enquirers' /New Members' Class: 8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.

Empowerment Ministry Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Meeting: Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Prayer and Fasting: 1st Saturdays, 7:00 a.m.

This is a production of the Communications and Media Committee

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