



Beaming the Light of God's
Word to Caribbean People

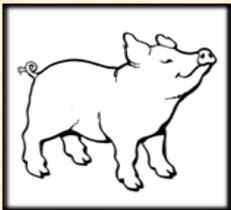
News & Notes

The Caribbean Bible Lessons Newsletter for Sunday School Leaders

From the Director's Desk

THE PIG AND THE CHICKEN...much food for thought!

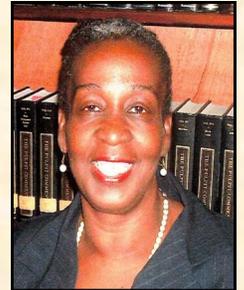
Most, if not all of who will glance at this page, would have heard one or more versions of the popular fable, *The Pig and the Chicken*. If, by the remotest chance, you have not, here are a few versions summarised:



A pig and a chicken were walking down the road. As they passed a church, they noticed that a potluck charity breakfast was underway. Caught up in the spirit, the pig suggested to the chicken that they each make a contribution.

"Great Idea!" the chicken cried. "Let's offer them ham and eggs!"

"Not so fast." said the pig. "For you, that's just a contribution, but for me, it's a total commitment."



And another version:

A chicken and a pig lived on a farm. The farmer was very kind-hearted to them and they both wanted to do something special for him.

One day the chicken approached the pig and said, "I have a great idea for something we can do for the farmer! Would you like to help?"

The pig, quite intrigued by this, said, "of course! What is it that you propose?"

The chicken knew how much the farmer enjoyed a good healthy breakfast. He also knew how little time the farmer had to make a good breakfast. "I think the farmer would be very happy if we made him breakfast

The pig thought about this. While not as close to the farmer, he too knew of the farmer's love for a good breakfast. "I'd be happy to help you make breakfast for the farmer! What do you suggest we make?"

The chicken, understanding that she had little else to offer suggested, "I could provide some eggs."

The pig knew the farmer might want more, "That's a fine start. What else should we make?"



The chicken looked around...scratched her head...then said, "ham? The farmer loves ham and eggs!"

The pig, very mindful of what this implied, said, "that's fine, but while you're making a contribution I'm making a total commitment!"

HERE'S YET ANOTHER VERSION..

A pig and a hen sharing the same barnyard heard about a church's programme to feed the hungry. The pig and the hen discussed how they could help. The hen said, "I've got it! We'll provide bacon and eggs for the church to feed the hungry." The pig thought about the suggestion and said, "There's only thing wrong with your bacon and eggs idea. For you, it only requires a contribution, but from me, it will mean total commitment!"

This funny little story holds much that is applicable to us as Christians; whether CCP staff, Sunday School workers, pastor, janitor or student. While the Pig and Hen story is wryly humorous, we all, as redeemed people and workers for our Master, must quite frequently do some introspection, to consider our level of commitment. What is our level of commitment to both the major and minor features of our everyday life? How committed are we to the organisation that employs us, or the place that provides spiritual nurture? How committed are we as part of group and team activities? Is our input scant, peripheral and nebulous or do we put our all in it? We are still in Easter; a time when we are reminded once more of the ultimate sacrifice which was made at Golgotha. One commentator on TV over the Easter week-end said that every time Christ stumbled under the weight of the cross, he knew he had to get up for you and for me.

As we continue to contemplate Easter, let us each ask ourselves really sincerely:

Am I committed or merely marginally involved in my responsibilities?

Am I willing to increase my level of commitment? If the answer is yes, how do I imagine myself doing it?

May God enable us all to strive for fuller commitment as we continue as pilgrims on this journey.

Beryl Roper

A RIDE FOR LIFE

On a bright Sunday morning in spring; over 2,000 years ago, a group of persons gathered on the outskirts of Jerusalem. The people were following Jesus who was going to Jerusalem on his little donkey. As Jesus grew closer to Jerusalem, many more persons joined in and soon, the small gathering became a large crowd. They cut palm branches and foliage from trees and waved to Him. Palm branches were used heavily in ancient Israel, as they were symbolic of peace and rejoicing. The “V” shaped leaves symbolised victory and its green colour, eternal life. **(Children start coming out)**

There was such a buzz in this royal city, as adults and children, Jews and Gentiles, spread their colourful garments on the ground to create a red-carpet entrance. The jubilant crowd shouted, **(Children shout) “Hosanna! Hosanna!** They sang from (Psalm 118: 25-26), **(Children sing) blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”** This fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy in Zechariah 9:9, which stated that the King would be coming on the foal of a donkey. It also showed that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, the anointed, and the King.



Many persons may wonder why Jesus entered Jerusalem on a little donkey and not its cousin, the horse. However, in ancient times horses were only owned and ridden by Kings and wealthy persons, and were heavily used in wars. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, not the King of war. Popularly called the beast of burden, donkeys were used mainly by the common people who embraced Jesus’s teachings gladly and recognised Him as the Son of God, the one who bear all our burdens at the cross.

Donkeys symbolise all the qualities of our Lord and Saviour: humility, patience, industry, strength, wisdom, loyalty, servitude and faithfulness. What an entrance friends! **(Jesus and children start entering).**

Many persons view this triumphant entrance as a ride to death, as Jesus would be crucified days later. But for Christians, this was indeed a walk for life, ***for God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life*** (John 3:16) This is the life that Christ gives to us when we have faith in Him. Unfortunately, the same persons who shouted, hosannas would later cry, “*crucify Him.*” This is a sad reality of life – our lives as Christians – as we too have to bear the cross of Jesus. We too will help others who will in turn betray us and attack our religious beliefs. Attacks on Christians are also increasing, now more than ever. *But count it all joy...when you meet trials..., for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* (James 1:2-4)

Brothers and sisters you must be prepared for Christ’s return and walk with him through the Golden Gates of Jerusalem, where he made his triumphant entry. I invite you to Family Time with the Word every Sunday starting at 8:45 a.m. sharp. Here you will learn how to embrace all the qualities of a little donkey and his maker who rode for life – the life that Christ so badly wants for you. Do not be despondent friends. The cross is heavy, but Jesus is right beside you, and the GPBC church family stands ready to help you. So wave your palm branches **(children wave palm branches)**, shout **hosanna**, and ride on like King Jesus. Ride on friends, no man cannot hinder thee. **(Children present their songs)**

Yom Rishon Shalom Friends

(An excerpt from a dramatic presentation by The Portmore Baptist Church Sunday School, St Catherine, Jamaica April 9, 2017..Written by Allison Hall—Portmore Baptist Church)

Sunday School Safety and Security Part 2

Safety and security is one of the biggest topics in children's ministry today. This is true for both small and large churches. *Keeping children safe should be a priority in every church.* In this issue, we conclude our two part series on leading concerns about Sunday school security and some ways to improve safety at your church.

Are Your Sunday School Facilities Safe and Secure?

- ◆ Classrooms should be in high traffic areas and have windows.
- ◆ If your Sunday school classrooms do not have windows, keep them open unless two adults are with the class.
- ◆ Children's ministry areas should be up to building and fire code. This would include emergency exits, smoke alarms, and fire extinguishers.
- ◆ Is the furniture safe and appropriate for children? Make sure that bookcases are secured to the wall, desks do not have splinters, and chairs are in good repair.
- ◆ Use safety plugs in all electrical outlets. This needs to be checked often, since these tend to get lost. Use safety plugs in the hallways and adult areas too.
- ◆ If there is overhead storage, on a shelf or a cabinet, make sure it is secure and items will not fall on children if they bump up against the cabinet.
- ◆ Control the access to your building. In larger churches this becomes a big concern. There should be a limited number of entrance points to your children's ministry area.

Do You Insist On Safety For All Sunday School Activities, Snacks and Crafts?

- ◆ Scissors, glues and craft materials should be safe for children.
- ◆ Avoid object lessons that could be unsafe. We learned from experience not to burn anything inside the Sunday school classrooms!
- ◆ Some games are not safe for small rooms. If you don't have enough floor space for a suggested Sunday school game, go outside or substitute another activity.
- ◆ Never serve a snack with nuts unless you have personally cleared it with every parent. With peanut allergies on the rise, it is better to be safe than sorry.
- ◆ Do not serve hot liquids; it's okay if the hot chocolate is just warm.

- ◆ Supervise children closely during snack time, even older children can choke on their food

Have You Selected Volunteers And Teachers That Are Safe?

- ◆ Every volunteer should be screened and interviewed by the church leadership. Many churches are even purchasing criminal background checks for all church volunteers, especially those that work with children. That is a good step, but don't forget to use common sense and judgment. Many sexual predators abuse many children before they are caught, so the criminal background check is only a limited safeguard.
- ◆ No one is every allowed to be alone with a child. Make this a rule with no exceptions. Even in counseling situations have another adult volunteer present.
- ◆ The best safeguard against abuse is preventing opportunity for abuse. As much as you can, make it impossible for children to be harmed at your church.

Do Your Policies And Guidelines Promote Security and Safety?

- ◆ *All the best policies won't help unless you train your teachers. So, make training Sundays school teachers about safety and security a priority in your church.*
- ◆ Make 2-by-2 the rule. No child (or group of children) should even be alone with an adult volunteer.
- ◆ Ask your volunteers to get trained on CPR and first aide. We have several retired nurses in our church who are great resources for minor accidents.
- ◆ Establish a check-in and check-out procedure that gets every child back to the right parents after your program. This will help to prevent children from being unsupervised in the facility.
- ◆ Do not allow children to be unattended before or after Sunday school programs.
- ◆ Have a definite drop-off and pick-up time. These should be clearly posted and enforced. The children of volunteers should remain with their parents or be supervised in one location. We do not allow early drop-offs.
- ◆ Do you have clear bathroom policies? This is a concern for children of all ages.

Spotlight on a Sunday School Student



Anna Cole of Calvary Baptist Church, Montego Bay, St. James was baptized on Sunday, October 2, 2016. Anna is ten years old and a Grade Four (4) student at the Barracks Road Primary School in St. James, Jamaica. She was recently awarded first place in her class. Her life goal is to be a teacher.

Anna is involved in singing in the Calvary Heavenly Voices Choir and the dance group at her church. She has been a reader

and user of the Caribbean Bible Lessons (CBL) from the 'Beginner' stage and this has helped to grow and deepen her Christian faith.

She says, "I like to go to church because I love God and to praise him". Anna is happy and at peace with herself, others and the Lord.

Congratulations Anna, may you continue to grow in Grace.

Pictorial Review of Lapathon 2017



Winner of the most laps Maxwell Smith from Golden Spring Seventh Day Church doing one of his record 76 laps

Third place winner and defending champion Maurice Williams from Bethel Baptist who completed 48 laps



CCP Director Beryl Roper presents a Lasco sponsored gift basket to Patrick Hoyes from Penrith Full Gospel Church, Winner of the Aerobics Marathon

CCP Thanks our Contributors



CCP accountant, Joan Blackwood, graciously accepts a donation for general Sunday School work from Rev Norva Rodney, Pastor of the Kitson Town circuit of churches.

A group from the Shiloh church in the circuit recently toured the offices of CCP to learn more about the work of the Sunday School ministry.

News & Notes

Published three times per year

Purpose: to help to inspire and equip those who are called to teach God's Word, to provide information and to serve as a link between the CCP editorial office and users of Caribbean Bible Lessons.

Editor: Sheryl Ward Bradshaw
Director: Beryl Roper

Caribbean Christian Publications Ltd

27 Balmoral Avenue, Kingston 10
Jamaica, West Indies

Telephone: 876-906-2828 **Fax:** 876-908-3844

E-mail: info@ccpcbf.org **Website:** www.ccpcbf.org