We are wondering if you, like us here at CCP, are not simply amazed at how the months have flown. Two blinks ago, it would seem, we as a team, here at the office, were having our New Year’s worship service of dedication and commitment. Fast on the heels of that, it was the conference and annual gathering of Baptist World Alliance; then came April with CCP holding its meeting of the Board of Trustees. A flurry of camps and conferences put on by various churches, parish associations and the union, marked the arrival of summer. Now, mid-September, there is an advertisement in at least one local Baptist church bulletin, for persons to make haste in the preparation of their articles for that church’s annual Advent Meditation booklet. The end of the year is indeed hurdling towards us.

Upheavals Everywhere
Outside of the traditional and seasonal calendar events and activities of our churches and affiliated organizations, it has so far been a year filled with its fair share of tumult, disorder and upheavals locally, regionally and worldwide. Governance issues continue to be at the heart of much of what has been happening at many levels, and in the perceived failings in leadership, is a concomitant dissatisfaction of the citizenry who seem totally disillusioned with the kind and quality of leadership demonstrated in both developed as well the emerging economies.

The level of disillusionment of the citizens seems to be directly related to their growing level of impatience, as they are no longer satisfied to wait for a particular regime to settle down and prove its mettle. It is “in today, out tomorrow” as votes of no-confidence dominate many dispensations. Whether it is a demand for clean water, good roads, jobs, which are all very necessary, people want these NOW. Gratification must be instant, in the same way a click of a mouse or a touch of one’s smart phone, can serve up a cornucopia of delights for all tastes, fed by the alluring World Wide Web.

Venomous Responses
Real-time responses via social media can generate hundreds of responses to any issue, be they personal, political or otherwise. These responses are often cynical, intolerant, acerbic and many times uninformed. A very recent case in point is of a young female who won a beauty pageant in a big city “up north”. A short bio-data showed the young woman to be of immense talent, giftedness and potential, and by the standards used to judge these things, was eminently deserving of the judges’ decision. The comments, from the minute of the announcement, were venomous, spiteful and ignorant. The racial slurs came thick and fast and it is anyone’s guess where this will end, as, at the time of writing, it was only one day after the contest. The shameful parade of ignorance, so far, has been alarming.

Uplift and Build
It is clear that intolerance is indeed on the rise in much the same way that there is intemperance and disrespect of those in governance. One of the more interesting features of this intolerance is that those same persons, who vilify others, do not expect any examination of or comment on their lifestyle or standards. They think they must be unfettered in bashing others but their behaviours must be inviolable.

It is our hope that Christians will not get caught up in these often vacuous online debates and discussions that parade as sophistication. The social media present great opportunities to uplift and build up instead of denigrating and destroying and can be a channel of hope and encouragement, showing fellow users how they can be critical but respectful and while holding leaders accountable, to be patient and generous of spirit. Caribbean people may be feisty but we are not ill-mannered, so let us not pick up the bad ways of those from elsewhere whom we admire for their drive and passion. Let us sift vigorously what is available to us from these world “standard bearers”, adopting what is good and throwing out the chaff.

Beryl Roper

From the Director’s Desk

“Intolerance, disrespect on the rise”
Helpful Hints for a Healthy Sunday School

10 Practices of a Healthy Sunday School

1. Commit to the Sunday School Strategy
2. Train or develop soul winners
3. Conduct weekly evangelistic and ministry visits
4. Win the lost
5. Organize with purpose
6. Assimilate the people
7. Partner with families
8. Teach to transform lives
9. Conduct monthly evaluation meetings
10. Multiply leaders and units

Sunday School Strategy

Sunday school is the foundational strategy in a local church for leading people to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and for building mission oriented Christians through open Bible study groups that engage people in evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship and worship.

A strategy is defined as “a plan of action or policy designed to achieve a major or overall aim”. Sunday School is more than an event or a programme; it is a plan of action, a robust strategy that can undergird and strengthen virtually every aspect of a church’s mission.

Examples:
A Connection Strategy - Is your Sunday School operating strategically and intentionally to connect people to the church, to each other and to Christ?

A Discovery Strategy - In the context of a strategically open group like a Sunday School class, everyone can discover the truths of the Bible, the life stories of other people and how Christ has impacted those stories. They can also discover opportunities for ministry.

An Invitation Strategy - When people feel connected and are having regular discovery experiences, they are intrinsically inclined to invite their unchurched friends, relatives, associates and neighbors to attend.

What is your Sunday School Strategy?
Sheryl Ward-Bradshaw & Joan Blackwood receives a contribution from Joy Levermore (right) from Barbican Baptist Sunday School. Like many others, Barbican Sunday School is included in our team of regular contributors. This year Barbican Sunday school students had a boys vs girls competition to see who could give the most coins. CCP is eternally grateful to its contributors. Your gifts go a long way to aid the development of Sunday school.

**Welcome New Users**

We are always happy to have more users onboard! A warm welcome is extended to the following churches which recently started to use Caribbean Bible Lessons.

- Roc Solid Evangelical Baptist Church – Pompana Beach, USA
- Word of Faith and Praise, USA
- Mineral Heights Missionary Church, Jamaica
- Mountain View Avenue New Testament Church of God, Jamaica

**CCP staff represented at Jamaica Baptist Union Women’s Federation Open Day**

On Thursday August 15, 2013 two members of CCP staff travelled to the cool hills of Trelawny, Jamaica to participate in the Jamaica Baptist Union Women’s Federation Open Day, held under the theme Empowering Women to Pursue Peace Amidst Challenges.

The programme included the Annual General Meeting, an exhibition, presentation of Open Day prizes and a closing Service. The gathering commenced with a stirring “Singspiration” by the praise team. An unofficial roll call saw over 800 women participating in the meeting.

President, Elvia Wright, gave an exhortation in which she encouraged the gathering of women to empower themselves spiritually, socially and economically; to pursue peace and to build the nation. She pointed out that we could lighten our load by casting all our cares on the Lord.

The main hall housed an interesting exhibition of indigenous banana-derived products, such as food, household items and clothing. A message was brought by Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Arnaldo Brown, who declared the Banana exhibit open.

Olga Griffith, executive member of JBU Women’s Federation gives Minister of State, Arnaldo Brown, a tour of the exhibition

Sheryl Ward-Bradshaw
Tarrant Baptist Church receives a gift certificate from Director Beryl Roper, for the prize Group with the Most Participants at Lapathon 2013.

Plans have begun for Lapathon 2014. Are you ready to make your contribution to Sunday School development? Keep checking our Facebook page and our website for updates on Lapathon 2014. Plan to be involved!

LAPATHON 2014

Request details from CCP on how to stage one in your country.
Call 876-906-2828
Email: info@ccpcbf.org

STATEMENT OF FAITH #1

We believe in one sovereign, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent, perfect and holy God, eternally existing in three persons: the everlasting Father; His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the Holy Spirit, the life-giver and enabler. The Triune God created all things out of nothing in accordance with His will and design and for His own glory. God has revealed Himself and His truth in the created order, in the Scriptures, and supremely in Jesus Christ.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Put on the full armor of God
so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.
Ephesians 6:10-18

1. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.  
2. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.  
3. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist  
4. With the breastplate of righteousness in place  
5. And with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace  
6. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.  
7. Take the helmet of salvation  
8. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.