



Beaming the Light of God's Word to Caribbean People

# News & Notes

The Caribbean Bible Lessons Newsletter for Sunday School Leaders

May — August 2011

## From the Director's Desk

### A New Caribbean Bible Lessons Curriculum — In Use September 2011

Look Out For

#### The **Living the Word Series**

- **Beginner:** *Bible Starters*
- **Younger Children:** *Bible Seekers*
- **Older Children:** *Bible Discoverers*
- **Youth:** *Bible Enquirers*
- **Adult:** *Bible Leaders*

### News&Notes

Published three times per year

**Its purpose** is 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 editorial office and users of Caribbean Bible Lessons.

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### CCP 1st Sunday School Fund-raising Lapathon

*Promoting Healthy Lifestyle - body, soul and spirit*

In January, Emancipation Park in Kingston, Jamaica was the venue for a fund-raising Lapathon organized by CCP. Representatives of participating churches and CCP staff had a wonderful time of fun and fellowship at the event, starting from 5:00 a.m. (See page 2).

The Lapathon was intended to raise funds toward the development of the new curriculum of Caribbean Bible Lessons. The new curriculum — the **Living the Word Series**, will be published for circulation in September.

#### Organize Fund-raising Events for CCP

Get your Sunday School involved. Would you consider assisting CCP to meet its financial goals for the new curriculum development project?



Users of Caribbean Bible Lessons across the Caribbean and across denominations could volunteer to sponsor or stage fund-raising events to benefit the CCP literature ministry.

The Children curriculum is a three-year cycle. The first year of the new lessons will be used 2011-2012. The lessons for year two (2012-2013) will be written during this summer.

For further information on how you can help to raise funds for these workshops, please contact Mrs Gillian Francis or Mr Sheldon O'Connor:

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## CCP Sunday School Fund-raising Lapathon In Aid of New Curriculum Development Project



Walkers sign in at the Registration Desk



Warm-up exercises before walking



CCP volunteer leads warm-up



Young Adults on the go



Oldest walker Saxthorpe Methodist Church



Participant from Tarrant Baptist Church



Youth doing their laps



Mother and daughter receive medal for completing over 10 laps



CCP director congratulates the youngest walker



CCP director awards a member of National Health Fund (one of the sponsor(s) for completing the most laps)



Representatives of Tarrant and Bethel Baptist Churches in Kingston

## How to Bring Back Absentee Learners

### Inactive Members in Sunday School

When learners have drifted from the church, it is a difficult job for Sunday School workers to reclaim them. Luke 15:3-7 (The Parable of the Lost Sheep) makes it clear that we are to seek out those who have drifted. When you are consistent in your efforts (by telephone calls, visits etc) to reclaim absentees, many will return. It often takes a much effort but it is worth it.

*To revive inactive members in your Sunday school, contact the absentee students quickly; contact them after two consecutive weeks of absence.*

Here are some ideas you may adapt to reclaim chronic absentees in your Sunday School.

- **Pray** – Only through God can hearts be touched.
- **Contact** — Assign every member to a care personnel for ministry. When contacting absentees ask how you can pray for them
- **Write** — Have class members write a personal note inviting absentees back to Sunday School.
- **Invite** — You could plan a special fellowship event and invite the absentee members.

- **Call** – Talk to them on the phone regularly or send text messages. Remember to send a card on birthdays, anniversaries or special holidays.



Many absentees return after consistent efforts to contact them.

- **Visit** — Nothing says you care more than a home visit.

Take them copies of the Caribbean Bible Lessons Learner Guide or other Bible study materials, a snack or other special treat .

- **Involve** all the class members— Ask them to pray for, send cards, and provide ministry to chronic absentee members.
- **When** class members, other than regular teachers make contact, it shows that the class really cares.

### Keep in mind the names of absentees:

- Print and display names of all class members on brightly coloured cards
- As members arrive, let them take their name card. Encourage them to take leftover names card and contact that those persons (absentee s) during the week.
- On Sunday mornings, have everyone write a personal note on pre-addressed postcards inviting absentees to Sunday School

**When reclaiming persons with chronic absentee records, Sunday School leaders should always, “Pray them in, love them in and never give up.”**

Source: *Training Your Sunday School Leaders: A How-to Guide*



A participant views CCP literature on display at the Sunday School training workshop for the Falmouth Circuit of Baptist Churches held at William Knibb Baptist Church in Falmouth, Trelawny, Jamaica in January 2011



Dr Cynthia Anderson, CCP Adult Trainer, reviews work with workshop participants at William Knibb Baptist Church.

New CCP Staff



Elaine Fletcher

**E**laine Fletcher joined the staff of CCP on September 1, 2010 as Older Children Editor. Her previous occupation was Language Educator to the CAPE level.

She believes it is important for children to learn the principles of a godly life very early so that these principles will become the foundation of

their life; hence, she welcomes the opportunity to assist in teaching Older Children lessons about the love of God, His presence in their life and His commands.

From an early age, Elaine attended the Waltham Baptist Sunday School and Church in Bensonton, St Ann and was baptized at age 21 at the St. Ann's Bay Baptist Church. She became very active in what was then called "The Link", the equivalent of the present "Young Adults." Her experiences in that auxiliary were very useful in a period of personal enquiry and numerous alternatives.

As a member of the Gregory Park Baptist Church, she serves in the ministries of Fellowship, Leadership, Christian Education and Church Development.

Among her many hobbies, the best loved ones are reading Black History and science narratives, gardening and being a fan of West Indies cricket. Elaine knows that in addition to the hope of eternal life, the Christian life also offers stability and meaning to life, as said in the song that we all need to hear, "if they only knew the blessings that salvation gives, they would never turn away".

**T**ravene Smallwood, Beginner Editor, is a member of the Gregory Park Baptist Church.



Travene Smallwood

She serves in many areas of ministry including the dance group, adult choir, Sunday School and the audio-visual ministry. She also serves as a cantor for Sunday morning services and is a volunteer teacher of English Language in the church's Learning Centre.

She graduated from the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona in 2010 with a major in psychology and minor in sociology. At the University, she was assistant group leader in the UWI Mona Quality Leadership Programme.

She has a passion for mission and evangelism. Travene feels that God has led her to Caribbean Christian Publications. She joined the staff as Beginner Editor in September 2010. The opportunity to reach young children, through literature, and to introduce and eventually lead them to Christ, is a ministry of which she is happy to be a part of.

She enjoys reading, sleeping, singing and always finds time to reflect. Her favourite Bible book is Job. her favourite verse Proverbs is 21:30.

Welcome to New Users

- ◆ **Grenada:**  
- Garden of Prayer Church
- ◆ **The Bahamas:**  
- Brethren of Evangelistic Assembly
- ◆ **Jamaica:**  
- Jamaica Free Baptist, St Catherine  
- Ocho Rios Methodist Church, St Ann  
- Olivet New Life Assembly, St Mary  
- Portmore New Testament, St Catherine  
- Victory Gospel Hall, St. Andrew

From Our Users

*"I commend the staff of Caribbean Christian Publications for the work...the lessons which we presently use in Sunday School.*

*I believe it is of tremendous help to the people of the Caribbean as the entire work identifies itself with peoples of the Caribbean. The literature is good and the stories told from time to time are good, for example, "That's' Life" (Adult).*

*I encourage you to continue this great task.*

*The blessings of the Lord Jesus be with you."*

**Bishop Bradley S.E. Dyer 1, JP**  
**Presiding, Rehoboth Apostolic Church**  
**Independence City, Jamaica**

*"I have been subscribing to [Caribbean Bible Lessons] for a number of years and really find the literature a great blessing."*

**George Fulford, Pastor, New Testament Church of God**  
**South Caicos, Turks & Caicos Islands**