



ECBM Circuit of Baptist Churches
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Presiding Elder: Rev. Dr. Hensworth W. C. Jonas, GCH, BA, MA, DPTH, DMin

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Christ, Our Solid Foundation

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock" (v. 24).




—Matthew 7:24–29

Some liberal scholars want us to believe that the Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) do not share John's understanding of Christ's authority (8:58; 10:30) since the first three evangelists record few, if any, of Jesus' self-identifications with Yahweh Himself. However, this "scholarly" assumption is false. In particular, Matthew records several teachings of Jesus that reveal the evangelist's high view of our Lord's person and work (Christology). For example, Jesus claims for Himself the right to determine who will enter the kingdom of heaven in Matthew 7:21–23, and in the Old Testament only God Himself makes such judgments (Eccl. 12:13–14). Furthermore, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus presents His interpretation of God's law as having the final say (Matt. 5:21–48). Christ is no mere prophet — He does not merely speak for the Lord; He speaks as the Lord. "I say to you" is what we hear Him say, and He expects us to recognize His right to give the meaning of the Scriptures. Unlike the scribes, Jesus does not cite other rabbis to prove His point. He depends solely on His own understanding, and the crowd that overhears His sermon is astonished at the authority with which He teaches (7:28–29).

Matthew Henry says, "It is possible for people to admire good preaching, and yet to remain in ignorance and unbelief; to be astonished, and yet not sanctified." Amazement at Christ's authority is not enough, today's passage reveals. We must build our lives on the solid foundation of His teaching. If we do not do what He says, we are like those whose houses rest upon the sand and are swept away by flash floods (vv. 24–27). Our good works do not merit salvation, but real trust in Christ is not present in our hearts without the corresponding obedience of faith (Rom. 1:5; James 2:14–26).

From The Pulpit...



-  **Pastor Orvin Paige** will preach at the **8:00 a.m.** service at the **Covenant Baptist Church (Friars Hill Road)** on the topic **"From Domination To Deliverance"** based on **Galatians 4:1-7**.
-  **Bro. Rolando Lewis** will preach at the **8:00 a.m.** service at the **Tyrells Baptist Church (Tyrells Main Road)** on the topic **"Prophecy and Praise: The Lord's Christ Has Come"** based on **Luke 2:25-35**.
-  **Pastor Joshua Jonas** will preach at the **10:00 a.m.** service at the **Central Baptist Church (Radio Range)** on the topic **"The Good News of Christmas"** based on **Luke 2:8-11**.

Building on Christ, Henry also says, means that we are always seeking "to conform to all the rules of His holy religion, and thus depend entirely on Him for assistance from God, and acceptance with Him, and count everything but loss and rubbish that [we] may gain Christ, and be found in Him." May our confession of Jesus' authority translate into the doing of His words.

Coram Deo

"On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand," wrote Edward Mote. In endeavoring to serve Jesus, we see how far we fall short of His demands, confessing that our righteousness does not exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees (Matt. 5:20). This poverty of spirit (v. 3) drives us to the cross where Jesus picks us up, making us more sorrowful for sin and more ready to obey. This is what it means to build our lives on Christ's words.

—<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/christ-our-solid-foundation/>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU!

~27th December - 2nd January~

~29th~

Arriana Dowdie — Central

~30th~

Sis. Mariah Selwood — Central

Bro. Kevonté Comic — Tyrells

Sis. Nadine Fils-Aimé — Tyrells

~31st~

Pastor Joshua Jonas — Central

Sis. Louisa Valcin — Covenant

~1st~

Sis. Claudia Lewis — Central

~2nd~

David Valcin — Covenant

Sunday School Adult & Youth Reading

Prepare for next week...

SERIES: "PROTECTING CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS"

Study #2 Stick With Encouragement — Part 2 of 2
(Acts 9:26-28; 11:21-26)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth.
—II Timothy 2:15

NOONDAY PRAYER MINISTRY



- ❖ We meet for prayer at **Central** from **12:00 noon to 1:00pm** from **Monday to Saturday**. All are welcomed to join us.
- ❖ Your prayer requests will be the focus of our prayers at each Noonday Prayer Meeting.
- ❖ The e-mail address for this is prayer@baptistantigua.org.
Pray without ceasing. —1 Thessalonians 5:17



THINK IT THROUGH...

Lord, how can we know the way?

Thomas said to Him, "Lord, how can we know the way?"
Jesus said to him, "I am the way" John 14:5-6

[As we approach] the first day of a new year. We are setting out on a *journey* of which we can have no knowledge in advance. The *road* is one on which we never have gone hitherto. We know not what any day will have for us . . .

what our *duties* will be,
what *burdens* shall be laid upon us,
what *sorrows* we shall have to endure,
what *battles* we shall have to fight.

We cannot see one step before us! *How can we know the way?*

As we sit in the quiet, this first evening, and ask the question, we hear an answer which is full of comfort. Jesus says to us, "I am the way!"

All we shall have to do, therefore, will be to *follow* Jesus. He has made a *way* through this dark world for us. He has gone over all the journey and opened a road for us at great cost. He went over the way Himself — *we shall find His shoe-prints at every step.*

He has a *definite* way for each one of us. Every mile of the journey He has *chosen* — and every place where I pitch my tent He has *selected* for me!

"Leaving you an example, so that *you should follow in His steps!*" 1 Peter 2:21

J.R. Miller [Edited]



FUNERAL SERVICE

The funeral service for the late Teisha McPherson, niece of **Sister Lorna-Mae Jarvis**, is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 29, 2015**, at the **Zion Church of God on North Street** beginning at **2:00 p.m.** Please encourage and support our sister and her family in this time of bereavement.
"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep" (Romans 12:15).



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



1. JOINT WATCH-NIGHT SERVICE

Our Watch-Night Service will be held on Thursday, 31st December, 2015 at 10:00 p.m. at the Central Baptist Church (Radio Range). All members are expected to join in our prayers of thanksgiving for the past year and petitions for God's blessings in the new year.

2. READING THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

All church members of the Circuit are advised that the Elders have determined that each and every member should join them in reading through the entire Bible on a strict daily schedule for 2016. Each week in the Family News, we will print the passages that will be read for 7 days at a time, beginning this week Friday, January 1, 2016. Some of us have read through the entire Bible before. We will do it again to the edification of our souls. Some have never done so. If you are a true Christian, this should be a priority, for how can you credibly claim that the Bible is the most important book in your lives and you have never read it in its entirety. We strongly recommend that this project be completed using the technology that is available to us. Open your Bibles as a family (or individually) to the prescribed passages each day, whether you plan to read it all at once or morning and evening, and play an audio of the passage while you follow along in your Bibles. Recommended versions of the Bible are KJV, NKJV, HCSB, and NASB. You may find audio at the following website: [BibleGateway.com- Audio Bibles](http://BibleGateway.com-Audio Bibles)

3. NO SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY

All members of the ECBM Circuit of Baptist Churches are advised that there will be no evening service on Wednesday, 30th December, 2015.

4. YOUTH COSTUME PARTY THIS FRIDAY

All youths of the ECBM Circuit of Baptist Churches are reminded of the Costume Party which will be held at the Central Baptist Church on Friday, 1st January, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. It will be a time of fun and fellowship. Be sure to be there.

5. GOLDEN JUBILEE MAGAZINE

All church members who have not yet received a copy of the Golden Jubilee Magazine are kindly asked to check

with their Resident Elder. If you are not a member and would like to have the magazine, please view or download it from the church's website at www.baptistantigua.org.

6. DOMINICA RELIEF FUND

Special envelopes are still available for aid to our Dominican brethren. Although we sent \$30,000 (Eastern Caribbean Dollars) to bring relief to the Roseau Berean Bible Church and the Berean Christian Academy, we did not reach our goal and so the fund will remain open. Let every one give generously, remembering God's grace to us in our time of need. Luke 6:38—"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom..."

READING THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Friday, January 1st – Genesis 1–3; Matthew 1
 Saturday, January 2nd – Genesis 4–6; Matthew 2
 Sunday, January 3rd – Genesis 7–9; Matthew 3
 Monday, January 4th – Genesis 10–12; Matthew 4
 Tuesday, January 5th – Genesis 13–15; Matthew 5:1-26
 Wednesday, January 6th – Genesis 16–17; Matthew 5:27-48
 Thursday, January 7th – Genesis 18–19; Matthew 6:1-18



PRAYER...



God is so gracious that He condescends to converse with poor sinful, dust and ashes. Prayer is one of the most pleasant ways He has appointed for children of men to walk with Him. His children whisper to Him in the ear, and open their minds and hearts as His intimate friends...God commands His people if they are in any perplexity to call upon Him in the day of trouble and He will hear.

—George Swinnock

This Week

- Sun. 8:00 a.m. Sovereign Grace Hour (ABS TV)
 8:00 a.m. Worship: Tyrells & Covenant
 9:00 a.m. Sunday School: Central
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School: Tyrells & Covenant
 10:00 a.m. Worship: Central
 6:00 p.m. Worship: All Churches
 7:00 p.m. Sunday School: All Churches
- Mon. 12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer Meeting
- Tues. 12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer Meeting
 3:00 p.m. Sovereign Grace Hour (ALR 103.9 FM)
 6:30 p.m. Elders Meeting: Central
- Wed. 12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer Meeting
- Thurs. 12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer Meeting
 10:00 p.m. Joint Watch Night Service: Central
- Fri. 9:00 a.m. Sovereign Grace Hour (ALR 103.9 FM)
 12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Youth Costume Party: Central
- Sat. 12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer Meeting



ECBM DIRECTORY

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Central Baptist Church | 462-2894 |
| Tyrells Baptist Church | 460-3557 |
| Covenant Baptist Church | 561-4022 |
| Baptist Academy | 462-2894 |
| Baptist Retreat Centre | 463-8801 |

Eldership

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Hensworth W. C. Jonas (Presiding) | 771-4888 |
| Ivor J. Walker (Associate) | 464-1644 |
| Orvin D. E. Paige (Associate) | 464-1014 |
| Joshua M. Jonas (Staff Associate) | 726-9662 |

Diaconate

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| David S. Jarvis (Chairman) | 464-7477 |
| Earl W. F. Skerritt | 722-4313 |
| Ian J. Blair | 773-1061 |
| John Patrick Tomlinson | 786-7957 |

BE EARNEST IN PRAYER

GENERAL MINISTRY NEEDS

Elders, Deacons, and their families
 Baptist Academy of Antigua
 E.C.B.M. Ministries & Staff
 Evangelistic Ministries
“Sovereign Grace Hour” (ABS TV & Abundant Life Radio)

CHURCH FAMILY

HEALTH: Sis. Chanda Jonas, Sis. Veronica Roberts,
 Sis. Louise Pilgrim, Sis. Enid Matthew, Sis. Sharon Carty,
 Dr. Hensworth W. C. Jonas, Sis. Ann-Marie Pilgrim,
 Sis. Jean Edwards, Bro. Nigel Pilgrim, Sis. Rosalind
 Ferris, Sis. Paula Skerritt, Sis. Cassilda Williams,
 Sis. Monica Gardener, Sis. Pamela Walcott, Sis. Juliette
 Smith, Sis. Priya Jattan, Sis. Nadine Smith

PRIVATE CONCERNS: Sis. Muriel Martin, Sis. Curline
 Joseph, Sis. Genevieve Leo, Sis. Judy Edwards,
 Bro. Ephraim Gomes., Sis. Sofia Marcellus

THANKSGIVING: Sis. Judy Browne, Sis. Jean Edwards,
 Sis. Diane Joseph, Sis. Norma Grant, Sis. Juliette
 Dorsette, Bro. Ivan & Sis. Maria Hurst

NEW MEMBERS: Bro. Kareem Michael, Sis. Clytie Francis,
 Bro. R. Oliver Baptiste, Bro. Shane Cory, Sis. Rosamund
 Haynes, Sis. Victoria Charlton, Sis. Eliena Louisa,
 Bro. Xavier Joseph, Bro. Zakeem Michael, Sis. Nia
 Santana, Bro. Jonathas René, Bro. Akeel Jarvis,
 Sis. Curline Joseph, Sis. Esther René

WATCH CARE: Sis. Irene Jonas, Bro. Charles Richards
 SHUT IN: Sis. Enid Matthew, Sis. Edith McCoy

OTHER CONCERNS

SAVING GRACE: Tefield Charles, Yashoné Baltimore,
 Keandra Comic, Andy Josiah, Patrice Josiah, Shakwan
 Serrant, Juliettea George, Clement Henry, Dave Walton,
 Moses Walton, Ken Hurst, Ercille Hurst, Debbie Hurst,
 George Browne, Khalid Browne, Hamadi Browne,
 Grantley Edwards, Christophe Marcellus, Milbert Joseph
 NEW MEMBER APPLICANTS: Sonel Saint Jean (Tyrells),
Celine Bolivard (Tyrells), La'Rica Locker (Covenant),
 Telesha Choy (Central), Charissa Watkins (Central),
 Eulyn Williams (Central), Gloria Herrera (Tyrells), Ken
 Murray (Covenant), Carlos Jarvis (Central)

Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17



Memory Verses For Next Week

Pre-school — Luke 19:10
 Elementary — Proverbs 15: 3
 Secondary & Adults — 2 Peter 1:10