

FAMILY



NEWS

ECBM Circuit of Baptist Churches
P.O. Box 2678 • St. John's • Antigua & Barbuda
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Dr. Hensworth W. C. Jonas, Presiding Elder

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HEART OR GARMENT RENDING?




And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.
—Joel 2:13

GARMENT-RENDING and other outward signs of religious emotion, are easily manifested and are frequently hypocritical; but to feel true repentance is far more difficult, and consequently far less common. Men will attend to the most multiplied and minute ceremonial regulations for such things are pleasing to the flesh-but true religion is too humbling, too heart-searching, too thorough for the tastes of the carnal men; they prefer something more ostentatious, flimsy, and worldly. Outward observances are temporarily comfortable; eye and ear are pleased; self-conceit is fed, and self-righteousness is puffed up: but they are ultimately delusive, for in the article of death, and at the day of judgment, the soul needs something more substantial than ceremonies and rituals to lean upon. Apart from vital godliness all religion is utterly vain; offered without a sincere heart, every form of worship is a solemn sham and an impudent mockery of the majesty of heaven.

HEART-RENDING is divinely wrought and solemnly felt. It is a secret grief which is personally experienced, not in mere form, but as a deep, soul-moving work of the Holy Spirit upon the

From The Pulpit...



-  **Pastor Joshua Jonas** will preach at the **8:00 a.m.** service at the **Covenant Baptist Church** (Friars Hill Road) on the topic "**Call His Name Immanuel**" based on **Matthew 1:18-25**.
-  **Pastor Ivor Walker** will preach at the **8:00 a.m.** service at the **Tyrells Baptist Church** (Tyrells Main Road) on the topic "**A Presentation of Hope**" based on **Luke 2:22-34**.
-  **Pastor Orvin Paige** will preach at the **10:00 a.m.** service at the **Central Baptist Church** (Radio Range) on the topic "**Examine Your Affections**" based on **Colossians 3:1-4**.

inmost heart of each believer. It is not a matter to be merely talked of and believed in, but keenly and sensitively felt in every living child of the living God. It is powerfully humiliating, and completely sin-purging; but then it is sweetly preparative for those gracious consolations which proud unhumiliated spirits are unable to receive; and it is distinctly discriminating, for it belongs to the elect of God, and to them alone.

The text commands us to rend our hearts, but they are naturally hard as marble: how, then, can this be done? We must take them to Calvary: a dying Saviour's voice rent the rocks once, and it is as powerful now. O blessed Spirit, let us hear the death-cries of Jesus, and our hearts shall be rent even as men rend their vestures in the day of lamentation.

—Charles H. Spurgeon

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU!

~28th December - 3rd January~

~30th~

Sis. Mariah Selwood - Central
 Bro. Kevonté Comic - Tyrells
 Sis. Nadine Fils-Aimé - Tyrells

~31st~

Pastor Joshua Jonas - Central
 Sis. Louisa Valcin - Covenant

~2nd~

David Valcin - Covenant
 Sis. Kendrea Comic - Tyrells

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

~3rd January~

Bro. Ivan & Sis. Maria Hurst

Sunday School Adult & Youth Reading
Prepare for next week...

Series: "CONNECTED—MY LIFE IN THE CHURCH"

Study #5—Connected In Service (Ephesians 5: 15-21) [Part 1]

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

3 Simple Rules For Listening to a Sermon

It is not enough that we go to church and hear sermons. We may do so for fifty years, and be nothing better, but rather worse. "Take heed," says our Lord, "how you hear." Would any one know how to hear properly? Then let them lay to heart *three simple rules*.

1) We must hear with **FAITH**, believing implicitly that every word of God is true, and shall stand. The word in old time did not profit the Jews, since it was "not mixed with faith in those who heard it" (Heb. 4:2).

2) We must hear with **REVERENCE**, remembering constantly that the Bible is the book of God. This was the habit of the Thessalonians. They received Paul's message, "not as the word of men, but the Word of God" (1 Thess. 2:13).

3) We must hear with **PRAYER**, praying for God's blessing before the sermon is preached, praying for God's blessing again when the sermon is over. Here lies the grand defect of the hearing of many. They ask no blessing, and so they have none. The sermon passes through their minds like water through a leaky vessel, and leaves nothing behind.

► Summary:

Let us bear these rules in mind every Sunday morning, before we go to hear the Word of God preached. Let us not rush into God's presence careless, reckless, and unprepared, as if it mattered not in what way such work was done. Let us carry with us **faith, reverence, and prayer**. If these three are our companions, we will hear with profit, and return with praise.

~ J.C. Ryle~



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



1. JOINT WATCH-NIGHT SERVICE

Our Watch-Night Service will be held on Wednesday, 31st December, 2014 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. ECBM BULK E-MAIL & TEXT MESSAGES

This communication tool was tested on Christmas Day with a brief message. All church members who did not receive this message via e-mail or text message should contact the church office immediately. There may be a discrepancy in either the e-mail address or the telephone number that you submitted. All are reminded to save the telephone number (268-788-1678) and the e-mail address (info@baptistantigua.org) that has been designated for the sending of bulk messages from the Circuit. Please be reminded that this number and e-mail address are not designed to receive replies.

3. SPECIAL OFFERING

The Elders of the ECBM Circuit of Baptist Churches are challenging all members to make a sacrificial offering to the needs of the Haitian people in general and the Baptist Haiti Mission in particular. Every man, woman, boy and girl should get a special envelope from the ushers to show their love and compassion of Christ. This special offering given will be added to the regular monthly contribution of our churches to the Baptist Haiti Mission. Updates about the Baptist Haiti Mission can also be found on their facebook page.

4. EVANGELISM THRUST

All members are encouraged to pray for and be disciplined participants in our new evangelistic initiative. The adult Sunday School classes have been divided into teams for evangelism by appointment. The youth Sunday School classes will be evangelizing by canvassing the island with the assistance of their counselors and a few young adults. Let us pray for good success in extending the Kingdom of God.

5. CHURCH ATTENDANCE

All members of the Circuit are reminded of their Covenant Responsibility to attend all the stated meetings of the church unless providentially hindered by illness, unusual working conditions that do not violate the Lord's Day, and other such circumstances (Heb. 10:24, 25). The stated meetings of the church are **as follows: All services on the Lord's Day (Sunday School, morning and evening worship), Midweek Prayer Services; Church Stewardship (business) Meetings; and any special meetings that the elders shall deem necessary.** Please be reminded that you

are expected to advise the elder who is resident at your congregation of any providential hindrances.

6. PROVE THE TITHE

All church members are encouraged to be faithful with the giving of their tithes (10% of gross income) in accordance with the teaching of Malachi 3:8-10, as well as the Missions Offering as the Lord blesses you. The former supports our local church programmes and the latter our outreach beyond the walls of our churches. Let us give cheerfully, in obedience to Christ, and keep the work of the ministry strong and efficient.

7. ACTEENS CLUB

All teenage girls are reminded of their regular club meeting this Friday at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Baptist Church. Be sure to bring your Bible, notebook and a pen. Please be punctual.

8. ROYAL AMBASSADORS CLUB

All teenage boys are advised of their regular club meeting this Friday at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Baptist Church. Be sure to bring your Bible, notebook and pen.

9. CHORUS TEAM PRACTICE

All members of the Chorus Team are advised that there will be a rehearsal on Friday, 2nd January, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at Central. Please be punctual.

WILLING CAPTIVE

*Unshackled from sin
Imprisoned to praise,
I'm sentenced to love Thee
For the rest of my days.
My heart has been bound
With Thy merciful cords.
My tongue has been loosed
For Thy love songs, oh Lord.
No bars, no chains
Are required on me,
For 'tis my greatest joy
To be fettered to Thee.*

—Vicki Baird

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
 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
 10:00 p.m. Joint Watch Night Service: Central
- Thurs. 12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer Meeting
- Fri. 9:00 a.m. Sovereign Grace Hour (ALR 103.9 FM)
 12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer Meeting
 5:30 p.m. Chorus Team Practice: Central
 6:30 p.m. RAs: Central
 6:30 p.m. Acteens: Central
- Sat. 12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer Meeting
 3:00 p.m. Church-wide Evangelism: All Churches



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)	764-1491
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: 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. Jasmine Jarvis, Sis. Priya Jattan, Sis. Nelseta Gordon
PRIVATE CONCERNS: Bro. Ernest Davis, Sis. Judy Edwards, Sis. Genevieve Leo, Bro. Sherwin & Sis. Nicole Parker, Sis. Muriel Martin

THANKSGIVING: Sis. Judy Edwards, Sis. Genevieve Leo, Bro. Sherwin & Sis. Nicole Parker, Sis. Yvonne Lee, Sis. Chanda Benjamin, Sis. Shereese Mack, Sis. Dianne Joseph

SAFETY IN PREGNANCY: Sis. Suzette Dowdle, Sis. Jo-Ann Paige, Sis. Altude Exaie

NEW MEMBERS: Bro. Olrich Chery, Sis. Briana Griffith, Sis. Stacey Hector, Sis. Rickeshia Willock, Sis. Priya Jattan, Sis. Marian Locker, Sis. Nadine Fils Aime, Bro. Ernst Pierre-Louis, Sis. Benjy Chery, Sis. Aminata Joseph, Sis. Jenee Henry, Sis. Shinel Leo

WATCH CARE: Sis. Irene Jonas, Sis. Diana Richards, Bro. Charles Richards

SHUT IN: Sis. Enid Matthew, Sis. Edith McCoy

OTHER CONCERNS

SAVING GRACE: Curtis Paige, Michelle Paige, Dion Andrew, Otelle Setal, Charles Nurse, Akeleira Brathwaite, Selina Naddour, Xena Joseph, Sinclair Joseph, George Browne, Khalid Browne, Hamadi Browne, Lynda Davis, Asheka Davis, Vivian Mason, Dedra Mason, Kezron Lewis, Deondre Mason, Lorraine Mason, Clairfoster Lewis, Jamol Pilgrim-Chelsea Barlow, Chikaede Barlow, Yvette Henry, Brian Williams, Latanyce Williams, Kurt Spencer, Cherisse James, Joshua Joseph, Theo Blair, Art Bazilio, Egan Bazilio, Andy Josiah, Partice Josiah

NEW MEMBER APPLICANTS: Esther René (Central), Trishel Wetherill (Covenant), Jonathas René (Central), Rivert René (Central—Restoration), Akeel Jarvis (Central)

Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Memory Verses For Next Week



Pre-school — Matthew 5:16
 Elementary — Psalm 27:1
 Secondary & Adults — 1 John 1:9