

# FAMILY NEWS

ECBM Circuit of Baptist Churches  
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Vol. 27, No. 14 **"Preaching the Doctrines of Grace...Practising the Grace of the Doctrines"** Dec. 31, 2017

## AFFLICTION TESTS SINCERITY

*For the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage...*

*Joshua 24:17*





Israel was under great tyranny in Egypt. God's children may sometimes be under some afflictions, but God will, in due time, bring them out. Affliction tests sincerity. Hypocrites may embrace the true religion in prosperity, and court this queen while she has a jewel on her ear, but a true Christian will keep close to God in time of suffering.

To love God in heaven is no wonder, but to love Him when He chastises us discovers sincerity. Affliction purges out corruptions of sloth, luxury, pride, and love of the world. It is not to consume, but to refine. What if we have more affliction, if by this means we have less sin! Affliction increases the graces of the spirit. Grace thrives most in the iron furnace. Grace in the saints is often as fire hidden embers; affliction is the bellows to blow it up into flame.

The Lord makes the house of bondage a friend to grace. God hews and polishes us by affliction that we might be fit for heaven. Though sheep have the ear-mark of election, they may have their wool fleeced off. Was not Jeremiah in the dungeon, and Paul a night and day in the deep? Oh yet, while He is bruising them, He is doing them good. Affliction enriches the soul and yields the sweet fruit of righteousness. We are apt to look up on

## *From The Pulpit...*



-  **Dr. H. W. C. Jonas** will preach at the **8:00 a.m.** service at the **Covenant Baptist Church** (Friars Hill Road) on the topic "**Follow The Money**" based on **1 Chronicles 29:6-20**.
-  **Pastor Joshua Jonas** will preach at the **8:00 a.m.** service at the **Tyrells Baptist Church** (Tyrells Main Road) on the topic "**Cutting Sin Down To Size**" based on **1 Samuel 17**.
-  **Pastor Orvin Paige** will preach at the **10:00 a.m.** service **Central Baptist Church** (Radio Range) on the topic "**Facing the Future**" based on **2 Timothy 4:6-8**
-  **Dr. Jonas** will also preach at the **10:00 p.m.** joint watch-night service at the **Central Baptist Church** (Radio Range) on the topic "**The Difficulty of Faith**" based on **Deuteronomy 30:11-20**.

the iron furnace as a frightful thing, but affliction comes from a wise God who prescribes whatever befalls us. Affliction has it light side as well as a dark.

God can sweeten our afflictions and sweeten our wormwood. If afflictions come, let us labour to conduct ourselves wisely that we may adorn our suffering and endure with patience. Satan labours to take advantage of us to faint and murmur. He blows the coals of passion and discontent and then warms himself at the fire.

—Thomas Watson





## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### 1. PRESIDING ELDER'S ANNIVERSARY

The Presiding Elder completed 32 years of full time pastoral today. There will be an Appreciation Dinner celebrating the same on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. (by invitation only). On Sunday, January 21, 2018, there will be a Joint Appreciation Service at the Central Baptist Church at 6:00 p.m. Let us begin to pray earnestly for all aspects of these events.

### 2. JOINT WATCH-NIGHT SERVICE

Our Watch-Night Service will be held this evening 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.**

### 3. DIACONAL ORDINATION SERVICE

All members of the ECBM Circuit of Baptist Churches are advised of the ordination of Bro. Charlesworth Dowdie. It will be a part of the Joint Watch-Night Service tonight at the Central Baptist Church.

### 4. NO NOONDAY PRAYER

All members of the Circuit are advised that there will be no noonday prayer time on **New Year's Day (January 01, 2017).**

### 5. SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEETING

All Sunday school teachers of the Circuit are advised of a meeting on Tuesday, 2nd January, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Baptist Church. Please be punctual.

### 6. EVENTS PREP, USHERS & GUEST SERVICES MEETING

All members of the Events Preparation, Ushers & Guest Services Ministries are advised of a meeting on Thursday, 4th January, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Baptist Church. Please be on time.

### 7. BLAST YOUTH MINISTRY

All teenage boys and girls are reminded of B.L.A.S.T. (Building Lives Around Scriptural Truth) this Friday. The BLAST Girls Club will meet from 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. in

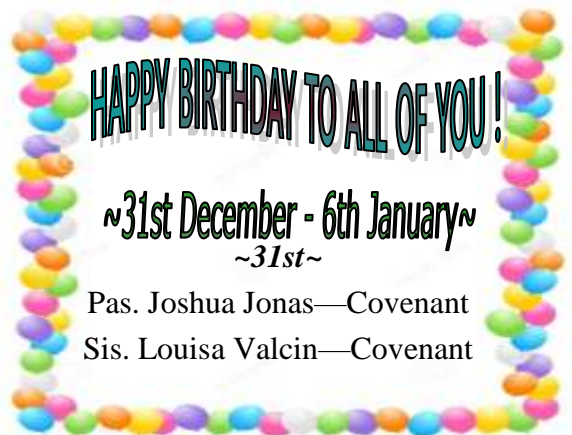
the Conference Room and the BLAST Boys Club will meet from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on the BAA Grounds. Be sure to bring your Bible, pen and notepad. Do not miss this time of great fellowship! All parents and guardians are kindly reminded that they need to pick up their children by 8:15 p.m. sharp.

### 8. ECBM DISASTER RELIEF FUND

All members of the Circuit are encouraged to support the ECBM Disaster Relief Fund. This fund will assist our brethren in Barbuda, Dominica, Tortola and Haiti who have faced disasters. Any envelope labelled with these territories will go to the ECBM Disaster Relief Fund. Let **us remember, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" Galatians 6:10.**

### 9. 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.



**BIBLE READING**

- Today, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>— Revelation 22
- Monday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>— Genesis 1-3
- Tuesday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>— Genesis 4-6
- Wednesday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>— Genesis 7-9
- Thursday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>— Genesis 10-12
- Friday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>— Genesis 13-15
- Saturday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>— Genesis 16-17
- Sunday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>— Genesis 18-19



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

Life Transforming Truths  
 Chapter 3 (Affirming Particular Redemption)

***“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

**HAPPY**  
**wedding ANNIVERSARY**

~ 3rd ~

Bro. Ivan Hurst & Sis. Maria Hurst

~ 7th ~

Bro. Darryl Charles & Sis. Sonia Charles



**Think It Through...**

*“My times are in Your hand!”*

Psalm 31:15

Firmly believing that my times are in God's hand, I here submit myself and all my affairs for the ensuing year, to the wise and gracious disposal of God's divine providence. Whether God appoints for me . . . .

- health or sickness,
- peace or trouble,
- comforts or crosses,
- life or death —
- may His holy will be done!

All my time, strength, and service, I devote to the honor of the Lord Jesus — and even my common actions. It is my earnest expectation, hope, and desire, my constant aim and endeavor — that Jesus Christ may be magnified in me.

In everything I have to do — my entire dependence is upon Jesus Christ for strength. And whatever I do in word or deed, I desire to do all in His name, to make Him my Alpha and Omega. I have all from Him — and I would use all for Him.

If this should prove a year of *affliction*, a *sorrowful* year to me — I will fetch all my supports and comforts from the Lord Jesus and stay myself upon Him, His everlasting consolations, and the good hope I have in Him through grace.

And if it should be my *dying* year — then *my times are in the hand of the Lord Jesus*. And with a humble reliance upon His mediation, I would venture into the eternal world looking for the blessed hope. Dying as well as living — Jesus Christ will, I trust, be gain and advantage to me.

Oh, that the grace of God may be sufficient for me, to keep me always a humble sense of my own unworthiness, weakness, folly, and infirmity — together with a humble dependence upon the Lord Jesus Christ for both righteousness and strength.

—Matthew Henry

# BE FERVENT 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)



## CHURCH FAMILY

**HEALTH:** Dr. Hensworth W. C. Jonas, Pas. Ivor Walker, Sis. Nicole Parker, Sis. Veronica Roberts, Sis. Louise Pilgrim, Sis. Enid Matthew, Sis. Jean Edwards, Bro. Nigel Pilgrim, Sis. Rosalind Ferris, Sis. Paula Skerritt, Sis. Cassilda Williams, Sis. Monica Gardener, Sis. Juliette Smith, Sis. Joycelyn Henry, Sis. Magella Selwood

**PRIVATE CONCERNS:** Sis. Magella Selwood, Sis. Muriel Martin, Sis. Nadine Smith, Bro. Shaquille & Sis. Gillisa Carty

**THANKSGIVING:** Sis. Judy Browne, Bro. Ceon & Sis. Annstacia Barlow, Sis. Diane Joseph, Sis. Genevieve Jervis, Sis. Sarah Maina, Sis. Magella Selwood

**NEW MEMBERS:** Sis. Rosgue Joseph, Bro. Ronald Jean, Sis. Leyann Lam, Bro. Tijorn Burton, Sis. Kerrie-Faun Nathan, Sis. Serena Richards, Bro. Corly Francis, Sis. Eulyn Williams, Sis. Helena Williams, Bro. Kyle Abraham

**WATCH CARE:** Sis. Irene Jonas, Sis. Enid Matthew, Sis. Jean Edwards

**SHUT-IN:** Bro. Charles Richards

## OTHER CONCERNS

**SAVING GRACE:** Edric Tonge Sr., Edric Tonge Jr., Genevieve Simon, Diane Lake, Gary Morian, Leslie Hutson, Travis Mingo, Otis Brisport, Colin Baker, Hamadi Browne, George Browne, Khalid Browne, Chelsea Barlow, Chikaede Barlow, Annabelle Maina, Clyde Walton, David Toussaint, Grantley Edwards, Martina Edwards, Roderick Williams, Dawn Williams, Joshua Sheridan, Dale Jones, Andrea Jeremiah

**NEW MEMBER APPLICANTS:** Athalia Andrew (Central), Follet Brown (Central)

*Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17*

# Memory Verses For Next Week



Pre-school — Luke 19:10

Elementary — Psalm 46:1

Secondary & Adults — 2 Peter 1:10

# THIS WEEK

## Sunday

08:00 a.m. Sovereign Grace Hour (ABS TV)  
 08:00 a.m. Worship: Tyrells & Covenant  
 09:00 a.m. Sunday School: Central  
 09:45 a.m. Sunday School: Tyrells & Covenant  
 10:00 a.m. Worship: Central  
 10:00 p.m. Joint Watch-Night Service: Central

## Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer Meeting  
 06:30 p.m. **Elders' Meeting: Central**

## Wednesday

12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer Meeting  
 07:00 p.m. Prayer Service & Fellowship Groups: All Churches

## Thursday

12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer Meeting

## Friday

12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer Meeting  
 06:30 p.m. BLAST Girls: Central (Conference Room)  
 06:30 p.m. BLAST Boys: Central (BAA Grounds)

## Saturday

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
Joshua M. Jonas (Staff Associate)	726-9662
Rolando A. Lewis (Staff Associate)	784-6147
Ivor J. Walker (Associate)	464-1644
Orvin D. E. Paige (Associate)	464-5395

## Diaconate

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