

METHODIST SYNOD IN ANGUILLA

The Synod of the Leeward Islands District of the Methodist Church was officially opened at The Road, Anguilla on Wednesday, January 22, at 7:30 p.m. and will last until February 3.

Since it was made known at Synod in St. Kitts about a year ago that Anguilla would be host to the Leeward Island District Methodist Synod, this year - The people of Anguilla swung into action to make the necessary preparations - A suitable building had to be built where the members of the Synod could meet to have their meals and hold conferences - Homes had to be found where the delegates could

stay - Preparation had to be made to be able feed about 60 persons at one time - These are but a few of the problems with which the Methodist community of Anguilla was faced. But, the Anguillians were determined and under the able leadership of their minister, Rev. D.G. Mason, buckled down to task which lied ahead - And so when the delegates started arriving on Tuesday, Jan. 21 Anguilla was ready.

The Welcome and Opening Session which was held at the

Bethel Methodist Church in The Road on Wednesday, January 22, at 7:30 p.m. was attended by over one thousand people who came from all sections of the island to witness the history making event and hundreds of people were forced to remain outside, as the church was too small for the large crowd.

In Anguilla, Methodism has had a fine record over a period of 150 years - But this is the first time ever that the island has been host to a Synod.

The Welcome Meeting was opened by the singing of a hymn, followed by Scripture

reading and a prayer by Rev. A.E. Moffett - Rev. Mason, Superintendent of the Anguilla Circuit then made some introductory remarks after which the Synod was welcomed by Anguilla, first by His Worship the Warden of Anguilla, Mr. V.F. Bryon and then by Mr. J.B. Owen, M.B.E., J.P., Senior Circuit Steward. The Chairman of the Synod, The Rev. Arthurton Didier, B.D. replied on behalf of the Synod - Rev. C.L. Carty, secretary, read the Statistical Returns of the District and the closing address was made by Rev. J.G.E. Martin, Superintendent of the Aruba Circuit.

Highlights of the Statistical Returns of Of The Sistrict.

Buildings in which the people worship, in 12 Districts, but more than 12 islands scattered through Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, Anguilla, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, British Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, Aruba and Curacao there are 64 churches and 16 other buildings used for worship.

STAFF:

The District Staff comprises of 21 ministers and 3 Deaconesses.

MEMBERSHIP:

There are 240 Local Preachers - 1193 Class Leaders - 14074 Communican members - 570 members on trial in preparation for membership.

1160 children were baptized of which 655 were the children of married parents and 1005 were the children of un-married parents - In Anguilla, 73 children were baptized (38 of married parents and 35 of un-married parents)

About 60 delegates from St. Maarten, St. Eustatius, Aruba, Curacao, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat, Dominica, Antigua, the British Virgin Islands, St. Thomas are attending the Synod.

The St. Maarten delegation includes the Rev. K.R. Khan, B.A., B.D., the Rev. Gordon James, Mr. B. Maillard, Mr. J.C.

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