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## USA TODAY

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INSIDE

## CARS! CARS! CARS!

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INSIDE

## OBITUARIES and RELIGION

IN TODAY'S TRIBUNE

SEE PAGE 30

# \$10,000 THEY WON, HAVE YOU?

# New child sex claims probed

## Two men wanted for attacks on women

By MEGAN REYNOLDS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

A SERIES of attacks on women returning to their homes in eastern and western New Providence have been attributed to two men wanted by police.

Superintendent Stephen Dean, Director of the National Crime Prevention Office, and Assistant Superintendent Clayton Leroy Fernander, who is in charge of the Armed Robbery division, have warned the public to beware of the "dangerous" pair who target women who are alone and rob them at gunpoint.

Police say they are closing in on the two perpetrators who work together in stolen Honda Accords and Nissan Sentras with shifting licence plates.

Assistant Superintendent Fernander and his team inter-

**SEE page 19**

## Ministry investigates allegations involving school teacher

By MEGAN REYNOLDS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

NEW sexual abuse allegations at Family Island schools were investigated by Ministry of Education officials this week to ensure the safety of children.

A Family Island resident, who did not want to be named, told *The Tribune* how a school teacher in Andros is alleged to have taken advantage of children in his care by forcing them to touch him inappropriately.

The source claimed government officials travelled to Andros yesterday to interview staff and pupils for a fresh investigation.

Minister of Education Desmond Bannister would not confirm whether an investigation had been launched at the Andros school yesterday.

However, the department does have an investigation team in place to look into claims of sexual abuse or any other type of abuse in schools.

The investigator, attorney and school psychologist are understood to have visited the Andros school and another school in the Family Islands this week.

A source within the education department said: "It's composed in a way to be fair to everybody to ensure that they listen to the young people and investigate fully and that the ratified teachers are protected."

"We want children to feel safe and comfortable enough to report incidents of abuse, to ensure the children are safe."

When abuse is suspected, police and social services are called to assist and step up

**SEE page 15**

## SETTING UP A BIG FINISH FOR MARATHON BAHAMAS



CONSTRUCTION is taking place on bleachers at the finish line of this weekend's Marathon Bahamas. The race, which starts at 6am on Sunday, sets off from Fort Montagu before heading out west, then returns to Arawak Cay for the big finish.

## Two police officers could stand trial over alleged beating at station

TWO police officers could soon stand trial following the death of a 28-year-old man who was allegedly beaten at the Grove Police Station in 2007.

Father-of six Desmond Key died in hospital on January 19, 2008, from injuries claimed to have

**SEE page 15**



PERRY CHRISTIE

## Christie claims temporary job offers made in exchange for votes

WITH only a few more days to go before the Elizabeth by-election and the race heating up for all candidates, PLP leader Perry Christie alleged that persons are being given temporary job offers and promised improvements in the community, all in exchange for their vote in five days time.

"In Elizabeth today there is evidence of unfair

**SEE page 14**

## The PLP denies making Haitian citizenship opportunity promises

THE PLP has denied that it held a rally at which Haitians born in the Bahamas were promised a larger window of opportunity to apply for citizenship if the government

changes hands in 2012.

Reports that such an event ever took place were dismissed as "hogwash" by the party's

**SEE page 14**

## Prospects slim for private carriers to take up Nassau to Kingston route

By NOELLE NICOLLS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

PROSPECTS are looking slim for private air carriers to take up the Nassau to Kingston route which is being dropped by Air Jamaica in April.

Sky Bahamas chief executive officer, Randy Butler, said the airline is looking at data to make an assessment but at this time the num-

**SEE page 15**

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LOCAL NEWS

# A sustainable solution to Haiti's housing challenge

THE TRIBUNE'S  
**HAITIBLOG**

SHAUN INGRAHAM

**A**S NOTED in my first journal, there was a serious need for affordable housing in Haiti before the seismic (earthquake). The need now is even greater.

The current trend is for those that have been dislocated to travel back to the provinces and move in with family and friends. This is placing a burden on the already crowded resources in some areas and is something non-profits and government agencies are monitoring closely.

Some feel that because Haiti's commerce is so centralised in Port au Prince, the trend will reverse and people will move back to the city once people realise there are very few jobs available in the countryside.

If jobs are not created outside of Port au Prince, the people will not stay. The big question now is, Where should the rebuilding of temporary and long term shelter be concentrated – next to or away from the city?

The past two days have been spent with Mr Barthélemy Louis Mary Leon – also known as Bart or Lou Lou – the National Co-ordinator of the Building and Training Centre (BTC) project for Habitat for Humanity in Haiti (HFHH). (Habitat for Humanity is probably the most recognised international provider of affordable homes

in the world). Bart, like so many of the patriotic Haitians I have encountered here, is not about to leave Haiti. He has sent his wife to the US with two of their five children and he remains in Haiti to help build a stronger society.

We travelled for about 30 minutes north out of Port au Prince to the town of Cabaret, where HFHH has been providing clients with affordable housing for 20 years. To date they have been able to assist 187 families in this area with homes. The current goal is 207. They are well on the way to achieving this goal in the next few months.

Bart is optimistic that communities like Cabaret, which enjoys the support of Habitat and the local municipality, which is providing land and before the seismic was building a healthcare clinic, can be the new model for absorbing the displaced people from Port au Prince. Right next to the town is an orphanage with the potential for expansion. This can be an answer for a few dozen of the precious children that have been made orphans.

## Provinces

I asked Bart about the theory that the people will not stay in the provinces. He is adamant that power needs to be decentralised from Port au Prince. For any government business, one has to go into the city.

Bart thinks the time has come to give more autonomy to the local provinces, and points out that Habitat has actually been considering people not staying and realises that they need to provide jobs for residents. However, he sees the need for a step before jobs – training – which is why Habitat has begun a new BTC initiative in Haiti.

Recently, a Cuban engineer was bought in by Habitat to show locals how to build seismic resistant pre-fab roofs with light weight concrete. A central location has already been identified and a steel frame structure erected with a mould in place to begin fabricating roofing panels for the next phase of building in Cabaret. (See photo). The challenge, Bart points out, is that they do not have the funds as yet to complete the setting up process. He estimates that an investment of \$50,000 will be needed to purchase a generator, inverter, batteries, cement mixer, and hire staff for each of the BTCs. His enthusiasm is in conflict with his frustration, as he states that with this simple investment, Habitat's capacity can be increased tremendously.

Later in the day, we travelled further north to the

**SEE page 12**



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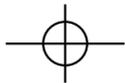
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LOCAL NEWS

# 'Brave' criticises FNM candidate for debate absence



PLP Deputy Leader Philip "Brave" Davis yesterday criticised FNM candidate Dr Duane Sands for not attending the nationally-televised debate on Tuesday night.

He told a PLP rally at the Elizabeth constituency: "If the FNM truly cares about the people of Elizabeth, where was Duane Sands last night? The people of Elizabeth wanted to hear from Duane. He, however, was nowhere in sight. Elizabeth wants to hear Duane debate the issues. He and his party do not care what you went through. And they say they are never scared? Yeah right! Duane when are you going to stand on your own two feet?"

"Be a man. I cannot believe that you would leave your noble profession to be played like a puppet. I know you. You are from good stock. Indeed, I expected better of you and so do the



A SCENE from Tuesday night's debate (above). PLP Deputy Leader Philip Davis (right) criticised the FNM candidate Dr Duane Sands (far right) for being absent from the event.



people of Elizabeth."

The PLP chief congratulated Ryan Pinder for being present at the debate and for making the PLP "proud".

"Real men face the music and stand up when called upon. If Duane is ducking the good people of Elizabeth now, then we already know what to expect should he ever be elected. Don't say we did not warn you," he said.

He accused Dr Sands of not stating yet what he as an MP would do for the people of Elizabeth.

"Do you have a plan, my brother? What is your platform for Elizabeth? Don't tell us that you will do the basic things that the Government should be doing in every constituency. The people of Elizabeth deserve better and that is why they are trying Ryan," Mr Davis said.

The PLP deputy leader said that the FNM has been encouraging doctors and nurses to "walk Elizabeth".

"Never happened before. Talk about politricks! This from the same people who have not seen it fit to have the clinic opened on the

weekends or in the evenings? All of a sudden they care. Yeah right! The FNM is making all of you into potcakes! They only know you when they need you," he said.

PLP candidate Ryan Pinder, who spoke later in the night, said he has been running on a platform founded on peace, love and prosperity with the creation of small businesses and jobs his "number one focus".

"I know that stimulation of the local economy in Elizabeth, by the residents of Elizabeth, will lead directly to the reduction of crime, and the increase of the tenets of good community," he said. "In short, Elizabeth, I have been trying to lay out a workable plan to your

empowerment so that there can be less dependence on the empty promises of some of our Government officials and a greater reliance on the partnering with each other to lift each other up."

Mr Pinder criticised the government, claiming the FNM had orchestrated the by-election "to distract from their depressing performance".

"I can't wait until this distraction is over to remind them of their failures as I sit in the House of Assembly as your new Member of Parliament," he said. "And I'm not just going to point out their failures, I'm going to advance ideas toward lifting us out of this dark hole the FNM Government has thrown us in."

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## Sentencing adjourned for man convicted of murders

A MAN convicted of the murders of two men in South Andros in October 2006 will have to wait at least another week before he is sentenced.

Frank Alphonso Pinder was convicted last November of the murders of Glenwood Neely Jr and James Mitchell Smith Jr.

The two men were reported missing almost two weeks before their bodies were discovered in a remote area of The Bluff, South Andros, in an advanced state of decomposition.

The prosecution presented DNA evidence at the trial proving that the remains found in the bushes were those of the missing men. Pinder denied having any involvement in their deaths.

His sentencing hearing before Senior Justice Anita Allen was adjourned to February 19.

Pinder's attorney Ian Cargill indicated yesterday that he had not seen his client's psychiatric report. Attorney Lorna Longley-Rolle represented the Crown.



## Share your news

The Tribune wants to hear from people who are making news in their neighbourhoods. Perhaps you are raising funds for a good cause, participating in the area or have won an award. If so, call us on 322-1986 and share your story.

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VALENTINE'S DAY	NEW	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:50
PERCY JACKSON	NEW	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	C	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:55
DEAR JOHN	T	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:50
EDGE OF DARKNESS	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
LEGION	C	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:50
THE TOOTH FAIRY	A	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:55
BOOK OF ELI	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
THE SPY NEXT DOOR	B	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:50
AVATAR	T	1:00	N/A	4:30	N/A	8:40	N/A

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PERCY JACKSON	NEW	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	C	1:15	3:30	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:55
EDGE OF DARKNESS	C	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:55
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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# The Tribune Limited

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Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

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## Unfair electoral practices complaint

OPPOSITION Leader Perry Christie gave us a good laugh last night when he told the Elizabeth constituents at a PLP rally not to let the FNM play them for fools. He accused the FNM of "unfair electoral practices."

"The people of Elizabeth are witnessing and experiencing offers of temporary jobs, paving of roads and even track roads, installation of street lights, fancy promises about taking care of them," he said. This was in exchange for a vote for the FNM, he claimed.

Good grief, has Mr Christie's memory gone for a walk? As we recall it was his own party under his own "Father of the Nation" who perfected these electoral tricks to fool the people — especially those on the Family Islands. Surely, Mr Christie, you remember when the light polls were taken to South Andros for one election by the PLP on the promise of lights in return for votes, only to be abandoned until the next election — five years later! If our memory serves us right it was the FNM that in the end took electricity to Andros and other out island communities. It was promised by the PLP just before an election, but never delivered.

And then there was the late Basil Kelly's Acklins, Crooked Island, Long Cay by-election when to buy that election the PLP sent barrels of tar to repair the roads. No roads were tarred, and the barrels were left to rust on the side of the road after the election.

Mr Christie, we advise you to pause and recall your own party's history and who perfected all these "unfair electoral" practices. Remember, we lived through this period that debased our people's morality, and as long as we are around, we shan't let any of you forget the disgrace.

### Sign needed on Shirley Street

A YOUNG Bahamian had a good chuckle when he rounded the Eastern Road opposite the Royal Nassau Sailing Club to enter Shirley Street. Facing him was a new sign post that announced that he was now on Shirley Street.

"How stupid!" he exclaimed, "as if I don't know I am on Shirley Street!"

Government is to be commended for its signposting programme, especially of unmarked streets the names of which only Bahamians know. Bahamians must remember that this country lives off tourism and any help that can be given to the tourist on his scooter, map in hand, trying to find his way around Nassau and to the nearest beach, is a plus that will make his stay more enjoyable.

And so the young Bahamian might know when he is on Shirley Street, but the tourist does not, and any sign post to help him on his tour of the island is always welcome.

We mention this because of a conversation we had with a doctor yesterday. He said that for about a year he has called every relevant government department without results to have a Shirley Street sign erected at Mackey and Shirley Streets to assist tourists coming over the bridge from Paradise Island.

The visitors are directed to turn right on Shirley Street to get down to the town centre, he said, but there is no Shirley Street sign to alert them of its location and so they invariably miss Shirley Street.

And so what happens, said the doctor, is that from the Paradise Island resorts they are directed to keep to the right, go straight over the bridge onto Mackey Street and then on to Shirley Street, where they are to turn right and continue in a westerly direction down Shirley Street. They follow instructions. They go up and over the bridge, cross East Bay Street into Mackey Street. However, instead of turning right down Shirley Street, they are still following directions to go "straight." There is no sign to inform them that they have not only arrived at Shirley Street, but have crossed over it and are continuing south into the heart of traffic-congested Palmdale.

"We often see them over here," said the doctor. "They are completely lost, looking for the nearest beach, looking for Shirley Street, looking for the tourist areas. I feel sorry for them. And yet I have tried to have a Shirley Street sign put up, but nothing happens." The lost tourists continue to wander in areas that are out of bounds.

Often, he said, he has seen them driving aimlessly on their little motor scooters on Wulff Road, and, obviously into the more unattractive and run-down areas of New Providence — hardly areas that would recommend this island as a tourist's paradise. He has even seen them in the Marathon area when really the only place that they want to be is at the nearest beach.

Once, said the doctor, he saw a group as far south as the Tonique Williams-Darling Highway. They were desperate, he said, and they were running out of time. They should have been at Prince George Wharf to board their departing cruise ship. Instead they were on Tonique Williams-Darling Highway, completely lost. Sign posting of streets — even streets well known to Bahamians — is important because we must remember that we share our island with visitors who would like to see its beauty spots without getting lost.

So, whichever government department is responsible, please hurry and erect a Shirley Street sign at Shirley and Mackey Streets. And place it in such a strategic position that persons coming off Paradise Island bridge and going "straight" will see it and turn right.

Not only with tourists appreciate it, but a concerned doctor will at last have peace of mind.

# What can the Bahamas do about the Haitians in our midst?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Few of us around today had any influence on public policy when Haitian's started illegally migrating here for a better way of life, but the vast majority of the middle class and above hire Haitian labourers, both legal and illegal and this has been going on since I can remember.

This so-called "problem" with Haitians has been mounting because our founding fathers and forebears chose to ignore it, as we have done many other things, like the Montagu Ramp for example. And for the past twenty years of our modern history we have also turned a blind eye.

Why do you think this is? I submit that it is because of numerous reasons, not the least of which is many of us benefit by ignoring the fact that they are actually here.

But there are more significant reasons that I've stumbled on at the Cato Institute regarding the American Immigration "problem".

I've substituted the word Bahamian or Bahamas where they had American or United States in an excerpt from a Cato article below:

*"The overriding impact of immigrants is to strengthen and enrich Bahamian culture, increase the total output of the economy, and raise the standard of living of Bahamian citizens. Immigrants are advantageous to the Bahamas for several reasons: (1) Since they are willing to take a chance in a new land, they are*

## LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

*self-selected on the basis on motivation, risk taking, work ethic, and other attributes beneficial to a nation. (2) They tend to come to the Bahamas during their prime working years (the average age is 28), and they contribute to the workforce and make huge net contributions to old-age entitlement programmes, primarily Social Security. (3) Immigrants tend to fill niches in the labour market where demand is highest relative to supply, complementing rather than directly competing with Bahamian workers. (4) Many immigrants arrive with extremely high skill levels, and virtually all, regardless of skill level, bring a strong desire to work. (5) Their children tend to reach high levels of achievement in Bahamian schools and in society at large."*

Besides the part about contributing to Social Security, and having higher skill levels, it's pretty much the same here. In the US they are referring to legal immigrants, but I would bet the same would apply if we provided some form of status for many of the illegal Haitian's here.

So what should we do?

Well, Bahamians filled an important role, and benefited, in the US when many of the older generations worked there on "The Contract", so why can't we consider some-

thing similar?

Maybe a policy of giving work permits to all the Haitian's in the country for a limited period of say three years? That way, many of the illegal immigrants can contribute taxes instead of being a drain on the public services?

Once the illegal immigrants are regularised, they will be more easily identified, the officials would know where they live in the event they need to find them, and they would make a more meaningful contribution to society.

Other than giving them a couple of the uninhabited islands in the South to make a new country, the longer we ignore this "problem" the more difficult it will become.

We must also make every effort to prevent more vessels arriving here with more and more illegal immigrants.

As citizens we must attempt to find a reasonable public policy response to this issue that has been a festering sore for far too long. Ignoring it and treating people as if they are less than human are no longer available options.

In closing, I would highly recommend a visit to [www.cato.org](http://www.cato.org) to read their thoughts on immigration and Dr. Julian L. Simon's, *The Economic Consequences of Immigration*, to help shed some light on a very serious issue.

RICK LOWE  
[www.weblogbahamas.com/Nassau](http://www.weblogbahamas.com/Nassau),  
February, 2010.

## Policeman should be stationed at intersection of Grace Avenue Robinson Road and Infant View Road

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Please publish this letter to the: Commissioner of Police, Police Headquarters, East Street.

Dear Commissioner of Police:

I am writing with respect to the traffic problem at the intersection of Grace Avenue Robinson Road and Infant View Road.

On Friday last at approximately 8.15am, I was travelling west along Prince Charles Drive just crossing the light at the intersection of Soldier Road/Prince Charles Drive/Robinson Road. It took me 35 minutes from that light to reach the Mall at Marathon. I think a police officer should be stationed at the intersection of Grace Avenue/Robinson Road/Infant View Road.

There is a service station on the corner of Infant View Road and cars drive through the

service station (sometimes four) at different places to gain access to Robinson Road. Cars coming from Grace Avenue drive through a parking lot on the corner to the middle of the street trying to get out of the corner and therefore at most times you have cars coming from each direction in the middle of the road and nobody can move. At one time there was a traffic light at that intersection and cars still ended up (stationery) in the middle of the road. I think the only solution would be to have a police officer directing traffic between the hours of 8am to say, 9.30am on weekdays. Hopefully, this will eliminate the problem of traffic flow in that area.

Your kind consideration to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

BEVERLY BETHEL  
A frustrated driver  
Nassau,  
February, 2010.

## First Baptist Church

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

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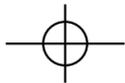
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LOCAL NEWS

# Airport workers hold parking lot protest

## The Bahamas to host a leg of World Harmony Run

THE Bahamas will host for the first time ever, a portion of the World Harmony Run, bringing together youth, sports and civic groups in a display of unity for peace.

Ceremonies and various celebrations for the event begin this coming Tuesday and the actual torch run takes place the weekend after next. According to its website, the World Harmony Run is a global relay that seeks to promote international friendship and understanding.

As a symbol of harmony, runners carry a flaming torch, passing it from hand to hand, travelling over 100 nations around the globe. The World Harmony Run's website added that it does not seek to raise money or highlight any political cause, but simply strives to create goodwill among peoples of all nations.

The Department of Sports in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture announced that in the Bahamas the event will begin with a presentation of the torch to Governor-General Arthur Hanna, at Government House on Tuesday.

The entire Bahamas leg of World Harmony Run will also be under the Governor-General's patronage.

Then on Wednesday, World Harmony Torch committee members and Bahamian stakeholders will visit schools in New Providence and have special assemblies highlighting the importance of peace and conflict resolution.

On Thursday, the torch travels to Grand Bahama for a torch run and ceremonies there. Also that day, there will be celebrations at the College of the Bahamas scheduled for 2.30pm.

The torch travels to Exuma on Friday for torch run and harmony ceremonies, while a special assembly is slated for Temple Christian's Track and Field Meet at the Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre in Nassau. On Saturday, January 20, at 9am, the New Providence Torch Run begins and ends with a cultural display and rally at Arawak Cay. The New Providence Torch Run will be 24 miles long and will bring together government and private schools, police cadets, Defence Force officers and civic stakeholders. The route will be as follows: Starting from the airport round-about, travelling east onto John F Kennedy Drive, east onto Tonique Darling Highway, continuing east along the Independence Highway, north onto East Street, east onto Robinson Road and north onto Marathon Road.

The run will then continue west onto Wulff Road, north onto East Street, west onto Shirley Street, north onto Baillou Hill Road, and west onto West Bay Street, where it will continue west to the entrance of the Arawak Cay Fish Fry and onto the cultural site there. Before arriving at Arawak Cay Fish Fry, runners will be joined by the Special Olympics Council for Disabled Athletes, Ministers and Cabinet Ministers, school principals, presidents of sporting federations and the general public for a march of unity, leaving from the area near the Flowers Building on West Bay Street.

Demonstration linked to ongoing dispute over union leadership



ACCORDING to airport police, the demonstrators prayed, sang "Bind us Together" and listed their demands in an orderly fashion.

By NOELLE NICOLLS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

ers Union (AAAWU), a matter which is currently before the courts.

sang "Bind us Together" and listed their demands in an orderly fashion.

### Prayed

Former AAWU president, Nelerine Harding, joined about 50 workers from Bahamasair, Nassau Flight Services, Air Canada and other entities. According to airport police, the demonstrators prayed,

Many of the workers were uniformed and returned to work after the demonstration. Office staff at the AAWU said the union did not know anything about the demonstration, and those participating were not speaking in any official capacity for the union. Interim president Anthony Bain did not participate in the demonstration.

# Embassy to be closed for Chinese New Year

### Shutdown planned for February 15-17

THE Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Nassau will be closed from February 15-17 on the occasion of the Chinese New Year.

According to Chinese Zodiac, 2010 is the "Year of the Tiger" which lasts from February 14, 2010 to February 2, 2011.

The Chinese New Year (Lunar New Year) does not begin on January 1, but on a date that corresponds with the second new moon after the winter equinox, so it varies from year to year.

The years progress in cycles of 12 and each year is represented by an animal. The Year of the Ox is the third one in the 12-year cycle.

The cycle of 12 repeats five times to form a large cycle of 60 years, and in each of the 12-year cycles, the

animals are ascribed an element (wood, fire, earth, metal, or water) with Yin or Yang characteristics, which determines their characters.

The 60 years' circle is also called the Stem-Branch system.

The Chinese calendar has been in continuous use for centuries, and predates the international calendar, which is based on the Gregorian Calendar.

### Oldest

The oldest and most important festival in China is the Chinese New Year, which marks the first day of the lunar calendar and usually falls somewhere between late January and early February of the Gregorian calendar.

Like all Chinese traditional festivals, the date of

the New Year is determined by the Chinese lunar calendar.

Besides celebrating the earth coming back to life and the start of plowing and sowing, this traditional festival is also one of reunions.

No matter how far people are from their homes they will try their best to come back home for the reunion dinner.

Although the climax of the Spring Festival usually lasts three to five days, including New Year's Eve, the New Year season extends from the Laba Festival (mid-12th month) of the previous year to the Lantern Festival (middle of the first month of the lunar new year).

The Lantern Festival marks the end of the New Year season and life becomes routine again.

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**THE ROTARY CLUB** of Southeast Nassau called on their members to help raise funds for Haiti and \$54,000 was realised in three weeks. Shown in the photo are fellow Rotarians and a few who assisted with the fundraising drive. From left to right are: Past President (PP) Tracey Knowles, Larry Treco, PP Charles Sealy II, President Anna DeGregory, President-Elect Marvin Bethel, Past Secretary, Azaleta Ishmael-Newry and PP, current Treasurer and Disaster Relief Chair Peter Goudie.  
Valentine Maura

# Rotary Clubs and telethon raise \$500,000 for Haiti

THE Rotary Clubs of The Bahamas (District 7020) have worked diligently to raise funds to assist Haiti after the devastating earthquake struck the country on January 12 affecting up to three million people.

The 17 Rotary clubs in Haiti with a membership of about 350 and the nine Rotary clubs in The Bahamas with about 400 Rotarians have worked jointly to ensure that the supplies and donations provided are properly distributed.

In the first three weeks since the earthquake, apart from other forms of donations, over \$500,000 was raised which included over \$250,000 from the various Bahamas Rotary clubs as well as the Telethon. The four-hour "Help us help Haiti Telethon" organized by Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce with help from a number of other supporters held on January 25 and 26, raised more than \$250,000.

The response from the public has been impressive and is continuing. An example includes an \$8,000 donation from the Rotary Club of Grand Bahama Sunrise.

Although not a part of District 7020, this Rotary club assisted the Bahamas' efforts with a cheque presentation by president-elect Joe Thompson who was in Nassau to receive a Queen's Honour for his outstanding work in Grand Bahama in the areas of business, sports and community

involvement.

"Our Club came together with a strong sense of teamwork. The earthquake has tested all of us and the long reaching arms of Rotary has been significant in assisting," Mr Thompson said during the cheque presentation.

ADG Felix accepted the donation on behalf of the Rotary Clubs of The Bahamas stating that "we are pleased that your club has shared their generosity with the Rotary Clubs of The Bahamas which includes New Providence, Abaco, Cat Island and Eleuthera as part of their fundraising, making us better able to assist Haiti."

Other Rotary Clubs that celebrated successful fundraising efforts include the Rotary Club of East Nassau with \$112,000 and the Rotary Club of Southeast Nassau with \$54,000.

"Even after 20 years in Rotary I am continually impressed with the generosity of its members," said Lindsey Cancino, District 7020 Foundation Chair and Past President of the Rotary Club of East Nassau. "Now that the initial emergency rescue relief is done, we are moving on to general health and restoration. Rotary has no intention of pulling out soon and will be there for the long haul; we will need support going forward."

Every Rotary Club in The Bahamas has contributed significantly to the half a million

dollars raised as well as other types of donations, manpower, expertise and more. President Shaun Ingraham of the Rotary Club of Eleuthera who is a disaster relief specialist is on the ground in Haiti working with Rotary and Methodist Habitat. People like Past District Governor, Richard McCombe and his wife Past President Carla, ADG Felix Stubbs and his wife President Carla Stubbs, Past Presidents Peter Bates and Charles Sealy as well as Past Rotary International Director Barry Rassin and his wife Esther are all working tirelessly for Rotary the people of Haiti.

There are many more proud Rotarians and their families and friends who have assisted and Rotary would like to thank the public for its generosity. Further donations can be made to the "Rotary Clubs of The Bahamas Disaster Relief Fund" or by contacting Felix Stubbs at fstubbs@bs.ibm.com or at 242-302-6280.

Rotary is an international organisation of business and professional leaders united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. They have been working on the ground in Haiti and have significantly contributed to the recovery efforts. More information can be found at [www.7020.org](http://www.7020.org).

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## LOCAL NEWS

# Bahamas Consul General receives coveted Crystal Stiletto Award

By BAHAMAS INFORMATION SERVICES

THE Bahamas Consul General to Atlanta Katherine Smith was honoured with the prestigious "Crystal Stiletto Award" by the Trumpet Awards Foundation in recognition of the success she has achieved in her field over the years. Ms Smith was presented the award during the annual Trumpet weekend series of events that culminated with the prestigious awards ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia. The Foundation, now in its 19th year, recognises the contributions and accomplishments of black women and men who have achieved success against all odds. The Trumpet Awards were established in 1993. It is one of the most prestigious, national awards ceremonies highlighting

African-American accomplishments and contributions.

Initiated by Turner Broadcasting, the Trumpet Awards have been televised annually and distributed internationally to over 185 countries.

In addition, the Trumpet Awards Foundation also hosts an annual "High Heels in High Places" awards, saluting women in leadership positions in both the corporate and non-profit worlds.

This year, the High Tea with High Heels Awards Ceremony was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Atlanta.

Hundreds of persons attended the event on January 28.

At the award ceremony, over two dozen of the country's most accomplished female entrepreneurs and corporate leaders were honoured. Annual-

ly, the highest award presented at the ceremony is the coveted "Crystal Stiletto Award."

This year's "Crystal Stiletto Award" recipient was the Bahamas' Consul General Katherine Smith.

The award received by Consul General Smith is presented to individuals who, through consistency and longevity, have achieved success in their industries and who are regarded not only for what they have individually accomplished but also for the achievement they inspire in others.

Xerona Clayton, creator and executive producer of the Trumpet Awards, noted, "We often hear about successful people, but the honourees for High Tea with High Heels are women whose accomplishments in the business sector are unknown to most, yet are nothing short of extraordinary."



Willie Tucker/WJET Media

BAHAMAS Consul General Katherine Smith receives the prestigious "Crystal Stiletto Award" during the High Tea with High Heels Awards Ceremony held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Atlanta on January 28.

## Road Traffic Department conducts bus passenger origin/destination survey

By BAHAMAS INFORMATION SERVICES

WITH the aim of reducing traffic congestion on the streets of New Providence, particularly Bay Street, the Road Traffic Department is conducting a bus passenger origin and destination survey.

"The main objective of the survey is to quantify the number of bus passengers whose destination is the Bay Street area and the number of bus passengers who only use Bay Street to transfer from one bus to another," said Marc Ingraham of the Transportation Planning and Policy Unit.

Twenty-one students from the College of the Bahamas and the Bahamas Baptist College have been employed as enumerators to conduct the three-day survey. The Road Traffic Department held an orientation for the students on February 4.

Mr Ingraham explained that the information received will be used to determine the per-



Letisha Henderson/BIS photo

MARC Ingraham of the Transportation Planning and Policy Unit is pictured (first from left) with some of the students employed by the Road Traffic Department to conduct a Bus Passenger Origin/Destination Survey. Also shown standing at far back (left) is Albie Hope, consultant and Margo Adderley, administrator.

centage of bus passengers whose destination is the Bay Street area and the percentage of those who do not need to pass through Bay Street to get

to their final destination.

"Should the higher percentage of passengers fall into the transit category, in collaboration with bus passengers, it will

be possible to identify potential transit jitney terminals that are not on Bay Street. This would help to reduce traffic congestion while improving the

quality of service offered by bus transportation," Mr Ingraham said.

He noted that the survey results will also provide a greater understanding of bus passenger needs, including travel patterns.

"The needs could lead to

new bus routes being established should the volume of bus passenger traffic warrant such additional routes," Mr Ingraham said.

The enumerators will cover 21 routes during the hours of 7am to 11am, 11am to 4pm and 4pm to 7pm.

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LOCAL NEWS

# Experts tour the Bahamas' environment-friendly facilities

SOME of the Bahamas' environmental programmes recently got close inspection and support from leading environmentalists.

Representatives from the Foundation for the Environment Education (FEE) travelled to the Bahamas for site visits of two Blue Flag marinas and a school involved with the FEE eco-school programme. Blue Flag marinas and eco-schools are two of the five environment education programmes administered by FEE, a non-governmental organisation.

The site visits covered Atlantis and Cape Eleuthera marinas, two of the three Blue Flag marinas in the country. The Blue Flag is a label given only to beaches and marinas that have undertaken the highest possible commitments to sustainable development.

The representatives also toured Deep Creek Middle School in Eleuthera, which has taken up the environmental management and sustainable development education curriculum of the eco-school programme.



PICTURED (FROM LEFT) at the Deep Creek Middle School are: Finn Bolden Thomsen, FEE director; Jan Erikson, FEE president; Janel Campbel of Ministry of Tourism and Aviation; Glenroy Miller, Deep Creek teacher; Ladontay Johnson, Deep Creek student; Joanna Paul, Deep Creek principal; Casuarina McKinney-Lambert, executive director of Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation and Earliston McPhee, director of Sustainable Tourism in Ministry of Tourism and Aviation.

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## Organisations join forces to celebrate World Wetlands Day

THE Bahamas National Trust (BNT), the Bahamas Reef Environment Education Foundation (BREEF) and the National Wetlands Committee joined forces this year to celebrate World Wetlands Day.

The theme for this year's event was "Caring for Wetlands: An answer to climate change", which embraces the pressing need for international action against global warming and the threat of sea level rise.

Bahamas National Trust (BNT) hosted a special event for World Wetlands Day last weekend at Bonefish Pond National Park, one of the more recent national parks to be established on New Providence.

New public access infrastructure in the form of a boardwalk and viewing platform have recently been installed as part of a government stimulus package granted to the BNT to provide greater access to Bonefish Pond National Park, the Primeval Forest National Park and Harrold and Wilsons Ponds National Park.

Bonefish Pond was designated a National Park in 2002, and at that time presented many challenges including illegal dumping and squatting.

Several clean-up events, the creation of a boardwalk and pavilion as well as the major road improvements, have helped establish Bonefish Pond as one the BNT's most popular school field trip sites on New Providence. According to education officer Shelley Cant, "over 200 students have experienced the marine environ-

ment at Bonefish Pond as part of BNT's schools education programme."

The park lies on the southern coast of New Providence and is a very important healthy coastal wetland. Bonefish Pond provides a safe haven for many young marine organisms which spend their vulnerable years sheltered amongst the roots of the Red Mangroves until they are old enough to venture to the deeper waters.

These wetlands are also a vital first line defence against major storm waves as seen during hurricanes. Despite these demonstrated benefits to the environment, wetlands are one of the most threatened ecosystems both in the Bahamas. Historically they have been used in the Bahamas as places to dump garbage and are often targeted for housing and resort development projects.

In response to the decline and degradation of wetlands worldwide, several governmental and non-governmental agencies met together in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 in order to gain national action and international co-operation for the conservation and wise-use of wetlands and their resources. The meeting resulted in an international conservation treaty which is known as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. The Bahamas signed onto the convention in 1997 and signaled to the global community its commitment to protect one of the most valuable and vulnerable ecosystems in the country.

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LOCAL NEWS

CIVIL SOCIETY BAHAMAS PAYS COURTESY CALL ON CHIEF JUSTICE



FROM LEFT: Rock Morris, treasurer of CSB; Shawn Thomas of the marketing CSB committee; Sir Michael Barnett, Chief Justice of the Bahamas; Terry K Miller, president of CSB; Lowena West, board member at CSB; and Ambassador Leonard Archer, vice-president of CSB.

THE need for improved communications on how courts function was the topic of discussion during a recent courtesy by the Civil Society Bahamas (CSB) on Chief Justice Sir Michael Barnett.

CSB board members also used this opportunity to discuss with the Chief Justice their plans to convene a civil society/judiciary symposium this year.

current legal issues facing citizens and the role of civil society in the Bahamas.

Sir Michael agreed that a joint symposium could be an effective venue for the exchange of ideas and the sharing of perspectives, but noted that he would not want to have sitting justices publicly questioned on specific cases, stating that such a conference might serve a greater good if the panel were made up of retired judges.

Hundreds attend Boys to Men Youth Mentoring Conference

By DENISE MAYCOCK Tribune Freeport Reporter dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - The 2nd annual Boys To Men Youth Mentoring Conference continues to positively influence the lives of many at risk youngsters here on Grand Bahama.

Hundreds of young boys attended the conference again this year at Calvary Temple Church on Saturday, where various prominent community leaders brought words of encouragement to participants.

Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Quinn McCartney, Grand Bahama Port Authority president Ian Rolle, and Principal and Basketball Coach Norris Bain spoke to youngsters about making the right choices in life.

Under the theme, "Judgment Day — Are You Ready," participants saw a very poignant video of real young men being escorted in handcuffs by police to court for crimes they committed. ACP Quinn McCartney said when persons make bad choices they have to take the consequences.

"It is important that you young men make good choices and fulfil your purpose in life," he said.

ple to study hard. He told them to remain focused on achieving their goals and not to be distracted by the temptations that might come.

"When I was young I was asked by drug dealers to sell drugs, but I said no. When I was in college I was tempted by young women and friends not to study, but I did not allow that to happen. I remained focused and studied hard.

"Today, there are at the Port Authority those who have tried to tell me to do things that were untoward and I said no. And there are women who have tried to make me do things, but I love my wife and I love the Lord," he said.

Conference co-founder Dudley Seide, president of Reach Out Ministry, said their focus is geared toward reaching young people, particularly the inner city youth by hosting mentoring programmes and basketball tournaments. Mr Seide stressed that there is too much crime and too many suicides involving young people, particularly young men in the Bahamas.

"We must pray for our youth, we need everyone here to send a strong message that we will not tolerate losing another young man (to crime) in the Bahamas.

"It hurts when we turn on the news and watch that a young man was murdered or stabbed. We need to save our young men," he said.

GBPA President Ian Rolle urged young peo-

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LOCAL NEWS

# Viewers across the globe see the Bahamas' incredible blue holes

By LARRY SMITH

THE incredible blue holes of the Bahamas were featured in a one-hour NOVA documentary that aired on PBS-TV (channel 13 on cable) Tuesday night.

It was expected that the show would be seen by over 270 million households in more than 100 countries.

Titled "Extreme Cave Diving", the documentary is about cutting-edge science that gives important data on global climate and reveals new information about the Eden of now-extinct animals that once lived on the islands of the Bahamas.

NOVA is the highest rated science series on television and the most watched documentary series on American public television.

It is also one of television's most acclaimed series, having won every major television award, most of them many times over.



DEAN'S BLUE HOLE in Long Island.

Photo Tanya Mona Lisa

The documentary was co-produced with National Geographic, which sponsored a high-powered team of scientists, divers and filmmakers

on an expedition around the Bahamas aimed at unlocking the secrets of blue holes.

These geological features have been described as one

of the final frontiers for human exploration on the planet.

## Explorer

The expedition was led by Dr Kenny Broad, an ecological anthropologist at the University of Miami, and the production team included dive leader Brian Kakuk, probably the planet's top science and cave diver; Jill Heinerth, an internationally sought-after technical diving instructor; and director of photography Wes Skiles, arguably Florida's greatest cave explorer.

The research team included scientists like Dr David Steadman, curator of birds at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville; Jennifer Lynn Macalady, an

astrobiologist from Penn State University who studies the origin of life; and Dr Tom Iliffe, a marine biologist from Texas A & M in Galveston whose work has led to the discovery of more than 250 new species in submerged caves around the world.

The expedition crisscrossed the Bahamas over six weeks from early June to mid-August exploring submerged caverns, conducting original research and producing spectacular videos and stills for print, broadcast, online and educational applications.

As a National Geographic-sponsored expedition, Bahamian blue holes are now in the same league as polar expeditions by Robert Peary, excavation of the lost Inca city of Machu Picchu, Louis and Mary Leakey's research

into early hominids in East Africa, and underwater explorations by Titanic discoverer Robert Ballard.

The expedition's roots go back to 2004 when Brian Kakuk discovered the complete skeleton of an extinct tortoise in a blue hole called Sawmill Sink in the pinelands of south-central Abaco.

Later investigations in this undisturbed cave turned up a range of impressive fossils — the prehistoric reptiles, birds, and mammals that once roamed Abaco.

## Evidence

A few human bones were also found, and dated to about a thousand years ago. This is the earliest evidence so far for human occupation of the Bahamian archipelago.

But Sawmill Sink was only one of many blue holes around the country that the expedition explored.

After the initial discoveries at Sawmill Sink a few years ago, responsibility for the research was assumed by the Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation (AMMC), with Marsh Harbour cave diver Nancy Albury appointed as the corporation's representative and project coordinator. According to Dr Broad, "Dr Keith Tinker, executive director of the AMMC, saw the potential in all this and it is primarily because of him that this expedition is taking place. Nancy Albury provided formidable help in both the filming and the science aspects."

NOVA producer James Barratt said the team was able to recover two skulls belonging to ancient humans, the fossils of vertebrates that are now extinct in the Bahamas, and fossils of birds that aren't just extinct but have never before been described by science.

## Creatures

"Living within the blue holes are at least one new order of multi-cellular creatures, descended from animals that evolved millions of years ago, as well as single-celled organisms virtually indistinguishable from the first life-forms on Earth," he said.

"Parts of blue holes are like our planet's first seas, from a time four billion years ago when the Earth had no oxygen. NASA was interested in the expedition because the extreme life-forms found in blue holes are similar to what they hope to find on other planets.

"When cut open, stalagmites from blue holes display layers like the rings in a tree. Analysis of their composition reveals a year-by-year diary of the Bahamas' climate for the last 200,000-300,000 years, including rainfall, the chemicals in the rain and air, even the temperature. They don't just record past periods of extreme climate change, but also tell us how fast that change can grip the planet," Mr Barratt said.

In addition to the scientific discoveries, the documentary featured stunning images from deep beneath the islands of the Bahamas. Cave diving has been described as the most dangerous sport on Earth. In fact, the members of the Bahamas expedition have collectively recovered the bodies of more than 100 fellow cave divers during their hazardous careers.

National Geographic is expected to publish a major cover story on Bahamian blue holes this summer. Some 12 million people will read the magazine article, and millions of students will be exposed to Bahamas-related school materials. The Society's high-traffic website will feature linked coverage of the Bahamas expedition.

• The programme can be watched online at [pbs.org](http://pbs.org) or ordered from the site on DVD.

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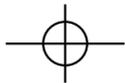
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LOCAL NEWS

# GBPA helps Lions Club of Freeport in the 2010 Run/Walk-a-Thon for Sight

THE Lions Club International Foundation funds a number of programmes and initiatives to address humanitarian needs on a local and global scale, including preserving sight, combating disability, promoting health, serving youth and responding to natural disasters.

Grand Bahama is home to the Freeport branch of the organisation, the Lions Club of Freeport, whose 42 members stand by their motto, "We Serve."

Members called upon the assistance of the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) to help in their primary efforts of sight preservation, for a donation towards this year's 2010 Run/Walk-a-Thon for Sight, scheduled for Saturday, March 20.

GBPA representative Geneva Rutherford, director of community relations, presented a cheque to two key members of the organisation.

During the cheque presentation held in front of "The Pink Building," Mrs Rutherford spoke on behalf of GBPA president Ian Rolle:

"At the Grand Bahama Port Authority it is critical that we offer assistance to your club and it is our pleasure to do so. Over the years we have been made aware of the great work you do in providing eye glasses for a number of young people on the island. This fun run/walk will allow you an opportunity to

raise money to assist, when necessary, with surgeries at Bascom Palmer.

"The Port Authority, in its work, also sees a number of applications for major sight work, and so we're very pleased that your organisation has chosen sight as your main focus. We are happy to contribute to this effort. Through our work, we too want to ensure that we help to better the lives of everyone on Grand Bahama Island. So, we wish to thank you for this programme and assure you of our continued support."

## Operations

Clydeishia Grant, Lions Club of Freeport member and event chairman, explained that the organisation assists with sight cases or persons who have problems with their sight, whether they need operations, glasses or testing.

"We try to assist as many underprivileged persons as possible. We work closely with the Florida Lions and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, located in Florida, because of the discounted rate offered for their services. The run/walk-a-thon will allow us to bring in funds that will be used to assist us with our main cause," she said.

Renee Hall, Lions Club of Freeport public relations coordinator and second vice-president, expounded on the reason behind the club's main goal.

"Our goal in the Freeport Lions Club is total eradication of blindness. Ideally we would like for testing to happen as soon as a problem with sight is detected, even as a child, a baby. We've found that based on early detection, we can immediately provide sight help, resulting in children who have improved in school academically and with their behaviour. This not only benefits the child but the entire family and, of course, our community. Diabetes and many other illnesses that the Bahamian population is being plagued with, cause problems for us later on in life with sight." Most sight cases, she said, result from diabetes.

"The fun run/walk, is a reminder to choose a healthy lifestyle and is another way of encouraging us to try and beat problems like diabetes so that we can stop it before it starts and we can keep our sight in the best possible manner."

The Grand Bahama Port Authority encourages everyone to join the Lions Club of Freeport and their efforts to raise money for sight preservation during the fun run/walk-a-thon on Saturday, March 20 at Beachway Drive, adjacent to Captain's Chart House. Registration is at 5.30am with a 6am start time.

Participation costs are in the donation amounts of \$10 for Adults \$7 for teens and \$5 for children.



PICTURED (from the left to right): RENEE Hall, Lions Club of Freeport public relations coordinator and second vice-president; Geneva Rutherford, GBPA director of community relations and Clydeishia Grant, Lions Club of Freeport member and event chairman for the Run/Walk-a-Thon for Sight.

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## Bahamas Mortgage Corporation donates books to Albury Sayle Primary School



THE Bahamas Mortgage Corporation (BMC) executives presented the literacy department of Albury Sayle Primary School with Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys books.

Deputy managing director Sandra Storr told the students that they could travel the world just by reading books. She also encouraged them to cut down on their television viewing habits and read more.

Delores Forbes, literacy coordinator at the school, said, "We assure you that these books are going to be read by the students and they

PICTURED from left with students receiving the books: Mary Mortimer, principal; Sophia Hunter, loans processing officer, BMC; Delores Forbes, literacy coordinator, Albury Sayle; Sandra Storr, deputy managing director, BMC, and Jerome Godfrey, managing director, BMC.

are going to motivate our students to continue to read."

Principal Mary Mortimer said as part of the school's 'Read to Lead Mentoring Programme', employees of the BMC have been visiting the school to read to students

on Wednesdays for the past two years.

The Corporation adopted the T G Glover Primary School before extending its support to Albury Sayle.

The two schools are situated side-by-side.

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### TRIBUNE HAITI BLOG

# A sustainable solution to Haiti's housing challenge



MEDICAL facility at Cabaret.



FRONT of core structure.

#### FROM page two

town of Gonaives. This is where Haiti's independence was first declared by Destine.

Upon entering Gonaives, Bart points out a level lot with at least 50 canvass tent structures on it.

There are women, children and elderly people in the yards.

These are the some of the displaced people from the flood of 2008.

#### Shelters

To date, even though the land has been donated, they are still living in temporary shelters without water and sanitation.

As we travel further into town, Bart takes me to Bertos Blocs, where Habitat with assistance from CHF is further along with their BTC concept.

HFHH has partnered with Bertos Blocs making blocks and selling aggregate to local contractors, who after the flood have been experiencing difficulties getting back up and running.

In addition to a mould for roofs, they have also created a mould for street drains that will be sold to local contractors who are repairing the roads.

Six men have already been trained in the technique of using lightweight concrete. They have also been trained in designing homes, reading architectural plans and managing construction costs.

They are ready to begin building homes as soon as financing becomes available. The greatest benefit is that these men are less likely to engage in substandard construction now they have been trained in proper building methods.

In one day I have seen two perfect examples of projects that if they had support, can radically change the landscape of Haiti.

With out fear of contradiction, Bart believes as though once they are both operational, approximately 2,000 houses per year can be added to the housing stock of Haiti. This translates to about 10,000

SEE page 13



BTC - Cabaret.



CORNER form on new core house in Gonaive.

### Card Of Thanks

We, the family of the late Nieves Maria Roberts, wish to express our heartfelt thanks to you, our friends and neighbours, for your support during our time of bereavement. Your love, prayers, kindness, visits, phone calls, cards, meals, encouragement, and attendance at the funeral were sincerely appreciated.

Special thanks to Dr. Todd Pinder; Nurses Pearl Mills, Helen Adderley, Veronica Bodie, Deborah Moxey, Sandra Bethel, Elsa Barrett, Heather Hanlan, Dr. Farquharson; Pastors Thomas Albury, Roland Bryan, Allan Lee; Lucy Kelly; Charles; Alec Pinder; Kern's Funeral Home. Thank you all and God Bless You.

From the family of the late Nieves Maria Roberts.



## VACANCY NOTICE

POSITION: DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR (EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the above position in the Information Technology Department of The National Insurance Board.

#### Purpose of Job

To be responsible for the planning, development, performance, integrity and security of The National Insurance Board's Database.

- Work closely with IT Project Managers, Database Programmers and Web Developers.
- Communicate regularly with technical and operational staff to ensure database integrity and security.
- Commission and install new applications.

#### Overall Responsibilities will include:

- Planning, development and troubleshooting of the database.
- Installing and testing new versions of the database management system (RDBMS).
- Ensure that the physical design meets system storage requirements.
- Ensure that data is clearly defined and remains consistent across the database.
- Monitoring performance and managing parameters to provide fast query responses to 'front end users'.
- Establishing the needs of users and controlling access permissions and privileges.
- Writing database documentation, including data standards, procedures and definitions for the data dictionary (metadata).
- Developing, managing and testing backup and recovery plans.
- Ensure that storage, archiving, backup and recovery procedures are functioning correctly.

#### Qualifications and Requirements

Applicants should have a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited College or University in Computer Science, Information Science, or Management Information Science. The Microsoft Certified Database Administrator (MCDBA) Certification would be a plus. Preference will be given to Candidates with both a Bachelor's Degree and the MCDBA Certification. A working knowledge of MS SQL Database Systems is desired. A working knowledge of DB/2 and Oracle 10g is preferred.

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LOCAL NEWS

HAITI BLOG



CHILDREN at play.



GARAGE will be used as a conference and training room.



BARE office in need of furniture.

# Haiti's housing challenge

FROM page 12

people being sheltered. The big plan is to eventually have BTCs all over Haiti. But Bart fears that with all the hype around the disaster and the need for transitional shelter, projects like this one will be overlooked for what seems like a quicker fix.

However, he is quick to point out that "not only are we building houses, we are building communities". The two can be done in tandem.

An even greater fear is that a lot of promises will be made and two years later, like the flood victims, the quake victims will still be without permanent homes.

Habitat Haiti and Bart are looking for long term investors. I asked him about promoting the project to donors and supporters. He said he is trying but has very little time. Each day he struggles to get the next piece to fall into place. In the meantime, it is frustrating to have nothing to offer to people that so desperately need help.

For more information visit [www.habitathaiti.org](http://www.habitathaiti.org)

• *Shaun Ingraham is an international disaster response consultant who trained with the United Nation Civilian Military Co-ordination (UNCMCoord) programme. He has worked with international logistics teams responding to most of the major disasters that occurred over the last 15 years, including hurricanes Andrew, Ivan, Frances, Jeanne, Katrina and Rita. Mr Ingraham was in Indonesia following the Tsunami in North Sumatra working with the New Providence Community Church and Food For the Hungry International. He is the president of the Rotary Club of Eleuthera and founder of South Eleuthera Emergency Partners. In partnership with the Rotary Clubs of the Bahamas, Rotary District 7020, New Providence Community Church/Centre and Habitat for Humanity, he is currently in Haiti making sure aid and supplies are distributed to those most in need. Mr Ingraham has agreed to update our readers regularly on the progress of his mission and share his thoughts and impressions of the catastrophe in Haiti.*

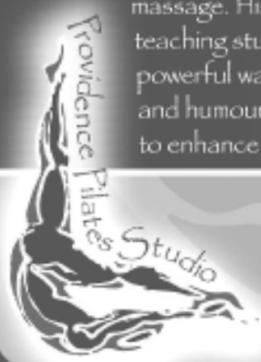
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- served with a Beurre Blanc or Almondine Butter*
- Sun And... Cracked Lobster* \$42
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BUSINESS

# NIB director seeks new public 'buy-in'

THE National Insurance Board's (NIB) director will describe in detail its latest benefits and reform plans when he addresses the 2010 Grand Bahama Bahamas Business Outlook.

Algernon Cargill's presentation is part of a public relations drive to educate Bahamians about NIB's planned changes.

"The people of the Bahamas, employers and employees, the young and the old are the stakeholders of the National Insurance Board. It is important that they understand and buy into all that we do. I see myself and my team at NIB as merely stewards or trustees of an invaluable national asset," Mr

Cargill explained.

"Over the next few months, I will personally be very much a part of the education programme. The PR campaign is designed to reach groups across the economic spectrum and in communities throughout the islands.

"We want to share what we're doing not only about programmes, but also about staff training and the ongoing updates to technology and communication systems to bring our service to the highest levels. The changes don't mean that NIB has not been meeting the mandate for which it was established in 1974. People change and their circumstances and needs change. This is a new age and

this country's social security system, the National Insurance Board, must change consistently to meet 21st century needs."

At Bahamas Business Outlook and other public forums over the course of 2010, Mr Cargill said he would be discussing new benefits, as well as the proposed amendments to the National Insurance Act, which have been forwarded to Parliament.

He called the amendments "long overdue", noting that they are directed at bringing about greater equity in levels of contributions and benefits.

The NIB director gave an example of a particular instance. "People whose

income sources tend not to be a straight wage, such as hospitality industry workers, currently have a contribution plan that does not reflect true income in many cases. As the contribution amount dictates benefit levels, this current situation puts many at a disadvantage, especially when it comes to pensions," Mr Cargill said.

He noted that anomalies in the contributions and benefits plan for public servants were also being addressed with the review and backing of the relevant unions.

"We have already made considerable strides in making the necessary reviews and updates, including three significant achievements over



Algernon Cargill

the past few months," Mr Cargill continued.

"Last year we rolled out NIB's new unemployment benefit programme, and will launch the Chronic Disease

Prescription Drug Plan later this year. Both of these initiatives will bring significant relief to those who are jobless through no fault of their own and the chronically ill."

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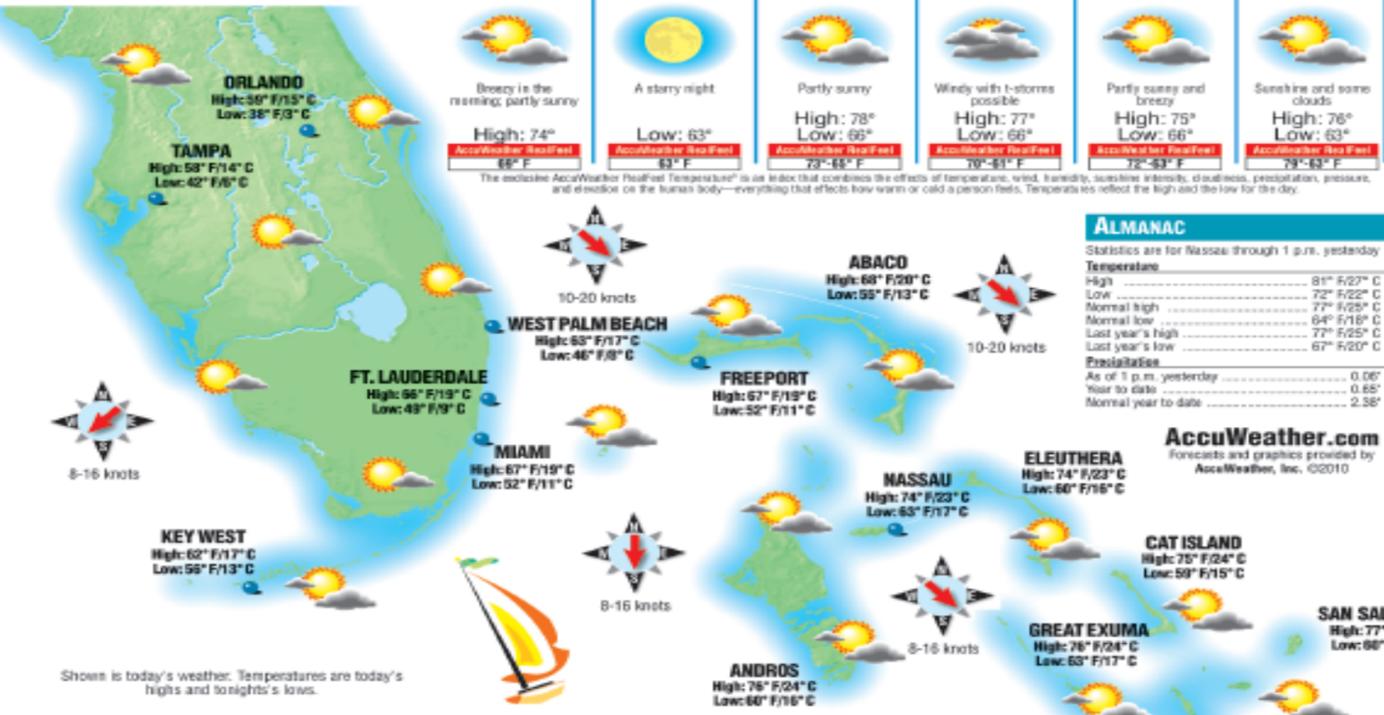
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## THE WEATHER REPORT



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### 5-DAY FORECAST



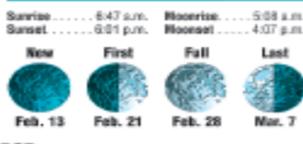
### UV INDEX TODAY



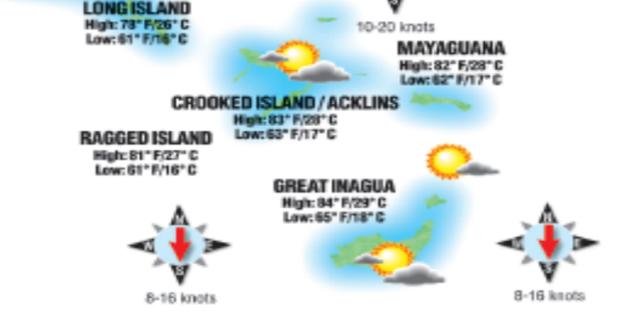
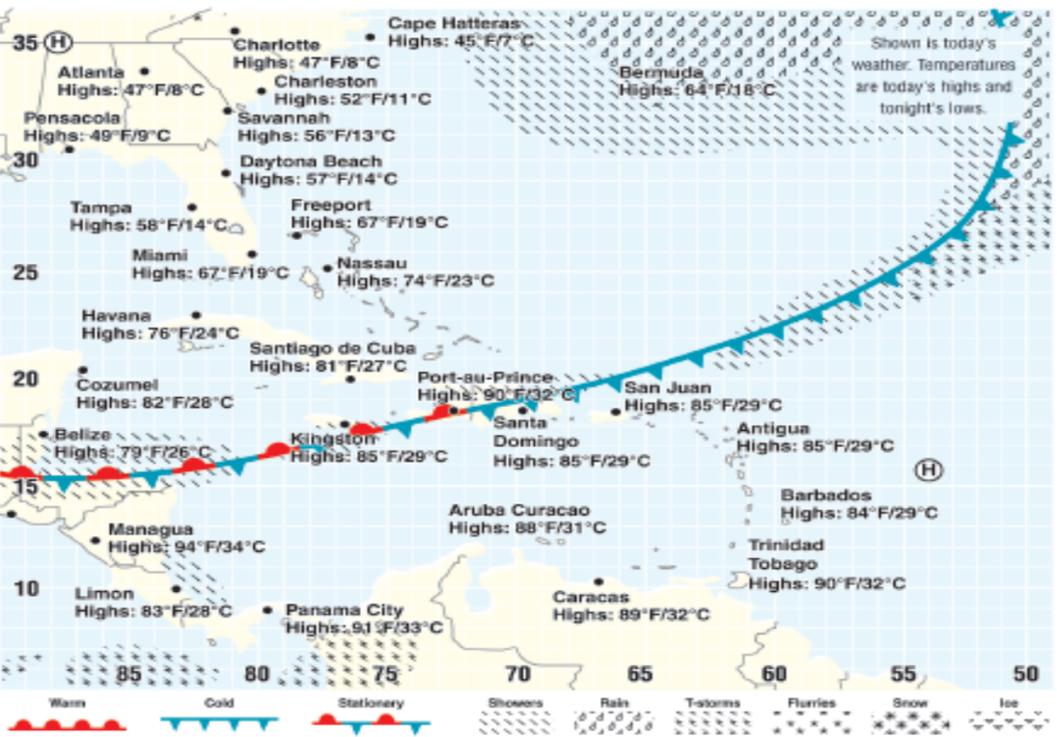
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Day	High	HL (H.)	Low	HL (L.)
Today	6:02 a.m.	2.6	12:29 p.m.	0.1
Friday	6:41 a.m.	2.6	12:21 a.m.	-0.1
Saturday	7:18 a.m.	2.6	1:02 a.m.	-0.1
Sunday	7:53 a.m.	2.6	1:41 a.m.	-0.1
Monday	8:27 a.m.	2.6	2:19 a.m.	-0.1
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	2.5	2:58 a.m.	-0.1
Wednesday	9:34 a.m.	2.5	3:33 a.m.	0.0
Thursday	9:58 a.m.	2.5	3:49 p.m.	-0.1

### SUN AND MOON



### INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP



### MARINE FORECAST

Location	Today	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ABACO	Today: NW at 10-20 Knots Friday: ESE at 4-8 Knots	6-12 Feet	10 Miles	72° F	
ANDROS	Today: W at 8-16 Knots Friday: SE at 8-16 Knots	3-5 Feet	10 Miles	72° F	
CAT ISLAND	Today: WNW at 10-20 Knots Friday: SE at 6-12 Knots	4-8 Feet	10 Miles	75° F	
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: WNW at 8-16 Knots Friday: ESE at 7-14 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	79° F	
ELEUTHERA	Today: WNW at 10-20 Knots Friday: ESE at 6-12 Knots	4-8 Feet	10 Miles	75° F	
FREEPORT	Today: WNW at 10-20 Knots Friday: ESE at 6-12 Knots	3-5 Feet	10 Miles	75° F	
GREAT EXUMA	Today: WNW at 8-16 Knots Friday: SE at 7-14 Knots	0-1 Feet	10 Miles	74° F	
GREAT INAGUA	Today: WNW at 8-16 Knots Friday: ESE at 7-14 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	79° F	
LONG ISLAND	Today: W at 8-16 Knots Friday: ESE at 7-14 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	76° F	
MAYAGUANA	Today: WNW at 10-20 Knots Friday: ESE at 6-12 Knots	3-5 Feet	10 Miles	78° F	
NASSAU	Today: WNW at 10-20 Knots Friday: SE at 7-14 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	74° F	
SAN SALVADOR	Today: W at 8-16 Knots Friday: ESE at 8-16 Knots	2-4 Feet	6 Miles	72° F	
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: WNW at 10-20 Knots Friday: SE at 6-12 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	76° F	

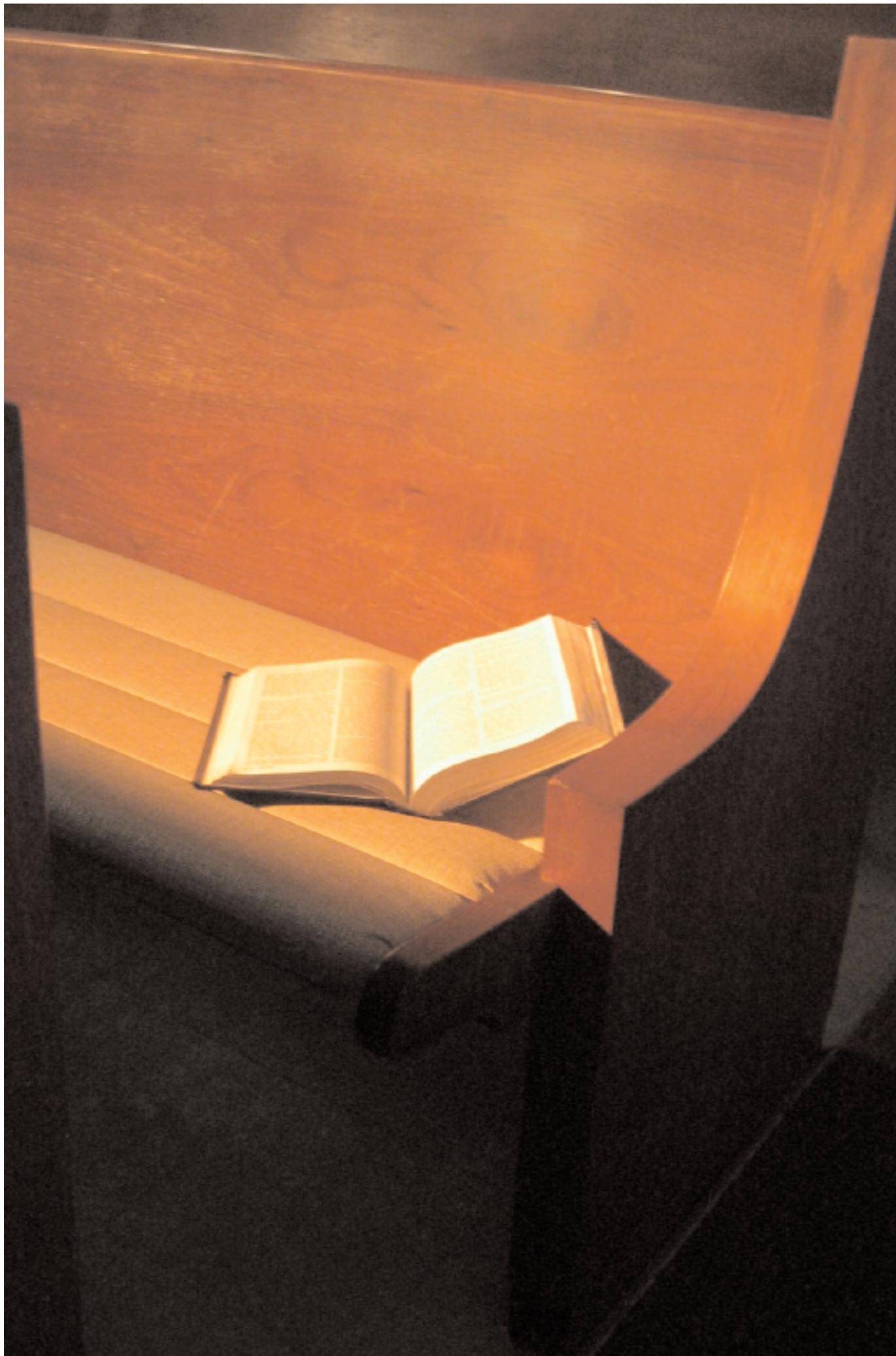
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**THURSDAY**

February 11, 2010

*Religious news, stories  
and church events*

The Tribune's  
**RELIGION**  
SECTION

PG 23

# Falling in love with God



By JEFFARAH GIBSON

**T**HE greatest romance any Christian can experience is the intimate union between them and their maker- God.

He epitomises unadulterated passion and unconditional love. For Christians, this kind of love exudes from intimacy with God and is one

that can never be matched by no human relationship.

Time and time again believers witness, giving their testimonies of how the love experienced with Christ is an enchantment in itself, leaving others only to ponder what that feels like.

For those who wish to ponder no more, and seek to attach themselves to the only assurance of eternal life Reverend Jevon Neely at Bethel Baptist Church said they must make

time for God.

So if you are rededicating your life or seeking to turn that leaf to be fully committed to him there are specific things you must do to fall head over heels in love with God.

“Each person must take responsibility for their spiritual life because at the end of the day everyone has to answer to God for themselves. Intentional and personal devotion is one way to develop a connection. This is very important because it is

the only way to gain a relationship with the Lord,” Rev Neely told *Tribune Religion*.

This devotion can be reading the bible, worshipping daily, and fasting.

Rev Neely also noted that it is extremely important for Christians to create this time for God, because it is impossible to fall in love with him without spending time with him.

“Giving service to humanity is also

**SEE page 27**

## Christians need help

By Bishop V. G. Clarke

BECAUSE true leadership is an act, it requires planning. I have found that a major weakness in many of our evangelical Christian enterprises is in planning - long-range planning, over a three to five year span. Christians are not generally accustomed to thinking this far ahead, for most have heard from Sunday School days that Jesus may return at any moment. Such truth forever remains, but it should never inhibit growth by short-circuiting responsible planning for the future.

Long-range planning is what one well-known author on management calls “risk-taking or decision making.” Such planning takes courage because of the risk factor. Such risk-taking action is sometimes misunderstood. It

is not forecasting, forecasting attempts to find the most probable course - concerned with future decisions. It is concerned rather with the future of present decision; an attempt to eliminate risks. (It means the capacity to take greater risks - and the right risks). “It is never safe to play it safe.”

An outstanding story of World War 11 that discloses the importance of planning is the British offensive against the German Army in North Africa, under General Erwin Rommel, the Germans had pushed nearly the whole way to Cairo. In desperation the British High Commander assigned the task of turning the situation around to Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery.

Immediately Montgomery let it be known that he was going to take the initiative. He planned carefully with

great detail. Throughout the whole chain of command down to the privates, each person was told specifically what his job was to be. A perfect coordinated team was formed, and each man knew precisely the commander's objectives and how they were to be achieved. When the British Offensive began with this great precision, the mighty German Army was routed, and it became one of the early turning points in the war.

Montgomery was successful because through solid planning he was able to excite, motivate and challenge all his troops. The challenge to them to perform made the difference. Planning spells the difference; remember that it is work done today to cause to happen tomorrow what we specifically want to happen.




 THE HISTORY OF RELIGION IN THE BAHAMAS

## The Assemblies of God/Evangelistic Temple:

# The Pentecostal Movement

IN 1903, Methodist preacher Joseph Jenkins arranged a conference in New Quay, England 'to deepen our loyalty to Christ' - the meetings were lively and soon spread to other places. When over 100,000 people in Wales in 1904 demonstrated ecstatic spiritual experiences it became known as the Welsh Revival. Baptist preacher Joseph Smales carried the idea of Apostolic Faith revival to the USA.

Charles Fox Parham (1873 - 1929) grew up in a Methodist home but became critical of the Methodist hierarchy and felt that they didn't preach by divine inspiration. He was attracted to the independent Apostolic Faith (Holiness) Movement and through his preaching developed what would become known as the Pentecostal Movement.

William Joseph Seymour (1870 - 1922), son of a freed slave became a student of Parham's Bible School, Houston and developed the Pentecostal doctrine of 'speaking in tongues as a gift of the Holy Spirit' at his church in Azusa Street, Los Angeles. The result was known as The Azusa Street Revival and spawned several Pentecostal movements including: The Church of God in Christ, The United Pentecostal Church, The Pentecostal Church of God and The Assemblies of God, which came to the Bahamas.



JIM  
LAWLOR

### The Assemblies of God

In 1928, Minister I G Roberts of the Assemblies of God South Florida came to preach the Gospel in the New Providence. The force of Robert's preaching attracted many converts some from the Church of God. From 1928 - 1930, S B Pinder served as Pastor under the supervision of A G Voight of the South Florida District of the Assemblies of God.

In 1930, a dispute over the leadership of the fledgling church saw Brother Vivian Weech take over the main independent group and hold cottage meetings - first in his Fort Fincastle home and later in the home of his brother Charles Kenneth Weech on Kemp Road. In 1932, Vivian was elected Pastor and with the help of Charles and seventeen faithful charter members built a wooden building named the Pentecostal Lighthouse Tabernacle on Kemp Road.

In 1938, Earl Weech (nephew of Vivian and Charles) became Pastor and along with Osbourne Thompson, Guy

Shields and other evangelists from USA held revival meetings - the resulting conversions swelled the membership. A much larger building was needed and so Evangelistic Temple was built and dedicated by Rev Guy Shields in 1941. Further ministries and revivals from 1948 to 1955 again greatly increased the membership leading to a new Evangelistic Temple on Collins Avenue. Some members did not wish to relocate to the new site so they purchased the Kemp Road building and renamed it 'Glad Tidings Tabernacle'.

### Evangelistic Temple

After spending some time in the USA, Earl Weech returned to become Pastor of Evangelistic Temple in 1959. In 1963, Earl Weech and two thirds of the members left and started Calvary Bible Church further south on Collins Avenue. Rev A Wilson of Springfield Missouri and several other pastors from USA assisted Evangelistic Temple to reorganize and develop.

However, the man whose name became synonymous with Evangelistic Temple was Gary Curry, who was born in Spanish Wells. In 1953, he accepted the Lord as his personal Saviour and went on to study theology at the Caribbean School of Theology. Rev Gary Curry twice served as interim pastor before his permanent appointment in 1978.

Mention must also be made of Pastor James Ralley, a dedicated servant of God, who along with Dave Lamb again built up the membership. Dave Lamb continued to assist Pastor Curry and the membership continued to grow. In 1991, Pastor Lamb left to become pastor of The First Assembly of God in Thomasville, Georgia. He has recently returned to minister to a non-denominational church on Paradise Island.

Evangelistic Temple is governed by a Church Board of nine members, seven deacons, treasurer, secretary under the chairman Pastor Curry - the membership is close to five hundred but there are many more followers and well wishers. In 1981, the church sponsored Temple Christian Schools which serves over one thousand students. The church also operates The Temple Bible and Book supplies store and a radio ministry 'Temple Time'.

Of the many ministries run by Evangelistic Temple one of the most important is Teen Challenge Bahamas Programme. The building presently being constructed opposite Evangelistic Temple is dedicated to Margurite Sands (wife of Wayde Sands) one of the chief supporters of Teen Challenge, since its inception in 1988.

The members of Evangelistic Temple live in accordance to the motto: *To God be the Glory!*

## Christian fiction attracting readers

### TUPELO, Miss.

IN THE last decade, a genre of literature has emerged whose coherence is defined as much by the market it serves as by the character of its prose, according to the Associated Press.

When the phrase "Christian fiction" appears on the ordering invoices at the Itawamba County Pratt Memorial Library, Cindy Jamerson has a pretty accurate idea what's she's getting.

"The books tell you about people who believe in God, about people who solve problems and overcome obstacles through faith," said the branch librarian, who last year received a \$2,000 grant to beef up her selection of Christian fiction.

"God is found throughout the book."

That's about as good a definition as you'll find for a category of books that in the last 10 years has grown as quickly as kudzu up a Mississippi hillside.

Each week Jamerson watches about half of her 250-title selection walk out the door, going home under the arms of people of faith mostly women who have strong allegiances to particular authors and series.

"In the library business, you learn quickly that you have to know your customers," said Jamerson. "This is what they want to read, what they love."

Folks as diverse as television evangelist Pat Robertson and conservative talk show host Glenn Beck have recently

tried their hand at Christian fiction, but most of the successful authors focus on a select demographic that provides their bread and butter.

For men, there are the fast-paced mysteries of former Pentecostal minister Frank Peretti, who writes of demons and monsters and intrigue. Then, there's the work of former Denver Broncos place kicker Jason Elam, who blends the themes of sports and religious, fanatical terrorism.

Among women, pastoral romances are the most popular.

At Lifeway Christian Store in Tupelo, manager Chris McCormick walked among four, 12-foot sections of Christian titles, and pointed out a common theme.

"The Amish stuff is very popular," he said.

The glossy covers showed pretty, bonneted young women staring glassy-eyed over wheat fields, and horse-drawn buggies riding into sinking suns.

Memphis resident Annalisa Daughety chose to set her installment of the popular "Love Finds You" series among an Amish community in Charm, Ohio. She sees a romantic aspect to the simple rhythms of Amish life, one that appeals especially to modern females.

Daughety, who grew up reading such "chick lit" standards as "Bridget Jones's Diary," sees nothing wrong with customizing her work for a niche reader. Like Jamerson, Daughety feels her books are meeting the needs of a reading public who, in an over-sexed culture, are searching for alternative forms of entertainment.



MEDITATION

# Making the most of marriage

There are many areas to discuss as we try to build, nurture and protect family life.

The firmest foundation in a Christian marriage is built on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. If you are planning to marry, consider the following questions:

1. **WHAT** is your faith or religion and what are your spiritual practices, and levels of commitment?
2. **WHAT** was it like for you as a child when it came to religion in your home?
3. **WHAT** has your spiritual journey been like?
4. **HOW** do you plan to share them with your children if you hold different positions?



REV. ANGELA  
C BOSFIELD  
PALACIOS

5. **WHAT** will your routines be like if your beliefs are similar?
6. **WHERE** may there be possible challenges in the future?
7. **HOW** do you plan to keep growing in your faith?

When you answer these questions alone and then together, you begin to talk about important personal realities.

You allow God to shape your relationship when you make a spiritual focus your priority.

As you examine your own conscience, you are able to be more open and honest about other topics. You are harder to admit. Anger, violence, and abuse in the past and the possibility of it surfacing in the present and future need to be addressed. Whether you are already married or planning to be married, your answers to the following questions will assist you with the decision to seek help now before things escalate:

1. **WHO** has the shorter temper?
2. **HOW** do you calm down?

3. **HOW** do you react to the other person's anger?
4. **WHAT** are your triggers?
5. **WHAT** are the other person's?
6. **DO** you have any history of violence?
7. **HAVE** you ever been abused?
8. **WHAT** issues have you found difficult to resolve?
9. **IS** there ever hostility, silent treatment, obscenities in your relationship?
10. **WHAT** is your approach to anger management and conflict resolution?

All of these issues need to be resolved in order to have peace and harmony in the home. Prayer, counselling, reading, discussion are helpful ways to make love in the family reflect God's love.

## Whatever!

SOMEONE once said to me that I like to repeat what people say. They are right to a point. The thing is, talking is the main way human beings communicate. Certain things some people say are profound and worth sharing. A lot of the times I share because in one way or another it changes my life and it may just change yours.

Some days ago I was in a setting of a small group of people that turned out different from its regular operation. It's good to change the norm every now and again.

We had all recently attended a prayer conference and were discussing prayer. The information was life changing. None of us had looked at prayer in the way it was presented before. The highlight for me was the simplicity of it. A child would have been able to walk into the room and understand every word being said. Also this prayer conference taught us the order of prayer. It is extremely important that we know how to pray. Not knowing how to pray may be the reason that a lot of our prayers are not answered. Amazingly enough, the information was profound.

One of the ladies in the group told us about a conversation she had had with a co-worker. She said that her co-worker said to her if she was sure she understood what she was saying to God? He said to her, "You told the



ALLISON  
MILLER

Lord whatever you do is well done. Are you sure you understood what you asked for?

This made her really ponder. Was she really prepared for whatever method He would use? I say all of that to say this. When we ask God to deal with a situation for us, we don't get to tell Him how to deal with it. What our concern should be is accepting the outcome he gives us, keeping in mind, that God knows best and whatever He does, is well done.

We may not like what He does sometimes but He is God and He has the right to use **WHATEVER** method(s) He chooses. It is a hard truth but without faith it is impossible to please God. You can't have faith without trust, they go hand in glove. We also know that He will not put more on us than we can bear. He knows what we can and can't take. Always remember that God's ways are not our ways. His thoughts towards us are of peace and not of evil to give us an expected end. Bottom line He knows best and that's the surety that we are to live in.

The Tribune

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# The spirit of Valentine's Day

**THE SPIRIT**, concept and celebration of Valentine's Day is based upon love in remembrance of a priest name Valentine; who came to defend marriage and love in Rome during the rule of Emperor Claudius II.

The Emperor was having difficulties in getting soldiers to join his military leagues. He believed the reason was that Roman men did not want to leave their loves or families. As a result, Claudius canceled all marriages and engagements in Rome.

This was when a priest Valentine came to defend love in the empire. Valentine began to secretly marry couples despite the emperor's orders. When Emperor Claudius was informed of these ceremonies, Valentine was sent to prison where he remained until his death on February 14 in the year 270.

Okay, I know that the above information is not new or strange to you (educated, scholars). But be that as it may, there is absolutely no way of getting around the fact that everything we, human beings do is predicated on love or the lack thereof.

Secular music Queen, Tina Turner recorded a Grammy winning song called "What's Love Got To Do With It?"

Taking nothing away from the song or player hating on Tina; but when it comes to us (God's creation), love has everything to do with our daily living and interacting with one another. Do you know that if we truly had a revelation of love, life as we know it would be lived in its abundance?

Watch this!



PASTOR  
MATTHEW  
ALLEN

Here we are in the month of February. Every year this same time we celebrate Valentine's Day; where most of us dine and romance our wives. Then through ignorance of the marriage significance of Valentine's Day, there are people who are shacking / living together, not married; that will go out of their way in expenses to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Somehow, somewhere along life's journey many persons seems to have adopted the view that Father Yahweh has shifted His position or changed His mind when it comes to honouring the marriage covenant; and nothing could be further from the truth. With this distorted view, we've got some leaders in various spheres of this country who have and are yet dealing with their wives treacherously. Whereas even on the celebrated Valentine's Day, these same persons will send roses, chocolates and other gifts to their wives of whom they are guilty of mentally, financially, and again in some cases, physically abusing.

Remember the saying that "Everything rises, and falls upon leadership?" This also applies to marriages. And if there is one set of people that God expects to walk upright in the marriage covenant, it is the priesthood. That's today's bishops, doctors, apostles,

pastors, etc. In speaking to the priesthood about their unfaithfulness in marriage here's what Father Yahweh said **Malachi.2:13-14.**

**Mal.2: 13.** And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand.

**: 14.** Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

The spirit of Valentine's Day emanates from God's agapao, ag-ap-ah'-o; love that is expressed between a husband and wife. And it should be carried out and adhered to everyday of the year, and not just emotionally acknowledged on February 14.

The guidelines and the foundation of this love is the word of God. Here's what the scripture says about the recipients / the pacesetters of this love:

**Eph.5:24.**

Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. : 25. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

For not wanting to offend anybody. The church; the guardian of God's word has remained silent and have compromised its stands when it comes to speaking the truth about God's agapao, ag-ap-ah'-o; love in the celebration of Valentine's Day.

Therefore, this particular day in most cases is celebrated from the perspective of the Erros / sexual love that an unmarried man (a fornicator) and also a married man (an adulterer) would share with their sweetheart / concubine.

This sort of teaching you will not receive at your annual religious conferences, seminars, workshops, etc; because it would affect the tithes and offerings. So rather than building and rebuilding family values through the consistent / balanced teachings of the wives submission and the husbands love to one another; the religious churches would preach, scream, hoop and hack about everything else.

Listen, there are many men within the church that are faithful to their ministry and faithful to their man-of-God; and are yet not experiencing the true favour of God upon their lives.

Why is this? Could it be that they've yet to understand, that their love walk towards their wives plays an important role in God's favour upon their lives.

Watch this!

Prov.18:22. Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

May the FOG (Favour of God) be with you:

• For questions or comments, contact us via E-mails: [pastormallen@yahoo.com](mailto:pastormallen@yahoo.com) or [kmfci@live.com](mailto:kmfci@live.com) or Ph.1-242-441-2021. Pastors Matthew & Brendalee Allen Kingdom Minded Fellowship Center Int'l.

## Falling in love with God

FROM page 24

another way of showing devotion. By serving in the spirit of Christ makes you become more Christ like in your attitude and ways," he said.

In turn all of this, will only bring you closer to the father, and closer to experiencing his love in full effect.

God has been overshadowed by the personal problems faced by his people on this earth. Their unforeseen circumstances blind them from seeing the bigger picture and the bigger being. They forget to bow down on their knees and humble their hearts to the master.

However Rev Neely said that this same negligence when it comes to spiritual growth and time investment

will become a hurdle, preventing them from receiving what God has in store for their lives.

"When it comes to prayer, everyone knows how to pray because it is simple communication. Now when it comes to building a connection, prayer is a big factor to retrieving and maintaining a perpetual union," he said.

Its just like forming an intimate human relationship, you can't expect to have a relationship with someone unless you spend time with them, get to know who they are, what they like or dislike, and what they expect from the companionship with you. And by praying, and investing the time into getting to know God, the love you feel for him will grow much stronger

he said.

"Prayer is a mindset. It is not only praying when we get up in the morning or praying before we go to bed. We must keep our hearts open so that we can hear from him, because people tend to pray and not wait to hear what God has to say. Before praying humble yourself, sit quietly and meditate on the Word of God and wait to hear from him" Reverend Neely said.

Reverend Neely said those trying to have a relationship with the Lord, but who don't know how to start, should seek guidance from someone who can be trusted to lead you in the right direction.

"I would first advise them to look for a mentor, that is someone that will be able to guide them in the right

direction.

"Then after following the instructions from their mentor they must show spiritual independence by doing things on their own, because the last thing they would want is to become dependent on that person," Reverend Neely explained.

If you sew your seed it shall grow, put time and effort into your union with Christ since this is an investment that has no liabilities!

## INSIGHT

For the stories  
behind the news, read  
*Insight on Mondays*