

# Living The Word and Committing to The Work of God

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16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the child of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 1 Timothy 3:16-17

## Introduction

The Providence, 40 strong Leaders and Officers Retreat and the follow up meetings have started to look at the District/Circuit Mandated Strategic Plan.

For us it is a challenge to do "A New Thing."

We agreed that our first task should be to **grow and develop spiritually**. We believe that this can be accomplished by living according to the Word of God.

This Newsletter serves to keep us up to date with the Strategic Plan. In particular it serves as a guide to encourage all of us as members to work towards this goal of **"Living the Word and Committing to the Work of God."**

## That I May Know Him

The desire to know God was not only the way to personally come when we are faithful to the his Word and committed to living a life in Him.

Paul confessed that until he met Jesus the Christ face to face he had a lot to boast about. (Phil 3:3)

When Paul met Christ Jesus he recognized that Jesus

I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead.

Philippians 3:10

In order to live a full life we need to know what we believe. This is found in the Word of God.

In light of this we must know the Word. This goes



far beyond just reading. If we are to truly know God's Word we need to spend time meditating on and praying the Word. When we do this we will find that we understand the God we serve and why he called us.

We receive the wisdom and guidance to be faithful and we are able to more readily commit to him and his work.

This can be done through

## Know the Word and Live It

Practising the Presence of God in our study of the Word and as we live daily.

Jesus the Christ Assures us - **"I am the way, the truth and the Life."**

**Therefore we should seek to know His Word: -**

- ⇒ **Spend time in quiet waiting**
- ⇒ **As the Spirit leads, read your selected text**
- ⇒ **Read it again,**
- ⇒ **Meditate on it**
- ⇒ **Listen**
- ⇒ **Pray**
- ⇒ **Hear God speak to you through the text**
- ⇒ **Act on the Word and follow through on the message**
- ⇒ **Share what you learned**

**"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11 ESV**

day walk and talk of a person freed from the often misguided understanding of self. For Paul it became living through the Holy Spirit of God that dwells in our hearts.

Beloved, when we know and understand the amazing love that took Jesus the Christ to the Cross, we like Paul desire to know more about Him. so that we too can change from glory to glory.

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## Walking Together

**Can two walk together unless they agree? Amos 3:3**

- Meet someone new and learn 3 facts about them.
- Take the time to talk face to face with members and others. One on One allows us to offer the grace of God to each other.
- Spread the Good News with others by sharing it in our everyday living.
- Be involved.
- Share when persons are ill, hospitalized or die.
- Bless someone today with this Scripture Philippians 1:9 - **I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.**

## Growing Our Prayer Life

**"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."  
John 17:17 ESV**

### **Why is it so hard to pray publicly?**

This is a question that many sincere and committed Christians ask themselves. Why is it that I cannot speak to God the way I do in private? The twelve disciples of Christ were also concerned about their prayer life. When they asked Jesus their Master and Friend, He gave them a format—this is the Lord's Prayer. This Prayer is not just to be repeated but gives the guidelines of how to pray in public and in private.

Firstly it reminds us that in order to pray we must have a relationship with God. When we see God as primary caregiver, **"Parent/Father"** there is a level of guidance and support, that gives us the confidence we need to honour and adore him.

Like Paul we are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, because it has the power to save us.

Secondly we exalt his name because he is worthy of our praise. Since we know his worth and his power we respect him always. We understand that as Creator he is in full control of heaven and earth. Therefore we acknowledge him as Ruler of our lives and we forever submit to his Lordship in our lives.

Thirdly our prayers flow from within as we recognize the saving grace of a loving and merciful God. It is he who supplies all our needs, beginning with our lives, our physical needs beginning with our daily sustenance. Along with this, his spiritual guidance as we relate to each

other gives us the wisdom to love even when we have been hurt, ill-treated or misunderstood.

Fourthly we can express our desire to stay pure in heart and so we constantly examine ourselves. We ask God to shield us from the evil that is a real part of life.

Therefore prayer begins with **daily reflection**. We start with God, who he is and what he means to us. The other part of reflection is **self examination**. The closer we draw to God is the more we see our need of him. So privately we grow spiritually. This in turn, leads to the type of boldness that prompts us to proclaim the God of our Salvation publicly. Practise and share at **PRAYER MEETING ON SATURDAYS 7:00 A.M.**

## Classes

**CLASSES:** It is really a joy to see our Classes mobilized as they work towards fulfilling the goal of multiplying our seed money 100 fold for Missionary. We are hoping that apart from collecting money for the use of Missions in the Circuit, each class will receive money to do their own Mission work.

We want to rebuild fellowship and play our part in continuing the much needed message of Salvation. From the looks of it we will do well. The

level of creativity and activity proves that persons do love the Lord and want to see his work continue.

**Concerns:** There are still some classes where they are only a few members because some are aged and others not attending. In these cases visits are important and leaders along with the Minister must visit before taking names off the book.

### **Ideas for Maximum Attendance and Participation:**

- Create Classes with persons of

**"Love one another as I have loved you. By this every one will know you are my disciples." John 13:34-35 ESV**

like minds. This would promote the type of fellowship and interest that motivates regular meeting.

- Request the Class you would prefer to be in.
- Smaller Classes joining together.

Dear members you are free to decide your best option, claim it. Then make your decision official by clearly informing the Ministers and Officers of the Church.

## Property Development

**"By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established." Proverbs 24:3 ESV**

There is a proposal to develop the annex located next to the external bathrooms. It is anticipated that the funding for this project will be as follows: -

- Committed donations of skills and materials from within the church

and the community.

- Donations of skills and materials from corporate companies
- Donations from persons who have already expressed interest. These are past students of the Providence Boys School and the management of

Grantley Adams International Airport GAIA.

Proposal is to :

- ◇ Upgrade existing bathrooms for easy access to the aged, physically challenged, retiled and outfitted with all the necessities. (cont'd→)



## Activity for Youth

### Letter and Word Art Challenge

How good are you at making art out of letters and Words?

Are you as good as this picture?

Why not be creative and design something for our Church Anniversary next year? You could receive the best prize award.

**ALWAYS USE YOUR TALENTS FOR CHRIST  
AND RECEIVE THE BLESSINGS OF GOD.**



## Empowering Our Children and Youth

### TIPS FOR HAVING A GOOD DAY MY CHILDREN: -

- ⇒PRAY FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS,
- ⇒LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERYDAY,
- ⇒ACCEPT KINDNESS AND BE KIND,
- ⇒YELL NO TO WRONG DOING.

There is one last tip, look carefully to find it. When you do, share it with someone.

### WORKING FOR CHRIST

Dear Children and Youth

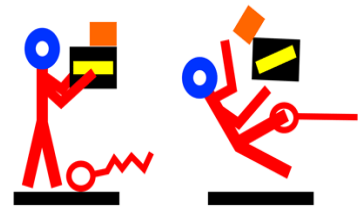
Our Bible Study located on the back page, reminds us that all are called to work for Christ. No one is too young nor old.

How are you willing to help?

- Think about training to give a message or children's story
- Get involved in Bible Study especially in your classes
- Help in other areas of church life; like missions, homework/ children's fellowship
- Use your gifts and talents to tell the story of salvation e.g. play-

ing instruments, singing, arts and crafts, sports, drama, cooking, sewing, technology, dancing and everything else.

### ALWAYS WALK WITH JESUS



For the LORD will be your confidence,  
And will keep your foot from being caught.

Proverbs 3:26

## Mentoring Our Children/Youth

One of the ideas that have been suggested is that of mentoring our children and youth. This is an area in which persons who are interested in the young and have a genuine concern for them can give their service to God.

Persons who have expressed an interest are Hussein Brewster, Albert Corbin, Patrick Welch. These will work with the males.

Those willing to work with the females are Lucille Goddard and Thelma Blackman. Please speak to any of these persons if you are interested in supporting and encourag-

ing our children and youth in their Christian walk.

### What is Mentoring

Mentoring begins with consistent relationships with stable, competent adults who can help youth cope with challenges.

In a mentoring relationship, mentors provide guidance and support to help young people commit to God, build self-confidence, learn positive behaviours, stay in school, and avoid potential pitfalls.

### Tips on Mentoring

**Find Favorite Memories** share a favorite story of growing up e.g.

How you gave your life to Christ.—build personal connections—do things you can enjoy together.

**Expand Borders:** Go touring and discovering new places and things.

**Volunteer Together** Do work together in the community and church.

*"Children must be taught how to think, not what to think." M. Mead*

**"Through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare  
treasures." Proverbs 24:3 ESV**

- ◇ A new well has to be dug.
- ◇ Personalized office space with a break out room for group counseling
- ◇ Bathroom facilities for Ministers
- ◇ Storage Area
- ◇ Open area for the care of the elderly and teaching of computer classes and any other such needs
- ◇ Reference Library and display room.
- ◇ Mini Gift and Book Shop.

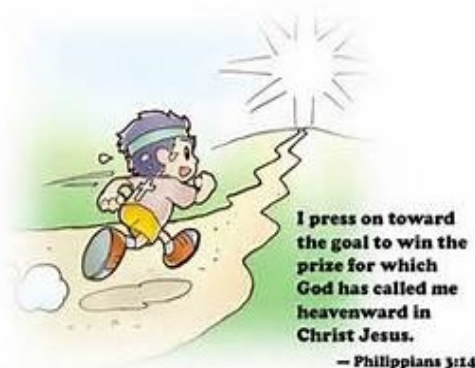
## Property Development

The necessary blue print of this project is being developed by Sis. Laura Mc Clean the additional members of the Committee Bros Welch, Brewster, Holder and the Minister.

Please start from now to pray for this project and prepare to actively participate from planning to the actual work.



## Know the Scriptures



### **QUIZ:** Who said these words and where is this text found? Do you see the clue?

"Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." **22** And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit...."

- ⇒ **Whatever we do must be empowered by the Holy Spirit.** It is only then that we will grow spiritually and the Gospel spread. This is how we receive transformation of our lives, our families, our nation, the Caribbean and the world.
- ⇒ **It all starts with a personal experience of Christ Jesus** Marcus Borg speaks of this in his book "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time." It is a good read. Do you have more suggestions of a good read?
- ⇒ **As a part of the Circuit's 50 Acts of Kindness** we are going into our communities and sharing the love of God with those who need it most.
- ⇒ **We are celebrating our 185th Anniversary** the official date is April 16, 2017. All are asked to do all we can to be a part of this grant celebration.
- ⇒ **Restoration of the wooden panel above the pulpit** with the Commandments and Lord's Prayer is to be finished in time for our anniversary.
- ⇒ **The membership at Providence** comprises of 176 females and 102 males and 45 children and youth. We are expected to grow our membership by at least 20 in the next three (3) years. So spread the Gospel to your family, friends and neighbours and join us as we minister in the community.
- ⇒ **Help us to grow our children's work**, by encouraging others to attend Church School and Children's Fellowship and the Homework Club.
- ⇒ **Vacation Bible School** will be held from July 04 - 29, 2016. The theme is "Shining Stars." We need persons to volunteer as counsellors and of course with materials, food etc.

## Bible Study-Ambassadors for Christ

Bible Study is a must if we are to grow and develop spiritually, In doing this study our goal is to learn and grow together as a congregation. As such this study is meant to be done by all; individually or in groups and then to share as a congregation.



We start with the reminder that we are Ambassadors for Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:20.** The focus then is on the Christ, not us. Mark 16:15 commands: **"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel ..."** **Matthew 28:19** gives a similar mandate. So we are charged with taking the Word to others.

### **CONTEXT: Read 2 Corinthians 5**

The Message starts at the end and works back to the beginning. In this Chapter Paul reminds the Corinthians that death is inevitable for all

human beings. As such we are to work towards that goal. This is done through spreading the message of Salvation.

Thus we must become Ambassadors for Christ. When we do this, others have the opportunity to experience that abundant life leading to eternal life.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

- ⇒ What does ambassador mean?
- ⇒ What does Paul mean by ambassadors for Christ?
- ⇒ Look carefully at the phrase that follows: "...as though God was making an appeal through us - Explain?
- ⇒ Continue with the other phrase: "...we beg you on behalf of Christ be reconciled to God." How are we reconciled to Christ? What part does repentance play in this? Discuss.
- ⇒ Examine and explain the phrase "He made him who knew no sin

to be sin on our behalf..."

- ⇒ What is meant by the righteousness of God.?
- ⇒ Go back and read the entire Chapter. Take time to note how the verses are divided, look for the various messages individually and explain them.
- 1. Verses 1- 5 What do the references to naked and unclothed mean?
- 2. Verses 6-10 what are some of the key words and phrases that help us to understand what Paul is saying? How are we encouraged?
- 3. Verses 11-15 The motto of the Methodist Church **"The Love of Christ constrains us" is contained here. What should this mean for us?**
- 4. Verses 16-19 What does Paul mean when he says **"we recognize no one according to the flesh"?**
- ⇒ How do we become ambassadors for Christ?
- ⇒ What then is the role of Christians as ambassadors?
- ⇒ Share other messages you received coming out of this text.