

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



THE JAMAICA BAPTIST REPORTER



December 2025

Hurricane Melissa

ITS IMPACT AND LESSONS



Damage
done to the
Ulster Spring
Manse

ALSO INSIDE



JBU BIDS
FAREWELL TO
REV. WILLIAM
EDWARDS

LIGHT IN
BROKEN
PLACES



SONGS
IN THE
STORM

176TH
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
SCHEDULE

The Coming of Christ and the Aftermath of Melissa

Over time, there have been events and experiences that impact our humanity and sense of life in such dramatic and epoch-making ways that we speak of reality going forward in reference to them. One recent global example is how we have been speaking of being in the post-COVID-19 era. What is true of COVID-19 globally has now become true of Hurricane Melissa nationally. Jamaicans have begun to speak of the post-Melissa reality.

Especially from a Christian perspective, the event that has had the most profound impact on our humanity is the incarnation of Christ. The impact has been so deep that the designation of time has since been set to refer backward (BC or BCE) and forward (AD or CE) from the first advent of Christ. It is quite serendipitous that the emergence of the term "post-Melissa" has coincided with the onset of the Advent season this year. This coincidence hints at the possibility of seeing connections between the coming of Christ Jesus and the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

Several areas of connection are discernible, though space here only allows comment on two of them. The first area of connection is shelterlessness. One of the most obvious impacts of Melissa has been the destruction and terrible damage to buildings, including homes, and especially the homes of the poor. According to the Office

of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), more than 90,000 households were displaced or affected, amounting to almost 280,000 people. Some 156,000 dwellings were damaged, with 24,000 accounted for as total losses. These are huge numbers for Jamaica and point to tremendous material, financial, social, mental and emotional turmoil.

Reports in the Gospel indicate that at and around his birth, as well as throughout his life, Christ Jesus faced shelterlessness. He was born in a stable (Luke 2:7), became a refugee when his family had to flee to Egypt to escape the threat to his life (Matthew 2:13–15), and during his ministry He famously declared that he had "no place to lay His head" (Matthew 8:20, Luke 9:58).

God in Christ did not and does not choose insulation, evasion or distance from shelterlessness. Instead of insulation, God in Christ chose and chooses immersion in shelterlessness, and so identifies with all who are shelterless. Instead of evading shelterlessness, God in Christ entered shelterlessness and therefore embraces all those who experience it. Instead of keeping distance from shelterlessness and leaving us in despair, God in Christ took the risk of modelling for us the dependence which accesses the empowerment to live through and find our way beyond shelterlessness. God made Godself vul-



REV. DWIGHT FRASER

nerable by coming into the world in Christ, born into shelterlessness, exposed, insecure and unprotected, in order to point us to how total reliance on God is the disposition we need to overcome such circumstances. This is a very comforting and enabling word for all who are without shelter right now. God in Christ is on your side, identifying with you, comforting you, and empowering you to see your way through this time.

A second area of connection is kindness. Early after the passing of Hurricane Melissa, the central leadership of the Union met with Superintendent Ministers at the Ocho Rios Baptist Church to get a sense of how members, pastors and churches were faring in the wake of its devastation. One of our senior pastors made a comment about responding to the needs in the most affected areas that has stayed with me: "This half of Jamaica has been spared to help the half of Jamaica where the damage is severe".

This has been borne out since. From all

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Immanuel: God Is With Us

The past months have been difficult for Jamaica, especially for those in the corridor through which Hurricane Melissa mainly travelled. By now we all know that Hurricane Melissa was the worst hurricane to have impacted Jamaica in our recorded history.

The Government of Jamaica has, to date, estimated total losses at US\$9 billion, and 90,000 people remain displaced. There have been 45 confirmed deaths, with several persons still missing. Many are without adequate housing, food, access to electricity and clean drinking water: not luxuries, but necessities.

Farmers suffered major losses, driving up food prices nationwide. Not only have people lost material possessions, but this unprecedented disaster has also taken a mental toll on many.

Within the Baptist community, more than 100 Baptist churches, parsonages, manses, schools and other institutions have been badly damaged or reduced to rubble. We have given you a glimpse of some of these in this edition of the Jamaica Baptist Reporter.

Added to this picture are the thousands of our members who must now tread the long road of putting their lives and livelihoods back together. It is a mighty long way to any semblance of normality, and I urge us to consider contributing to the denomination's recovery efforts. And what better time to do so than during this season when

we celebrate God's greatest gift to us: Jesus Christ our Lord?

This situation has led to many robust debates about centuries-old theological questions concerning the cause of suffering and whether the presence of events such as hurricanes, earthquakes and other forms of disaster is punishment from God. Perhaps we should also include in these discussions additional perspectives from environmental scientists such as Professor Dr. Michael Taylor (see his lecture on YouTube: "The Post-Melissa Climate: Why the Conversation Must Change").

The Christmas season affords a timely opportunity to be reminded that despite the circumstances we may experience, God is with us. God became incarnate in Jesus; in his humanity he lived on the earth and experienced hunger and thirst, temptation, exhaustion, pain and grief, suffering and death. God entered into solidarity with us as human beings and is present with us in the depths of our human finitude. Yes, Christmas reminds us that God's plans cannot be thwarted by human actions. Evil will never have the last word.

God is with us even in times of frustration and hopelessness, pain and suffering, trauma and distress. God is present in the ministry of healing, in the feeding of the hungry and thirsty, in the clothing of the naked, and with the imprisoned who cry out for help. God comes to us in word and sac-



REV. MERLYN HYDE RILEY

rament and in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, but our present experience of God's presence is at best incomplete. We are conscious that God's justice and peace have not been fully realised, that God's work of salvation is unfinished, and so may our work and witness be a source of hope to the world. God will not abandon us.

Against that backdrop, we encourage you to make a difference in the life of someone this Christmas through your generosity and hospitality. Reach out to the most vulnerable: a child, an elderly person, a disabled person, a homeless person, someone who is crying out to be seen, heard and embraced. May your kindness make real to them the presence of Immanuel. God is with us!

We encourage our members to come together for worship this Christmas, even if under less-than-ideal physical conditions. Remember, God has a way of breaking through in ways and by means we least expect, for Jesus Christ is Immanuel – God with us.

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accounts there has been an outpouring of kindness by Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica towards those who are suffering from Melissa's devastation. The Jamaica Baptist Union as a whole, JBU parish associations and specific JBU churches from the unaffected region have all been channels of the kindness of God in caring outreach to communities, churches and people in the deep impact zone. Other churches, charities, private sector companies and celebrities have been working to address the needs of those who are in dire straits as a

result of the hurricane. The coming of Christ Jesus was also marked by kindness. Matthew 2:1–12 tells of the Magi travelling from the east bringing critical, practical and needed gifts for the vulnerable, needy and at-risk Jesus.

God in Christ identifies with and is invested in those in need of kindness. Like the Magi, we need to realise the real needs and ensure our assistance reaches those who need it most. Our contacts in the Melissa high-impact belt tell us that some, especially the less able who live off the main roads, are being left behind in the relief and recovery effort. Discernment will help us avoid contributing to this. Like the Magi, we need to be willing to take the risks

that are necessary, to question and call out unfairness in distribution, to stand in the way of those who take advantage of the weak, and to advocate for justice in the rebuilding process so that the poor are not left vulnerable in the path of future storms. This is the kindness the incarnation invites from us.

I pray that this Christmas we connect the coming of Christ Jesus with the aftermath of Melissa in ways that engage shelterlessness and kindness towards meeting the needs of the vulnerable. Have a blessed Christmas.





Advent in the **SHADOW OF THE STORM**

As Christians around the world light the Advent candles this season, we do so in solidarity with all who wait in darkness for light. We wait with the displaced of Sudan and Syria, with the hungry of Gaza, with the bereaved and homeless of Jamaica. In that waiting, we proclaim with the ancient Church: “Come, Lord Jesus”.

The season of Advent arrives this December carrying its ancient message of expectation and promise into a world that has witnessed extraordinary suffering in 2025. As the Church enters once more into this sacred time of waiting, the faithful are compelled to hold together the tension between the darkness of present realities and the unwavering hope of divine redemption. Nowhere is this tension more acutely felt than in Jamaica, where the catastrophic passage of Hurricane Melissa in October has left an indelible mark upon the nation’s landscape and people.

Advent invites us to dwell in darkness before the dawn. The prophet Isaiah spoke to a people who walked in deep darkness, promising that upon them a great light would shine. Today, that darkness takes many forms: the protracted conflicts in Sudan, Gaza, and Ukraine; the accelerating climate crisis; the widening inequalities that leave the vulnerable without protection. Into this fractured landscape, Advent speaks its counter-cultural word of hope.

Hurricane Melissa struck Jamaica with devastating force, becoming one of the strongest storms ever recorded in the Atlantic basin. In Jamaica and other affected countries such as Haiti and Cuba, the storm claimed more than 100 lives, affected more than six million people – including

about 1.5 million in Jamaica, roughly half of the island’s population – and inflicted economic losses between US\$8 and US\$15 billion. One government minister described it as an event that “changed the life of every Jamaican in less than 24 hours”. Such suffering raises the perennial question: Where is God in the midst of devastation?

The Advent narrative provides an answer. The God who enters human history does so not in triumphant power, but in the vulnerability of a child born to a displaced family seeking shelter. The Incarnation reveals a God who draws near to human suffering rather than remaining distant from it. This understanding carries particular significance for communities now rebuilding. The presence of Christ is discovered not in immunity from disaster, but in the solidarity of neighbour with neighbour, and in the resilience of a people who can face devastation one day and return to rebuilding the next.

Advent also calls the Church to prophetic witness. The connection between Hurricane Melissa’s intensity and rising ocean temperatures was noted by Jamaican delegates at the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference. Here the Advent themes of justice and righteousness find contemporary application. Mary’s Magnificat in Luke 1:46-55 speaks of the God who scatters the proud, brings down the powerful, and lifts up the lowly. A faithful observance of Advent

cannot ignore the structural injustices that leave small island nations bearing the heaviest consequences of emissions produced by wealthy countries.

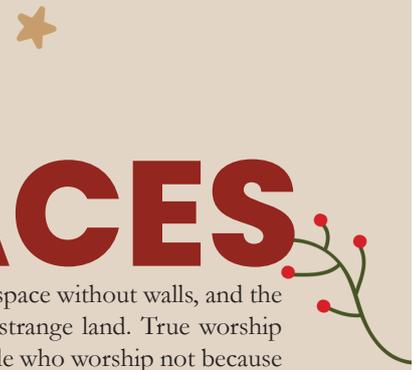
Yet Advent ultimately bends towards hope. The weeks of preparation lead to the celebration of Emmanuel, God with us. This hope is neither naive optimism nor passive resignation, but active participation in God’s redemptive purposes. In Jamaica, this hope takes concrete form in the restoration of communities, the reopening of schools and hospitals, the recovery of livelihoods. It appears in humanitarian coordination that delivered food to 145,000 people and water to hundreds of thousands more. It is embodied in diaspora youth raising funds and in tourism workers returning to their posts despite personal losses.

As Christians around the world light the Advent candles this season, we do so in solidarity with all who wait in darkness for light. We wait with the displaced of Sudan and Syria, with the hungry of Gaza, with the bereaved and homeless of Jamaica. In that waiting, we proclaim with the ancient Church: “Come, Lord Jesus”.

In a world of storm and conflict, Advent declares that the final word belongs not to chaos but to Christ, whose coming brings peace on earth and goodwill to all.



Advent Hope After Melissa: **LIGHT IN BROKEN PLACES**



BY: REV. ONIEL BROWN

Advent has always been a season of contradictions, a season where faith speaks louder than circumstances and hope rises higher than the evidence around us. This year in Jamaica, Advent comes not in decorated sanctuaries with poinsettias and blinking lights, but in broken spaces. For many congregations, Hurricane Melissa did more than rattle roofs; it unsettled hearts, reshaped sacred spaces, and placed additional burdens on families and pastors alike. Yet Advent meets us right where we are, not in our perfection but in our disruption.

Hope has never been a delicate thing. It grows in the dark, takes its first breath in tension, and learns to walk among ruins. That is why Advent is not cancelled this year. Its message becomes sharper when our buildings lean, when our instruments are damaged, and when our hearts feel thin. This is the soil where true hope takes root.

Advent hope is the confident, expectant trust that God will accomplish God's good purposes, based on God's unchanging nature and proven faithfulness. This is why hope invites us to take a second look.



The first candle of Advent is lit not because the world is bright, but because God refused to abandon the world to darkness. After Melissa, many churches across Jamaica are worshipping in borrowed spaces, outside under tents, in

shepherds worshipped in a space without walls, and the wise men worshipped in a strange land. True worship has always come from people who worship not because life is easy, but because God is present.

This year, Jamaican worship may echo through repaired buildings, temporary spaces, and reconstructed sanctuaries. Yet God receives this worship with tenderness, for true worship begins where survival meets gratitude, where exhaustion meets expectation, where loss meets the promise of Emmanuel: God with us.

Recovery after Melissa is not a straight line. It comes with delays, frustrations, and emotional fatigue. But recovery in Jamaica has never been a solitary act; it is deeply communal. Our churches and communities have again shown who we truly are: people willing to climb onto roofs with neighbours at sunrise, who share meals when cupboards are nearly empty, who check on shut-ins even when our own homes need repairs.

Hope rebuilds in stages. Sometimes slowly. Sometimes painfully. Always together.

The same God who came to earth in a manger comes now to sit with us in our recovery. In this Advent season, hope is not merely a word; it is a call to action, a commitment to serve each other with renewed resolve and to envision a Jamaica stronger than before.

Melissa has left scars, but it has not written our future. Advent points us beyond the debris to the God who enters human suffering and rewrites the ending. The same Christ who came into

**Our Advent testimony is simple but strong:
We survived, we are rising, and God is with us.**



community centres, or amid ongoing repairs. Some congregations walk into buildings where the scent of dampness lingers and where memories of the storm have not yet faded.

And yet, hope says: Look again. Look again at the fellowship formed under tarpaulins. Look again at worshippers lifting hands while standing on broken floors. Look again at prayer rising from congregations who gather not because conditions are perfect, but because God is still faithful. This is worship reborn, not diminished but transformed.

To Look Again at How We Worship

Worship after tragedy sounds different. It is deeper, more honest, sometimes more fragile. It carries both praise and lament. In Advent, we remember that Mary worshipped while facing uncertainty, the

a troubled world still comes into our weary hearts, our damaged spaces, and our struggling communities.

Hope says: Our congregations will be stronger. Our worship will have new meaning. Our communities will regain what was lost. Jamaica will recover again.

This Advent, we do not ignore our losses. We look at them through the lens of grace. We declare that God is with us, even here, even now. Our hope is not fragile; it is fierce, built on the Christ who came once and who continues to come into every storm-scarred corner of our lives.

Our Advent testimony is simple but strong: We survived, we are rising, and God is with us.



JBU Response to Hurricane Melissa

On Wednesday, 22 October 2025, a small emergency meeting convened in the lobby of the Jamaica Baptist Union as the team activated its hurricane response plan.

By Friday, meteorologists had revised landfall projections to Sunday, confirming that the storm had indeed strengthened into a hurricane and was expected to become category three. Preparations at the JBU Centre quickly escalated: boxes were removed from the ground and placed on tables, windows were taped to prevent glass from shattering should the worst-case scenario become a reality, and a message was disseminated to the friends and family of the JBU, reminding them to make relevant preparations and place everything in God's hands.

The slow-moving hurricane made landfall four days later and left devastation in its wake. Images and accounts of the destruction began pouring in, to the General Secretary, and what she witnessed was a picture of destruction and mayhem as she traversed the island in the immediate aftermath. Manses and schools had been destroyed and churches reduced to rubble. The JBU Centre was largely unscathed and, apart from the loss of electricity, running water and internet connectivity, the staff who reside primarily in the corporate area and St Catherine had not fared badly.

A week later, the JBU Offices reopened to the public. The bookshop was bustling, communion supplies and other items were again being distributed, and the weekly radio programme was being edited for broadcast, but staff simultaneously shifted into full post-disaster response mode. There was a grim realisation that international attention would be brief and that the JBU needed to act decisively. The collection and collation of photographs and reports of damage was underway, meetings were being held with the JBU's officers and executive committee, international partners and other prospective donors, interview requests were being filled, friends of the JBU near and far were reaching out and helping to make connections, so that more resources would be available to respond to growing needs. There was a flurry of activities and a lot of interest in the well-being of the JBU family and the nation.

A Disaster Response Advi-



JBU Hurricane Melissa Project Manager, Taneisha Thompson takes inventory of donated items.



Rev. Merlyn Hyde Riley, General Secretary of the Jamaica Baptist Union and Rev. Marsha Scipio JD, Director of Baptist World Aid at Baptist World Alliance sort through donations.

sory team was commissioned by the General Secretary which consisted of professional volunteers ranging from engineers, disaster management professionals, project writing and transportation and logistics experts among others. A project manager was also employed to support relief and recovery operations.

As a part of its communication strategy, the JBU coined the phrase "From Ruin to Renewal" as a campaign tagline, believing that as God's people we will persevere in faith to rebuild what has been destroyed. Informational flyers and a dedicated webpage outlined ways the public could assist.

Donations flowed into drop-off sites across four parishes, where JBU and church staff sorted and recorded supplies along with volunteers who prepared care packages.

The JBU established two main distribution centres, located at the Mandeville Baptist Church and Burchell Baptist Church in Mandeville and Montego Bay respectively. From

there, pastors from the affected parishes can gather supplies such as water, food and other non-perishable items sent from the JBU Centre for distribution in their communities. At the same time, the Jamaica Baptist Mission Agency (JBUMA), led by the Rev. Robert Campbell and groups such as the Jamaica Baptist Union Brotherhood continued outreach visits, delivering supplies and offering hope.

Speaking with the Jamaica Baptist Reporter, the Rev. Robert Campbell, Secretary of the JBUMA, emphasised the organisation's inclusive approach. "Our thing is about the welfare of humanity and not about just our church members alone, but to reach the community as much as possible, and we have been doing that and we continue to do that, so that more people can get help on the ground".

International support has been significant. World Vision has provided assistance, supplying non-food items such as water, tarpaulins, beds, hygiene kits, generators etc.



HURRICANE MELISSA



Mission to Parottee, near St. Elizabeth

Phase one of the JBU's Disaster Relief Plan focused on establishing distribution centres and disseminating much-needed relief items. While Phase one continues, Phase two is now underway, with a focus on assessing damage and directing resources towards rebuilding churches and educational institutions. More than 100 JBU institutions, some of which are heritage sites, have been destroyed, many beyond immediate repair.

The JBU has also received support from Baptist World Aid and different groups from the Southern Baptists to include Send Relief. Many other churches, institutions and individuals, locally and overseas, continue to reach out and offer help. The JBU is tremendously grateful.

Locally, less-affected churches and parish associations are partnering with those in greatest need. These partnerships have enabled the delivery of medical and psychosocial support in addition to food and non-food items and in some cases infrastructural support through the repairs of homes and churches.

Phase one of the JBU's Disaster Relief Plan focused on establishing distribution centres and disseminating much-needed relief items. While Phase one continues, Phase two is now underway, with a focus on assessing damage and directing resources towards rebuilding churches and educational institutions. More than 100 JBU institutions, some of which are heritage sites, have been destroyed, many beyond immediate repair.

Whilst rebuilding churches may appear secondary amid such widespread loss, Rev. Hyde Riley offered a broader perspective in an interview with *The Jamaica Gleaner*: "Our churches aren't just worship centres. They run schools, clinics, homework programmes, and kitchens that feed the homeless. With roofs gone and equipment destroyed, those ministries are temporarily halted. It's heartbreaking, but we don't believe this is permanent".



(l-r) JBU Staff Mr. Leroy Anderson, Miss Brittany Hunter and Ms. Allison McDonald assist in loading a truck en route to the Mandeville Baptist Church.



HURRICANE MELISSA

JAMAICA BAPTIST UNION HURRICANE MELISSA DAMAGE REPORT – December 2025

No.	CHURCH	SCHEME	CIRCUIT	PARISH	DAMAGE LEVEL
CHURCHES					
1	Frankfield Baptist Church	Frankfield	Frankfield	Clarendon	7
2	Bethlehem Baptist Church	Rock River	Rock River	Clarendon	7
3	Rhoden Hall Baptist Church	Rhoden Hall	Staceyville/Cowley	Clarendon	3
4	Staceyville Baptist Church	Staceyville	Staceyville/Cowley	Clarendon	7
5	Elgin Baptist Church	Elgin	Thompson Town	Clarendon	5
6	Thompson Town Baptist Church	Thompson Town	Thompson Town	Clarendon	7
7	Friendship Baptist Church	Friendship	Gurney's Mount	Hanover	5
8	Gurney's Mount Baptist Church	Gurney's Mount	Gurney's Mount	Hanover	1
9	New Milns Mission	New Milns	Gurney's Mount	Hanover	6
10	Watford Hill Baptist Church	Watford Hill	Gurney's Mount	Hanover	1
11	Cacoon Castle Church	Cacoon Castle	Hopewell/Cacoon Castle	Hanover	7
12	Hopewell Baptist Church	Hopewell	Hopewell/Cacoon Castle	Hanover	4
13	Lucea Baptist Church	Lucea	Lucea	Hanover	6
14	Kendal Baptist Church	Kendal	Mount Moriah	Hanover	6
15	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	Dias	Mount Moriah	Hanover	4
16	Rock Spring Baptist Church	Rock Spring	Mount Moriah	Hanover	5
17	Mt. Bethel Baptist Church	Constitution Hill	Jones Town	Kingston & Andrew	4
18	Philadelphia Baptist Church	Philadelphia	Bamboo	St. Ann	6
19	Sturge Town Baptist Church	Sturge Town	Bamboo	St. Ann	6
20	Linton Park Baptist Church	Linton Park	Bethany	St. Ann	4
21	Brown's Town Baptist Church	Brown's Town	Brown's Town	St. Ann	3
22	Grateful Hill Baptist Church	Grateful Hill	Grateful Hill	St. Ann	4
23	Liberty Baptist Church	Liberty	St. Ann's Bay	St. Ann	5
24	Colegate Baptist Church	Colegate	Walkerswood	St. Ann	4
25	Epworth Baptist Church	Epworth	Walkerswood	St. Ann	3
26	Orange Park Baptist Church	Orange Park	Walkerswood	St. Ann	4
27	Mizpah Baptist Church	Sandy Ground	Ginger Ridge	St. Catherine	5
28	Mount Hermon Baptist	Hampshire	Mount Hermon	St. Catherine	???
29	Mt. Nebo Baptist Church	Saxham	Mount Nebo	St. Catherine	5
30	Wheeler's Mount Baptist Church	Springfield	Mount Nebo	St. Catherine	5
31	Sligoville Baptist Church	Sligoville	Sligoville	St. Catherine	2
32	Balaclava Baptist Church	Balaclava	Balaclava	St. Elizabeth	4
33	Elderslie Baptist Church	Elderslie	Balaclava	St. Elizabeth	4
34	Roses Valley Baptist Church	Roses Valley	Balaclava	St. Elizabeth	4
35	Burnt Savannah Baptist Church	Burnt Savannah	Santa Cruz	St. Elizabeth	6
36	Beththephil Baptist Church	Chatham	Beththephil	St. James	7
37	Melody Baptist Church	Dumfries Pen	Beththephil	St. James	1
38	Over River Baptist Church	Over River	Beththephil	St. James	6
39	Somerton Baptist Church	Somerton	Beththephil	St. James	1
40	Sudbury Baptist Church	Orange	Beththephil	St. James	6
41	Tower Hill Baptist Church	Tower Hill	Burchell	St. James	1
42	Bogue Hill Baptist Church	Bogue Hill	Calvary	St. James	5
43	Calvary Baptist Church	Montego Bay	Calvary	St. James	5
44	Lilliput Baptist Church	Lilliput/Northern Estate	Cornwall Court	St. James	7
45	Maldon Baptist Church	Maldon	Maldon	St. James	6
46	Tangle River Baptist Church	Tangle River	Maldon	St. James	6
47	Montego/Westgate Hills Baptist	Westgate Hills	Montego/Westgate Hills	St. James	1
48	Brickersteth Baptist Church	Bickersteth	Mount Carey	St. James	6
49	Mount Carey Baptist Church	Mount Carey	Mount Carey	St. James	6
50	Shettlewood Baptist Church	Shettlewood	Mount Carey	St. James	6
51	Belmont Baptist Church	Belmont	Roehampton	St. James	1

HURRICANE MELISSA



JAMAICA BAPTIST UNION HURRICANE MELISSA DAMAGE REPORT – December 2025

No.	CHURCH	SCHEME	CIRCUIT	PARISH	DAMAGE LEVEL
CHURCHES					
52	Comfort Hall Baptist Church	Comfort Hall	Roehampton	St. James	6
53	Roehampton Baptist Church	Lawson	Roehampton	St. James	6
54	Salt Spring Baptist Church	Salt Spring	Salt Spring	St. James	5
55	Providence Baptist Church	Lottery	Salters Hill	St. James	6
56	Salters Hill Baptist Church	John's Hall	Salters Hill	St. James	1
57	Buckingham Baptist Church	Hopeton	Springfield	St. James	7
58	Springfield Baptist Church	Springfield	Springfield	St. James	8
59	Webster Memorial Baptist Church	Granville	Webster Memorial	St. James	1
60	Galina Baptist Church	Galina	Port Maria	St. Mary	5
61	Jack's River Baptist Church	Jack's River	Oracabessa	St. Mary	3
62	Arcadia (Mt. Ephraim Baptist)	Arcadia	Arcadia	St. Thomas	1
63	Litchfield Baptist Church	Litchfield	Christiana	Trelawny	6
64	William Knibb Memorial Church	Falmouth	Falmouth	Trelawny	5
65	Clarke's Town Baptist Church	Clarke's Town	Kettering	Trelawny	6
66	Refuge Baptist Church	Refuge	Kettering	Trelawny	???
67	Good Hope Baptist Church	Samuel Prospect	Kettering	Trelawny	4
68	Bethesda Baptist Church	Joe Hut	Spring Garden	Trelawny	6
69	Spring Garden Church	Spring Garden	Spring Garden	Trelawny	4
70	Wilson Valley Baptist Church	Wilson Valley	Spring Garden	Trelawny	6
71	Alps Baptist Church	Alps Mountain	Ulster Spring	Trelawny	5
72	Freeman's Hall Baptist Church	Freeman's Hall	Ulster Spring	Trelawny	3
73	Ulster Spring Baptist Church	Ulster Spring	Ulster Spring	Trelawny	5
74	Hastings Baptist Church	Hastings	Unity	Trelawny	7
75	Unity Baptist Church	Bunkers Hill	Unity	Trelawny	6
76	Trittonville Baptist Church	Duanvale	Waldensia	Trelawny	6
77	Warsop Baptist Church	Warsop	Warsop	Trelawny	6
78	Barneyside Baptist Church	Barneyside	Bethel Town	Westmoreland	5
79	Bethel Town Baptist Church	Bethel Town	Bethel Town	Westmoreland	5
80	Knockalva Baptist Church	Knockalva	Bethel Town	Westmoreland	5
81	Hebron Baptist Church	Williamsfield	Hebron	Westmoreland	5
82	Townhead Baptist Church	Frome	Fullersfield	Westmoreland	5
83	Fullersfield Baptist Church	Fullersfield	Fullersfield	Westmoreland	???
84	Kirkham Baptist Church	Frome	Savanna-la-Mar	Westmoreland	3
85	Dundee Baptist Church	Dundee	St. Leonard's	Westmoreland	6
86	St. Leonard's Baptist Church	St. Leonard's	St. Leonard's	Westmoreland	6
87	Sutcliffe Mount Baptist Church	Whithorn	Sutcliffe Mount	Westmoreland	4

HURRICANE MELISSA

JAMAICA BAPTIST UNION HURRICANE MELISSA DAMAGE REPORT – December 2025

No.	CHURCH	SCHEME	CIRCUIT	PARISH	DAMAGE LEVEL
CHURCH HALLS					
1	Grateful Hill Baptist Education Hall	Grateful Hill	Grateful Hill	St. Ann	6
2	Brown's Town Baptist Auditorium	Brown's Town	Brown's Town	St. Ann	5
3	Point Hill Church Hall	Point Hill	Point Hill	St. Catherine	5
4	Bethtephil Baptist Church Hall	Chatham	Bethtephil	St. James	7
5	Mount Carey Education Centre	Mount Carey	Mount Carey	St. James	6
6	Kettering Baptist Church Hall	Duncans	Kettering	Trelawny	5
7	Townhead Baptist Church Hall	Frome	Fullersfield	Westmoreland	4

No.	CHURCH	SCHEME	CIRCUIT	PARISH	DAMAGE LEVEL
SCHOOLS					
	Staceyville Early Childhood	Staceyville	Staceyville/Cowley	Clarendon	7
2	Ruby Mitchell Basic (Paradise Baptist)	Crofts Hill	Crofts Hill	Clarendon	7
3	Gurney's Mount All-age School	Gurney's Mount	Gurney's Mount	Hanover	1
4	Wheelers Mount Baptist Basic School	Springfield	Mount Nebo	St. Catherine	5
5	Balaclava Baptist Basic School	Balaclava	Balaclava	St. Elizabeth	4
6	Bethtephil Baptist Basic School	Chatham	Bethtephil	St. James	7
7	Westwood High School for Girls	Stewart Town	Stewart Town	Trelawny	6
8	William Knibb High School	Martha Brae	Falmouth	Trelawny	5

No.	CHURCH	SCHEME	CIRCUIT	PARISH	DAMAGE LEVEL
CHURCH HOUSES (MANSES)					
1	Frankfield Baptist Manse	Frankfield	Frankfield	Clarendon	7
2	Lucea Baptist Manse	Lucea	Lucea	Hanover	6
3	St. Ann's Bay Baptist Manse	St. Ann's Bay	St. Ann's Bay	St. Ann	4
4	Ocho Rios Manse	Ocho Rios	Ocho Rios	St. Ann	3
5	Brown's Town Baptist Manse	Brown's Town	Brown's Town	St. Ann	4
6	Mount Hermon Baptist Manse	Hampshire	Mount Hermon	St. Catherine	3
7	Roehampton Manse	Lawson	Roehampton	St. James	6
8	Mount Carey Baptist Manse	Mount Carey	Mount Carey	St. James	6
9	Bethtephil Manse	Chatham	Bethtephil	St. James	2
10	Burchell Memorial Manse	Montego Bay	Burchell	St. James	1
11	Webster Memorial Manse	Carthage	Webster Memorial	St. James	1
12	Hastings Baptist Manse	Hastings	Unity	Trelawny	7
13	Ulster Spring Baptist Manse	Ulster Spring	Ulster Spring	Trelawny	5
14	St. Leonard's Baptist Manse	St. Leonard's	St. Leonard's	Westmoreland	6
15	Bethel Town Baptist Manse	Bethel Town	Bethel Town	Westmoreland	5

No.	CHURCH	SCHEME	CIRCUIT	PARISH	DAMAGE LEVEL
AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS					
1	Garland Hall Memorial Children's Home	Anchovy	Mount Carey	St. James	5
2	Nutshell Conference Centre	Duncans	Jamaica Baptist Union	Trelawny	7

1,2 – Minimal damage to roof, windows or doors. Useable. 5,6 – Loss of roof ; doors windows damaged.
 3,4 – Substantial damage to roof, sarking and cladding. 7,8 – Building uninhabitable/unsafe for occupation

Songs in the Storm

As Hurricane Melissa approached Jamaica, Lance Fisher, property manager at the Jamaica Baptist Union, was confident the weather system would divert away from the island. Carrying on with the belief it would be nothing more than a passing scare, Lance would soon meet the storm he never expected as she unleashed her full fury.

On Thursday, 23 October, Lance closed his office expecting he might experience a bit of bad weather going into the weekend, but by the following Tuesday at the latest, he would be back at work.

On Saturday morning, he arose to sunny skies and was upset with himself for missing two days in the office. Certainly no hurricane was coming, he thought, as he considered whether he should prepare to return on Monday. To compound matters, Jamaica Public Service workers had come to clear low-hanging tree branches in preparation for the hurricane and inadvertently cut a FLOW telecommunications line, leaving the area without internet connection. This resulted in spotty service and an inability to keep abreast of the news in a timely manner. He became increasingly frustrated as predictions for when and where the hurricane would make landfall changed. However, the longer he waited, the more he believed the path would shift.

On the morning of 28 October, it was a bit windy and raining, and he looked through his window thinking this storm was turning out to be quite uneventful. When he could, he would try to eke out updates online. At one point, he saw a report from Milton Walker who had interviewed a lady in Bluefields. She said a house in the yard had just been blown into a gully with people in it, and she feared hers was about to go. Lance thought about the architecture prevalent on that side of the island and began to pray for those directly in the path of the hurricane.

Between four and five in the afternoon, the wind started to get stronger and, to his absolute shock, as he looked through

the window he saw a neighbour's roof flying through the air. As he continued to track the hurricane, he remembers declaring to his parents and in-laws, who had joined him and his wife at their home, that the eye was passing them.

At about seven in the evening, when he thought they were closer to being safe, the wind started howling and the roof began leaking in about three places. Then, to the terror of those in the house, the roof started to make loud noises, creaking and groaning.

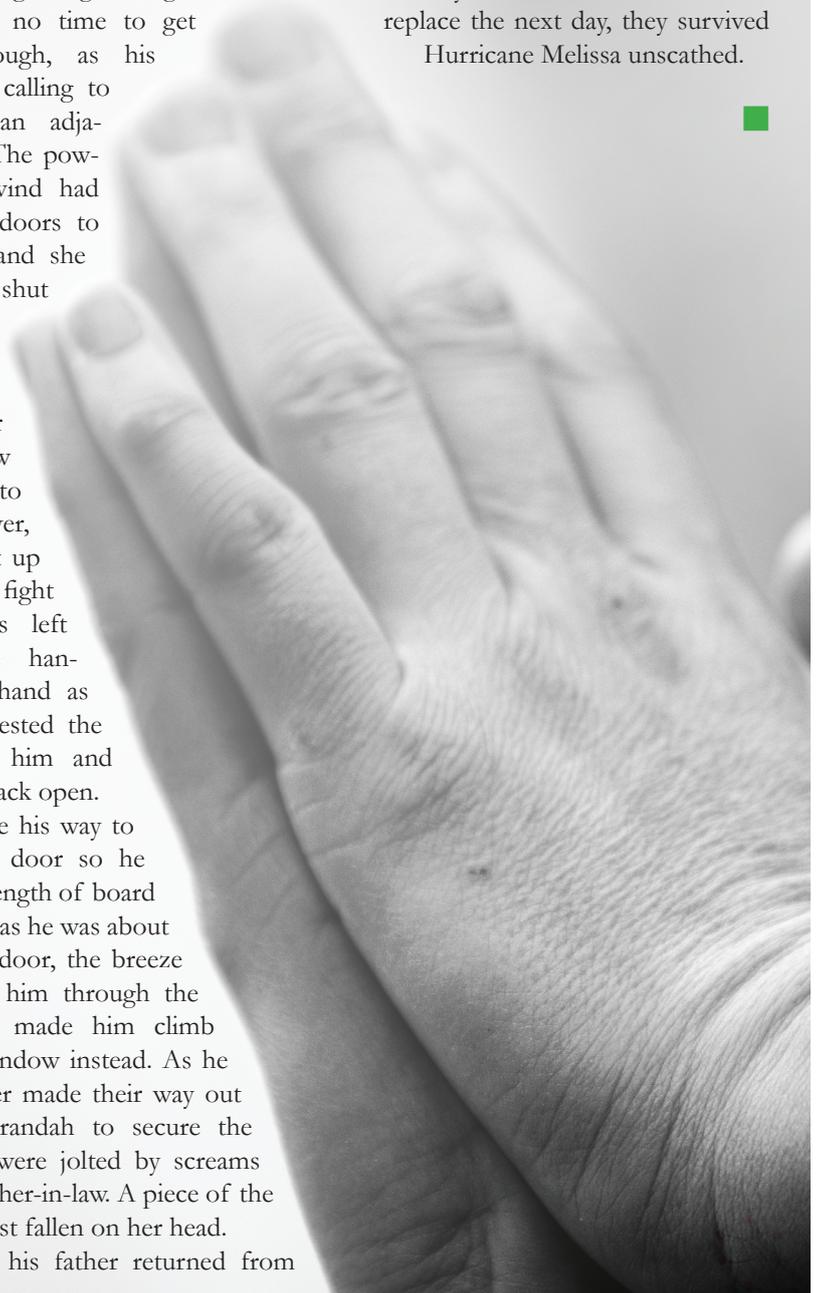
There was no time to get nervous though, as his wife started calling to him from an adjacent room. The power of the wind had caused two doors to burst open and she had tried to shut them. Unable to secure the doors, her father-in-law had gone to help. However, the wind put up a relentless fight and he was left holding the handles in his hand as the wind wrested the doors from him and flung them back open.

Lance made his way to open a side door so he could nail a length of board across it, but as he was about to open the door, the breeze that greeted him through the closed door made him climb through a window instead. As he and his father made their way out onto the verandah to secure the doors, they were jolted by screams from his mother-in-law. A piece of the ceiling had just fallen on her head.

Lance and his father returned from

nailing the doors shut to find a prayer meeting in full effect. There in the living room, the family had gathered and they praised and worshipped the Lord. They cried out to God and declared that they had faith He was still in control, and that come what may, in the dark of that night with fierce wind threatening them from all angles, they would trust in God and He would be their strength.

They made it safely through the night, and with the exception of a few shingles which they were able to recover and replace the next day, they survived Hurricane Melissa unscathed.



Brotherhood on Mission

In the wake of Hurricane Melissa, the Jamaica Baptist Union Brotherhood (JBUB), through its various parish associations, contributed to the JBU's relief efforts. However, the Brotherhood opted to broaden its reach by collecting additional donations and travelling to some of the most severely affected parishes to provide direct support.

In November, members of the JBUB reached out to brethren in the parishes hardest hit by Hurricane Melissa to determine the most effective ways to assist. Based on these consultations, a mission initiative was planned, focusing on the collection of much-needed relief supplies.

Later that month, two teams were deployed to the western and south-western parishes of St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland. Deacon Dr. Kirkland Anderson, Treasurer of the JBUB, along with Earl Briscoe, Vice President of Region 3, travelled to Santa Cruz, where they met with the President of the St. Elizabeth Brotherhood. Relief items were formally handed over for distribution among those in need.

The second team, comprising JBUB President Patrick Turner, General Secretary Dwight Stewart, Public Relations Officer Dwayne Stewart, and Ron Williams, Chair of the Phillippo Baptist Brotherhood, journeyed to Westmoreland. Their mission was to visit St. Leonard's Baptist Church and deliver relief supplies. They were joined at New Market by Milton Anderson, JBUB Chairman of Region 4 and President-Elect, before continuing to St. Leonard's, a community nestled deep in the hills of the parish.

As they travelled further inland, Brother Turner described the landscape as "a barren desert with sticks standing". He painted a picture of once-lush woodlands that had been stripped bare. "There were no leaves on the trees; everything was brown", he recalled. Fallen light poles lined the roads, and in some areas all that remained of homes was the outline of a floor, the only sign that a house had once stood there.

Upon arrival at St. Leonard's Baptist Church, the team discovered extensive damage to the church building. Even more devastating was the destruction of the primary school operated by the church. "The rafters, roof, windows: everything is gone", Brother

Turner said sombrely, adding that in his opinion the school would not be able to reopen



St. Leonard's Baptist Church was severely damaged by Hurricane Melissa.



Vehicles packed with supplies for the JBUB Mission.

until the following September.

Church members and residents from the surrounding community were actively engaged in clearing debris. Brother Turner shared further concerns, noting that in addition to structural damage, he observed signs of land slippage. He warned that without timely assistance, heavy rainfall could result in the loss of a gazebo and potentially under-

mine the foundation of the church itself. *

The team officially handed over the relief supplies to the President of the Brotherhood at St. Leonard's Baptist Church. Speaking with the Jamaica Baptist Reporter, Brother Turner shared that residents in Westmoreland, including Savanna-la-Mar, expressed deep gratitude for the assistance received. "They were especially appreciative of the water", he noted. He explained that during their journey they had not encountered a single open shop or facility selling essential items for miles; the last open store they saw was approximately an hour and a half away.

Reflecting on the experience, Brother Turner described the mission as eye-opening. Communities in Trelawny and other neighbouring parishes have since begun seeking assistance from the JBUB. He emphasised the urgent need for tarpaulins in the hardest-hit areas and shared that the Brotherhood plans to seek additional support from the JBU Mission Agency. The JBUB hopes to soon mobilise once again to assist even more individuals and communities in need.

** The views expressed are not intended to represent the professional opinion of a subject-matter expert.*





A damaged building at Nutshell



This boarding facility at Nutshell lost its roof during Hurricane Melissa.

Hillview Baptist Manse and Nutshell

BY LOIS C.A. JENNINGS WALTERS

Have you ever been to a place where everybody knows your name, they are always glad you came, and the troubles were all the same? For me, that sentiment reflects two places in the entire world: Hillview Baptist Manse in Frankfield, Clarendon, and Nutshell, the Baptist campsite in Duncans, Trelawny. No matter the time of year or day, I arrive at those places and am instantly home.

Growing up at Hillview Baptist Manse, our home was a melting pot of cultures. People from all walks of life came to preach, to seek help, or simply found themselves at our door. Once you stepped in, you tasted the baking and cooking of Parson and Nurse Jennings and often left with boxes loaded with oranges, ortaniques, grapefruits, sugarcane, bun, and bread. Student ministers loved coming to Frankfield for the rich experience.

However, the highlight of our year as children of a “fisherman trapped in the hills” was going to Nutshell for a whole week. An entire week filled with laughter, faith, food, and fellowship, with daily sunrises and sunsets at the beach, domino matches until one in the morning, and bullas from the bakery in Duncans. Every August we travelled from

Frankfield to Nutshell for Ministers’ Family Retreat, often racing with Uncle Glen and his green car on the way there. A whole host of aunties and uncles enshrined themselves in our hearts with their love.

Nutshell was home away from home. This annual reunion was where all of us as pastors’ kids got to see our parents let down their hair and relax from the stresses of ministry. This was a place where problems were shared, debated, and perspectives brought to the fore by those who understood. My PK cousins were friends-family who helped navigate the nuances of church politics and remain family despite distance.

Fast forward to when my children attended summer camps at Nutshell. Initially, I was more excited than they were, but once they went, Nutshell became emblazoned on their hearts. They would return with story after story about new Baptist friends from across the island, fellowship, bonfires, and beach trips.

You can therefore imagine how my heart broke in two when I saw pictures and videos of the destruction caused by Hurricane Melissa on both Hillview and Nutshell. Will these beloved places rise again? Will there once more be food, fun, and fellowship? Will Nutshell be able to host the summer



Reverend Clyde Jennings and Mrs. Molly Jennings, parents of Lois Jennings Walters.

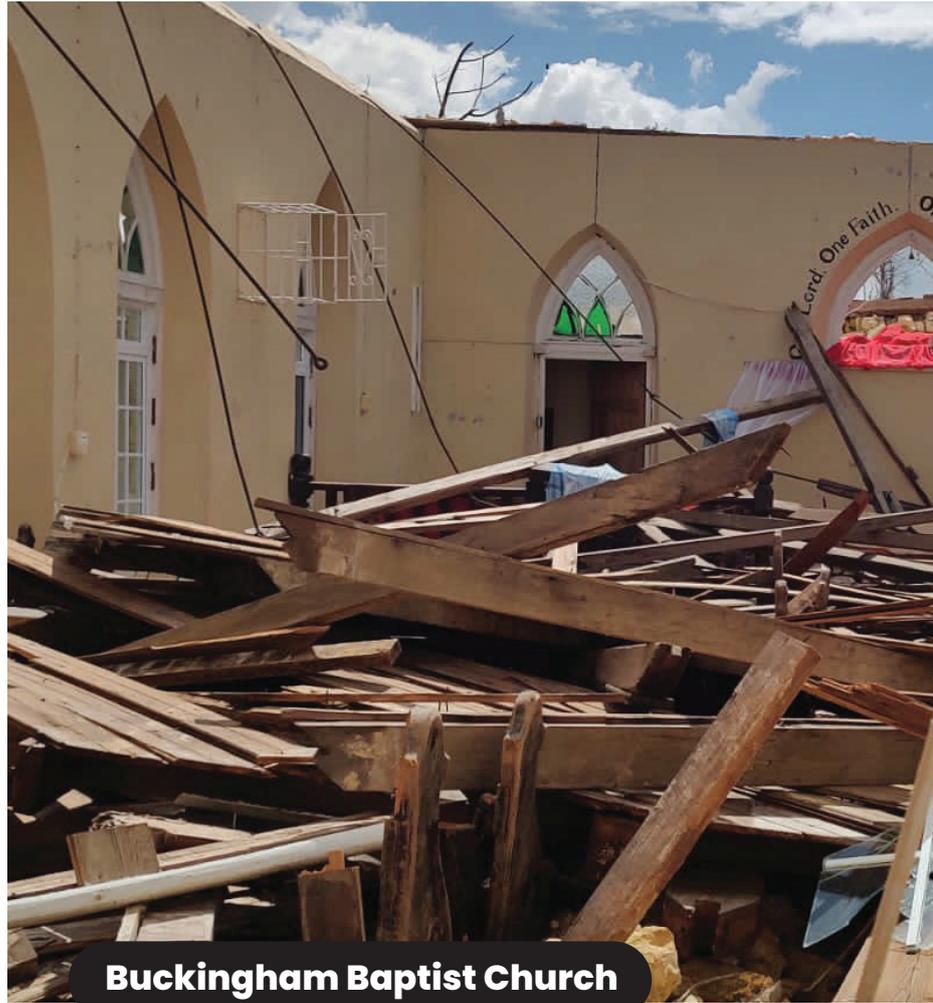
camp, the Youth, Women Federation, and Spiritual Re-armament gatherings again? My heart sounded out a resounding yes!

But for that to happen, each of us touched by Hillview Baptist Manse and Nutshell will have to contribute to their rebuilding. Let us reach out directly to Jamaica Baptist Union or indirectly through our churches to offer assistance, whether monetary or non-monetary, to ensure that current and upcoming generations can gain faith, make memories, create lasting friendships, and spread God’s love as they seek to play their part in the advancement of the whole human race.

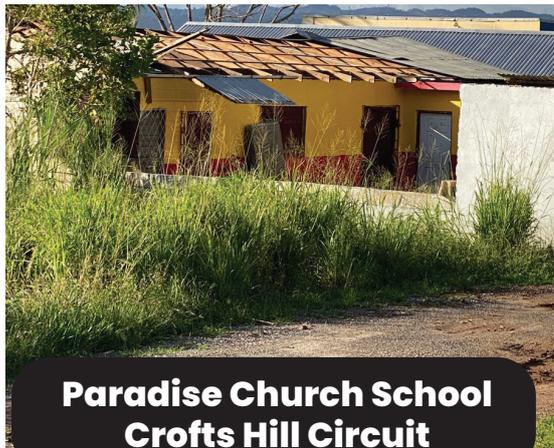




Friendship Baptist Church



Buckingham Baptist Church



**Paradise Church School
Crofts Hill Circuit**

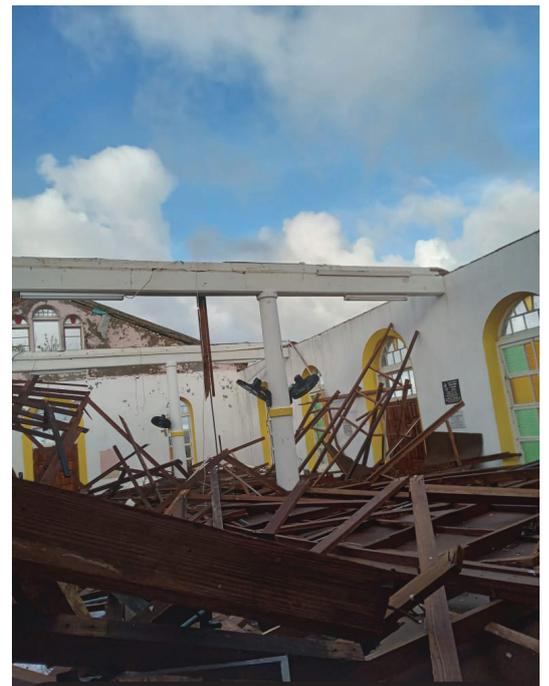
Hurricane Melissa on JBU C



Thompson Town Baptist Church



Shettlewood Baptist Church



Gurney's Mount Baptist Church



Watford Hill Baptist Church

Missia's Impact Churches



New Milns Mission



Waldensia Baptist Church



Members of the Salt Spring Baptist Church prepare warm meals for persons affected by the hurricane.

Peace that Passes all Human Understanding

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus – Philippians 4:7

Rev. Conrad Thomas has a phobia of hurricanes, so when he heard that Hurricane Melissa was predicted to affect Jamaica, he began taking every precaution he could. Still, nothing could have prepared him for the devastation unleashed by the Category 5 storm.

Having lived through Hurricane Gilbert, Rev. Thomas tried to mentally prepare himself for a disaster of that magnitude. On the morning of the hurricane, he recalls Montego Bay and its surrounding communities as beautiful, peaceful, sunny, and calm. Then the rain began, steady and unrelenting, soon joined by winds that were boisterous, ferocious, and angry. “I looked outside and the trees were feeling the full extent of Melissa’s wrath, and then it turned on my house”, he explained. “Every door was shaking and the windows were vibrating. A door flew open and my wife and I had to hold it for over three hours because the breeze broke the bolt off”.

He describes the hurricane

as howling with sounds unlike anything he had ever heard. “It was as though it had a voice”, he shared. “The children were terrified. They were screaming, crying, praying, and confessing”. Later that night, when the rain eased and the winds finally calmed, they still could not see outside but contacted a neighbour who told them part of her roof had blown away. She came to stay with the family.

At first light, they were met with complete devastation. Rev. Thomas attempted to make his way to Salt Spring Baptist Church, a member church of the Jamaica Baptist Union (JBU), where he serves as pastor. When a single lane was cleared the following day, he travelled to Salt Spring.

“When I reached there, Salt Spring was flattened. The road was covered with power lines and trees, and people were just standing amazed”, he said. “When I got to the church, the entire roof was gone. We lost everything inside”. He reached out to as many church members as possible. Many had suffered severe losses; most had lost roofs, and those in wooden structures had lost everything.

Rev. Thomas is convinced it was only the

mercy of God that prevented greater loss of life. He recounted the story of a 95-year-old woman who lives alone and lost her roof, with only one room spared. She too believes it was the Lord’s protection that saved her.

Picking Up the Pieces

More than a month later, Thomas admits, “Right now we are reeling and trying to pick up the pieces. We are without connectivity, still without light, still without water, but the resilient spirit, faith, and determination to start again are there”.

Services are now being held at the Peace and Justice Centre, an initiative of the JBU meant to explore whether the church could be a catalyst for positive change in the troubled community. Made entirely of concrete, the small building sustained minimal damage. A longstanding community hub, it usually hosts CDC meetings, parental training sessions, and just about every community activity imaginable. Now it serves as a church, clinic, and distribution centre.

Since the hurricane, the church has been distributing care packages through the support of the JBU and other groups and individuals. They have partnered with a doctor from the community who returned with a team of medical professionals. “On that day, we gave care packages, clothing, water; we were able to dispense prescription items, and we served almost 300 hot meals”. People from the diaspora have promised to send barrels, and a JBU member church that was less affected has donated cash to help assemble additional care packages.

Marline Corbett-White, who lost part of her roof during the storm, knew she needed assistance but was not sure where it would come from until the church reached out. “When I got the care package from church it was just what I needed to put us back in a good place”, she told the Baptist Reporter. “I am so grateful, and I had to say, ‘God, we are still in this, but you are looking out for your people!’”

Through the entire ordeal, Rev. Thomas says the most heartwarming thing has been the turnout for church services. “We have a really good turnout and the spirit is high”. He believes the disaster has drawn the congregation closer, fostering gratitude even in the midst of loss. “When you listen to the singing, when you hear the testimonies, when you see the peace on people’s faces... they have lost a lot, but there is a sense of peace, and I believe this is the peace that passes all human understanding”.



After the Storm

And the wind blew,
A terrible wind,
Tearing off the roof,
whirling away the walls
of fragile shacks
that passed for homes.

And the sea surged,
violent and vicious,
sweeping through shattered villages,
carrying animals and people in its flood
to drown in fields of sodden crops.

And after the storm
those left behind
sat stunned and shocked
amongst the debris
part of the debris,
helpless
to clear up the mess,
to see any future,
to live again.

And after the storm
they came in their hordes
from the affluent west,
with notebook and camera
and curious, prying eyes,
to feed the unending hunger
for news of human tragedy
out there, away from home,
in a remote place
where disasters always happen.

And for ten days
they told the story,
bouncing pictures
from satellite to TV screen,
of dead and dying,
of sick and crying
of hungry,
helpless victims of the storm.

And for ten days
people gave their pennies and their pounds
to help and feed,
to reconstruct
the lives of those
who nearly died.

And after ten days
the cameras went
as quickly as they came,
to focus on a new event
ten thousand miles away.



A soaked hymnal survives the passage of Hurricane Melissa.

And after the storm
those who cannot leave
stay trapped in a cycle of poverty,
victims of climate and geography
forgotten by the wider world
until the next storm
blows away their homes and hopes
once more.

And after the storm,
as before the storm
and during the storm,
there is the Church,
God's handful of caring people,
working like leaven
In a doughy mass,
the sorry mess
of a nation's tragedy.

And after the storm
God's servants,
Seeking no headline
and always with the people,
live the good news of God's love.

In the ploughing of fields
and the sowing of seed,
in the planting of trees
and the growing of food,
they live the good news
of God's love.

In the feeding of a child
And the healing of the sick,
In the caring of the old
And the comforting of sad,
they show the good news
of God's love.

In the teaching of a school
And the making of new jobs,
In the building up of lives
And the giving of fresh hope,
They share the good news



Volunteers unpack goods for distribution during a mission trip at Parottee near St. Elizabeth.

Of God's love.

In the singing of glad songs
and the preaching of the Word,
in the planting of a church
and in speaking out for Christ,
they tell the good news
of God's love.

In being there with people,
in the sharing of their lives,
in standing with the reject poor
facing suffering and pain,
they are the good news
of God's love.

And after the storm,
as before the storm,
there is the Church,
God's handful of caring people ,
always there,
seeking no headline,
wanting nothing for themselves,
but looking to you and me, their brothers
and sisters
in God's worldwide family,
for prayer and concern and support
that is constant and sure,
that does not depend
on the screams of the press,
but streams from Christ's love
in our hearts.

David Pountain
(taken from the book 'Praying
with God's People')



My Hurricane Melissa Experience



LINCOLN JAMES

Over the years, I have experienced many storms, dating back to Hurricane Charlie in 1951, when I was just a tender age. The only one that could compare was Hurricane Gilbert. With the others, I sometimes sat on my veranda and watched the display of wind, rain, lightning and thunder.

Hurricane Melissa, however, was different. Although I understood that it would be a Category Five hurricane, I could not have imagined in my wildest dreams what it would turn out to be.

As far as I was concerned, the necessary preparations and precautions were taken. I thought my family and I could ride out the storm as usual, in relative safety.

But this was not to be. The wind was turbulent, accompanied by driving rain. I saw trees toppling or being stripped of their leaves and branches. Then came drop-

lets of water as the wind removed tiles from the roof. Amid the variety of sounds, my son looked through a window, saw something unusual and called my attention to it. What I saw was a river flowing across my front yard. At that point, my wife and I said a brief prayer, asking for God's protection.

When we looked outside again, we became truly frightened. The driveway was gone, the walls had disappeared and all the trees had been swept away. The river was now in full spate, as the embankment was impacted by a landslide. It was then that we decided to vacate the house and move to a nearby building. In all of this, we did not realise that our house had been shifted from its foundation until the following morning.

By that time, my car, which had been parked outside, had also moved with the house and eventually ended up in the gorge created by the water.

The house now tilts, and the car remains embedded in mud. We are fortunate, howev-

er, to have retrieved most of our belongings.

In the aftermath of this traumatic experience, we were afforded accommodation at the minister's manse until arrangements could be made for relocation. Thanks to Rev. Kenroy Wilson, our minister.

I believe the hand of God was in it. Little did I know that the manse would become my refuge when it was being constructed. When funds ran out one payday, I sacrificed my entire salary for the month to pay the workers, without ever asking for it back.

I believe God is now repaying me. Thanks be to the Almighty, who promised never to leave us nor forsake us.

There is no doubt that God will help us to pick up the pieces through the generosity of family, friends and fellow believers.

Lincoln James is a deacon at the Salter's Hill Baptist Church in St. James





Rev Davewin Thomas, Superintendent Minister, Trelawny and St. James carries out the Act of Induction

Rev. Kenroy Wilson Ordained

On Thursday, 11 September 2025, family, friends, ministers, church members and well-wishers gathered at the Salter's Hill Baptist Church in St. James for the ordination and induction service of the Rev. Kenroy Wilson.

The service began with opening remarks from JBU General Secretary Rev. Merlyn Hyde-Riley, who gave thanks to God for Rev. Wilson's decision to accept the call placed on his life by the Lord. She noted that he was the only person being ordained for pastoral service this season.

Rev. Dr. Devere Nugent, who had baptised Rev. Wilson more than a decade earlier, delivered the keynote address in which he urged those present to strengthen and develop the foundation of the church by devoting themselves to prayer.

Rev. Wilson was presented for ordination as one who had been exposed to the gospel from an early age and who, over time, received God's gracious gift of salvation. A member of the Granville Baptist Church in Trelawny, he was admitted to the programme at the United Theological College of the West Indies in May 2020. He was subsequently placed at the Salter's Hill Baptist Church for his probationary period, where he served as a faithful and dedicated pastor. It was noted that God has been using him to challenge many to heed God's call on their lives.

The new ordinand shared with those present the profound impact his grandaunt had made on him, reminding the congregation of Proverbs 22:6, which admonishes us to "Train up a child in

the way he should go..." He recounted the story of his conversion, explaining that from an early age he had decided to commit fully to God.

Although Rev. Wilson completed his studies at Church Teachers' College and began his vocation as a teacher, he continued to serve dutifully in various ministries at the churches he attended. Nevertheless, he sensed a call to do more. As he devoted himself to personal prayer and Bible study, his desire to serve God intensified.

For seven years he wrestled with God, setting aside dreams and resisting the encouragement of fellow church members, until he could no longer ignore a persistent feeling of unease.

When a vivid dream in which he was delivering a sermon lingered in his spirit, he contacted Rev. Dr. Glenroy Lalor, then President of the JBU. He was finally ready to accept the call.

The prayer of ordination was offered by former JBU President Rev. Karen Kirlaw, who asked the Lord to bless him with boldness and humility and to fill him with the mind of Christ as ministers laid hands on him, acknowledging and setting him apart for this special vocation in the church.



Rev Kenroy Wilson and Rev Dwight Fraser embrace after completing the Act of Ordination.

Celebrating 20 Years of Pastor and People

On Sunday, 28 September, the Rev. Dr Davewin Thomas, President-Elect of the Jamaica Baptist Union and Pastor of the Burchell Circuit of Baptist Churches in Montego Bay, was lauded for more than 20 years of service to the circuit.

The evening was punctuated with tributes presented to both him and his wife Marcia in the form of speeches, song and dance.

During the evening, Rev. Thomas was hailed for his humility and leadership, empowering members by unearthing talents, providing opportunities for ministry, and introducing training for persons engaged in leading or preaching.

Rev. Merlyn Hyde Riley, General Secretary of the JBU, spoke of Rev. Thomas's missionary commitment, which led to the formation of the Spot Valley Mission. This would later bear fruit, becoming a church with a newly constructed chapel.

She also shared that under his leadership, the church has engaged in outreach that serves the wider community, including feeding programmes for the homeless, ministries to volatile neighbourhoods, back-to-school drives, scholarship initiatives and health fairs, among other initiatives. She also pointed out that Rev. Thomas has sought to maintain a meaningful relationship between the Garland Hall Memorial Children's Home and the church.

Rev. Hyde Riley acknowledged, "Reverend Thomas's ministry is testimony that we live and serve according to the will of God. It is therefore fitting that the Burchell Circuit of Baptist Churches has taken the time to acknowledge and celebrate one who has laboured tirelessly to win souls".

In a moving response, Rev. Thomas spoke of God's faithful provision throughout his life's journey and thanked the church for its unwavering support over the past 20 years. He referenced Philippians 2:3 and shared that it has been a guiding philosophy in his life. He went on to thank the Burchell Circuit of Baptist Churches for what he described as a period of "great joy, satisfaction and fulfilment".



Rev. Davewin Thomas makes a response at an event celebrating his 20th Anniversary as pastor of the Burchell Circuit of Baptist Churches.



Rev Merlyn Hyde Riley, General Secretary of the Jamaica Baptist Union addresses the congregation.



Rev. Davewin Thomas cuts an anniversary cake with his wife Marcia.



Rev. Davewin Thomas is presented with a gift by Deacon Doraine Malcolm.





Rev. and Mrs. Owen Brown pose for a picture at a retirement ceremony held in his honour.

Unity Circuit Celebrates Rev. Owen Brown

In August 2025, the Unity Circuit of churches in Trelawny paid tribute to the Rev. Owen Brown at a special retirement service marking 19 years of pastoral leadership. Throughout his ministry, Rev. Brown has demonstrated unwavering dedication to serving the Lord and nurturing spiritual growth within his congregations.

Rev. Brown's calling to ministry was evident long before his formal theological training began in 2003. For more than a decade prior, he served faithfully at St. Ann's Bay Baptist Church as a deacon, lay preacher, Sunday school teacher, and evangelism chairperson. Yet despite this extensive service, he sensed a higher calling that would lead him into pastoral ministry.

Upon entering pastoral leadership, Rev. Brown quickly recognised the immense responsibilities involved. Rather than being daunted by the challenges, he deepened his prayer life, which became more purposeful and intense. During this formative period, he also developed an appreciation for children and young people as active participants in church life.

Two years into his ministerial journey, Rev. Brown was placed at the Unity Circuit as a probationer minister. His superintendent commended him for his humility, willingness to seek counsel, and openness to guidance. Upon receiving approval for ordination, multiple circuits sought his services.

However, after prayerful consideration, he felt called to remain in the Unity Circuit, where he was ordained at Wakefield Baptist Church on 18 September 2008.

His sermons have consistently been described as well-prepared, thought-provoking, and spiritually enriching, positively impacting the spiritual growth of his congregants. Beyond the pulpit, Rev. Brown showed particular concern for Sunday school attendance and regularly met with young people to encourage their involvement in church life. He took great care to affirm the youth, recognising their academic achievements and providing tokens of encouragement.

Rev. Brown is also a man of action. Over the years, he spearheaded numerous outreach initiatives, from establishing a school at Unity to assisting persons in obtaining medical prescriptions. A lasting memory for many at the Unity and Wakefield churches was his tireless determination to see their sanctuaries repaired and improved. Through his persuasive encouragement and steadfast leadership, he helped raise funds and secure resources for essential renovations.

Rev. Brown's impact extended well beyond the church walls. From the outset of his ministry, he immersed himself in the wider community. In Wakefield, he served as chaplain at the local police station, led



Rev. Brown addresses the gathering at his retirement service.



Minister in training, Colessa Rowe gives a tribute to Reverend Brown, her former pastor and mentor.

devotional exercises in schools, and chaired the school board in Hastings. He also made himself available for pulpit ministry across denominational lines.

Perhaps one of his most endearing qualities is his compassion, not only for his own congregants but also for those outside his church membership, demonstrating a heart for people in every walk of life.



JBU Bids Farewell to Rev. William Edwards

The Jamaica Baptist Union and the wider Christian community gathered at Boulevard Baptist Church on Saturday, 29 November 2025, to celebrate the life and ministry of the Rev. William Anthony Edwards, a centenarian pastor whose service to God and the church spanned more than seven decades.

Born on 13 March 1924 in Ulster Spring, Trelawny, Rev. Edwards came from distinguished Baptist stock. His father, Rev. Joseph Augustus Edwards, was a Baptist minister, and two of his brothers also served as JBU pastors. Following the good Baptist tradition, he received his secondary education at Calabar High School, where he graduated with “colours” for his academic excellence and participation in sport, having been involved in both football and boxing.

After graduating in 1942, Rev. Edwards entered the civil service, initially as a temporary clerk paid in British currency before working at the tax office in Half Way Tree and later in Savanna-la-Mar. Throughout his career, he balanced work and church life, serving faithfully at Jones Town Baptist Church as assistant treasurer, treasurer, Sunday school teacher, class leader, and deacon. At one time, he was acknowledged as the youngest deacon in a Jamaica Baptist church.

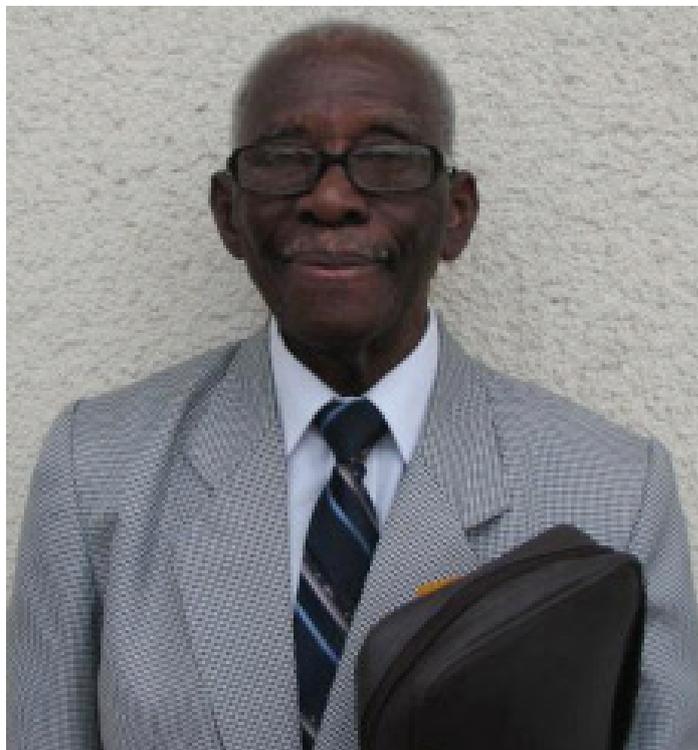
His calling to ministry deepened in his early twenties when he became a freelance evangelist, preaching across Jamaica. He was commissioned in 1961 and ordained in 1977. When the Bethel Baptist Church in Half Way Tree needed pastoral leadership, the congregation invited him to serve. Under his guidance, the church was constructed and dedicated, two adjacent lots were acquired, and the first floor of the education building was completed. When membership grew to more than 200 with a thriving ministry, Rev. Edwards characteristically stepped aside, believing the church needed new and trained leadership.

In October 1969, he accepted the challenge to pastor Tarrant Baptist Church, then a small struggling congregation without a proper building. Working closely with Deacon Gershom Heron, a noted construction expert, he completed the sanctuary with basement, first floor, and an impressive structure with veranda by May 1974. He also spearheaded the construction of the church at Balmagie and the manse in Havendale, St. Andrew.

Affectionately known as “Pastor Eddie,” Rev. Edwards was particularly effective in youth ministry. Young people described him as accessible, a nurturer and confessor to whom they could confide anything. His home became a space for fellowship, including wedding receptions for young couples. Several young people he mentored answered the call to ministry, including Revs. Richard Ledgister, Horace Roberts, and Glenroy Lalor.

Beyond his pastoral work, Rev. Edwards made significant contributions to the ecumenical movement. For many years, he led the Bible Society of the West Indies, the Kingston-based organisation that is part of the United Bible Societies network and serves the Caribbean region.

He also authored an autobiography, *Life: What a Journey*, which chronicles his remarkable experiences as an eyewitness and participant in the development of the Jamaican nation and ecclesiastical institutions such as the JBU,



Pastor William Edwards

Affectionately known as “Pastor Eddie,” Rev. Edwards was particularly effective in youth ministry. Young people described him as accessible, a nurturer and confessor to whom they could confide anything. His home became a space for fellowship, including wedding receptions for young couples.

Calabar High School and the Bible Society.

Rev. Edwards retired from pastoral ministry in January 1989 but remained active in faith, hosting online worship meetings and participating in daily prayer sessions. He travelled extensively, including a memorable Holy Land pilgrimage at age 84, where he outpaced younger travellers.

In its tribute, the JBU gave thanks for a man of faith, hope, and love whose warmth, kindness, gentleness, and devotion endeared him to all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife Fern, whom he married in 2012, adult children Jeanette, Dale, and Colin, and stepchildren. His first wife, Mavis, whom he married in 1952, predeceased him in 2001.



Longville Park celebrates 25 years



Deacon Sylvia Henry chronicles the history of the church.

The much-anticipated 25th Anniversary (2000–2025) Rededication and Thanksgiving Service of the Longville Park Baptist Church was held on 28 September 2025 under the theme “A Legacy of Faith: A Future of Hope”.

Members of the church, the Clarendon Baptist Association (CBA), specially invited guests, and members of the community and its environs gathered to share in the celebration. The congregation assembled at the front of the sanctuary with great anticipation as they eagerly awaited entry to the chapel, which had been reroofed and sealed. Fans and lights were installed, electrical wiring was completed, benches were replaced with cushioned chairs, and new music and audiovisual equipment was put in place for streaming.

The special service commenced with a meaningful Act of Rededication led by Superintendent Minister the Rev. Karl Henlin, who prayed the dedicatory prayer. The service was led by the Rev. Dewayne Williams, Pastor of the Mineral Heights Baptist Church and Moderator of the Longville Park Baptist Church. Deacon Sylvia Henry chronicled the story of the church, which began with twelve mission-minded members led by the Rev. Dr Learoy Campbell, then Pastor of the Grace Mineral Heights Circuit of Baptist Churches. Mrs. Henry said the church has much to celebrate, as their journey was one of faith and God’s faithfulness to God’s people. Greetings were received on behalf of the



The Longville Park Baptist Church Choir sings melodiously.



Unveiling of the new pulpit



Rev. Dwight Fraser brings greetings on behalf of the Jamaica Baptist Union.

Rev. Merlyn Hyde Riley, General Secretary of the Jamaica Baptist Union, and read by the Rev. Dwight Fraser, President of the JBU. Mrs. Beverly McKenzie, Moderator of the CBA, also brought greetings.

One of the highlights of the service was the dedication of a new pulpit. The prayer of dedication for the pulpit was offered by the Rev. Stacey Lalor-Knowles, Assistant Chaplain of the Jamaica Constabulary Force and former pastor.

The Rev. Judith Johnson-Grant, Pastor of the St. Margaret’s Bay Circuit of Baptist Churches, was the guest speaker. Using Psalm 100:2, the Pastor delivered an inspiring sermon that challenged the congregation to

worship with joy and gladness. She told the congregation that a legacy of joyful service moves God’s people to glad service, as service springs from the heart. She encouraged the congregation to go forward in confident faith as they celebrate God’s goodness.

The service was one of deep reflection, joyous thanksgiving and heartfelt gratitude to Almighty God, enhanced by melodious renditions from the Longville Park Baptist Church Choir and guest soloist Mrs. Faith Livingston.



Brotherhood Family Funday Enjoys Exciting Comeback



Region 4 celebrate their victory, holding the winning trophy.

After a six-year hiatus, the Jamaica Baptist Union Brotherhood revived its annual Family Funday on 20 September 2025 at Port Rhoades in Discovery Bay. The event brought together Baptist members and friends for a full day of camaraderie and spirited competition.

The day began at 9 a.m. with devotion led by Rev. Lloyd Richards of the Moneague Circuit of Baptist Churches. Track and field events followed, originally set for three male and three female categories. However, due to popular demand, the JBUB organisers added two more categories for participants aged 35 and older, and 50 and older, both of which were well supported.

The track and field session also featured races for the Women's Federation and the Brotherhood, along with a variety of novelty events. This wrapped up the morning's activities,

and the afternoon session began after lunch, which was served and sold by Region 4.

A lively dance-off between the regions energised the crowd, setting the tone for the remainder of the day, which included football, netball, and dominoes.

Region 4 claimed victory in track and field, while Region 1 swept the afternoon events. In the end, Region 4 emerged as the overall champions, retaining the trophy and taking home the master cake.

President of the JBUB, Brother Patrick Turner, told the Baptist Reporter that this was a rebirth after the six-year absence, and people are really looking forward to it next year. While there is uncertainty in the wake of Hurricane Melissa, the JBUB will continue to monitor the level of interest and gather feedback as they plan for the future.



Winners take the podium.



Winners are presented with medals.



Children enjoy activities at the fun day.



Annual George Liele Lecture

On 12 October 2025, the Jamaica Baptist Historical Society hosted the 22nd Annual George Liele Lecture under the theme “Human Trafficking in Jamaica: The New Slavery”.

After an opening prayer by the Rev. Sydney Hall, Pastor of the Mamby Park Baptist Church, a warm welcome was extended to all by the evening’s host, the Rev. Marvia Lawes.

Jeremy Taylor, Chairman of the Society, explained that the Jamaica Baptist Historical Society is ever mindful of its mandate to aid its Baptist constituents and the nation in general in sharpening our collective memories. “We believe that it is important for us to interrogate the present to be informed and armed with knowledge and lessons from history so that we do not repeat past mistakes”, he said.

Taylor shared an interesting piece of history with those present. He recounted that in 1701, the Royal African Company informed its agents and factors at Cape Coast Castle, now in modern-day Ghana, that “We are advised from the islands that boys and girls under 12 years old sell very well. Rather than buy any negroes above the age of 30, supply them with healthy boys”. With this quotation, Taylor made an eye-opening comparison between the transatlantic slave trade and human trafficking, setting the stage for guest speaker Mrs. Diahann Gordon-Harrison, the Children’s Advocate and National Rapporteur of Jamaica, to address what he described as “a repetition or a new iteration of an odious and detested aspect of our history: the age of enslavement”.

Mrs. Gordon-Harrison prefaced her presentation by noting that George Liele, having been born into slavery before he was emancipated, would have found the topic particularly relevant to his life and perhaps to certain emotions and experiences he would have had.

In her address, Mrs. Gordon-Harrison likened human trafficking to slavery, referring to the system as modern-day slavery. She also outlined the similarity in profits, explaining that just as the transatlantic slave trade was a profitable business which saw individuals and countries amassing obscene wealth, so human trafficking is synonymous with huge profits for traffickers. The last estimate, conducted some years ago, put profits for traffickers from their illegal activities at approximately US\$150 billion. She also explained that it is the fastest-growing form of organised crime in the world, second only to drug trafficking.

Mrs. Gordon-Harrison explained that human trafficking is a crime, a human rights violation, and is criminalised worldwide. However, she underscored that the act is particularly egregious because “human trafficking strips the individual of his individuality, sense of dignity, sense of worth and own direction in terms of how they wish to live their lives”.

She introduced the audience to the Palermo Protocol, a United Nations protocol adopted in 2000 in Palermo, Italy, which defines human trafficking and establishes international standards for preventing it, protecting victims and promoting state cooperation. She also shared how Jamaica, in taking steps to guard against human trafficking and introduce interventions to address existing gaps, established the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons (ONRTIP).

As her presentation progressed, Mrs. Gordon-Harrison tackled



**Diahann
Gordon-
Harrison,
Children’s
Advocate of
Jamaica**

topics that often confuse the average individual, explaining that at the heart of it, trafficking is simply about exploiting persons. She provided real-world examples that were very enlightening. For instance, she dispelled the myth that for trafficking to take place there has to be movement. “You don’t have to move from Jamaica to the Bahamas or Jamaica to the US and then you say, ‘Oh my goodness, the child was trafficked’. The child could be living in his or her own home every day and they’re being trafficked. A woman could be in a particular position in a bar where she goes to work every day and she’s being trafficked right there when she gets to work. It doesn’t require movement”, she emphasised.

She also described several different types of trafficking, such as cyber trafficking and organ harvesting. As Mrs. Gordon-Harrison shared examples of human trafficking, she made the connection that what we now refer to as trafficking is quite akin to slavery. In tackling this monster that so readily destroys its victims’ lives, she explained that the government has convicted 17 persons since 2008. She gave examples of some of these crimes, including a man who had recruited young boys and forced them to beg at traffic lights.

What these stories taught the audience is that whilst some persons, such as those from broken families, those with limited home support, or those going through a difficult time, tend to be more vulnerable, anyone can be a victim of trafficking and anyone can be a trafficker.

Mrs. Gordon-Harrison closed her presentation by sharing the different resources available to the public. She explained that there is an online anti-human trafficking awareness course, approximately 35 to 40 minutes long, that persons can take at onrtip.gov.jm. The course sharpens one’s ability to detect and report questionable behaviour and provides certification upon completion. An interactive question-and-answer segment with thought-provoking questions ensued.

Mr. Dwight Stewart moved the vote of thanks and the Rev. Glenroy Lalor gave the closing prayer, bringing an informative and educational evening to a close.

CBF Celebrates 55 Years

The Caribbean Baptist Fellowship (CBF) marked a significant milestone as delegates from across the region gathered in Trinidad and Tobago for the General Assembly and 55th Anniversary celebration. The event, held from 6 to 10 October 2025, proved to be a resounding success, bringing together Baptist leaders, ministers and laypersons to celebrate decades of shared ministry and chart a course for the future.

The anniversary celebrations provided an occasion for reflection on the Fellowship's journey since its founding in 1970. A highlight of the gathering was the official launch of the long-awaited CBF History book, documenting fifty years of regional Baptist cooperation from 1970 to 2020. Rev. Arthur Edgar, the principal researcher and writer of the historical volume, brought greetings and shared insights from the extensive documentation process. The publication represents years of dedicated work by Rev. Edgar, supported by Rev. Peter Pinder, Mrs Linette Edgar and Rev. Eron Henry, who handled final editing and formatting.

The Assembly took special pride in honouring two Caribbean Baptist leaders who have ascended to the highest offices in the Baptist World Alliance. Rev. Karl Johnson of Jamaica was celebrated as the first Caribbean Chair of the BWA, whilst Rev. Karlene Edwards-Warrick of Trinidad and Tobago received recognition as the first Caribbean woman elected President of the Baptist World Alliance Women. Both appointments represent historic achievements for the region and were met with heartfelt congratulations from the assembled delegates.

The gathering also paid tribute to Rev. Karl Henlin, outgoing Chairman of the Caribbean Christian Publications (CCP), acknowledging his years of dedicated service to Baptist literature and publishing in the Caribbean. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing the work of CCP during a challenging period.

In a significant governance development, the Assembly adopted the CBF Mission Policy, establishing a comprehensive framework for partnerships, mission projects and strategic engagement across the region. The policy document provides theological foundations and practical guidelines for the Fellowship's missional work in the years ahead.

Elections were held for officers who will serve from 2025 to 2030. Rev. Dominick Dick of Guadeloupe was confirmed as President,



Former Caribbean Christian Publications (CCP) Chairman, Rev. Karl Henlin (right) was honoured by the CBF for long and faithful service to the CCP. Presenting him with his award was CBF President Rev. Dominique Dick (Guadeloupe).



The CBF honoured two Caribbean Baptist Fellowship members who made history when they were appointed to the highest offices in the Baptist World Alliance. Rev. Karlene Edwards-Warrick (centre) new President of the Baptist World Alliance Women and Rev Karl B. Johnson (right) Chair of BWA. Looking on is Rev Stanford Simon, President, Grenada Baptist Association.

with Vice Presidents Rev. Lincoln Connor of St. Kitts and Nevis, Rev. Brenda Harewood of Guyana, and Rev. Jonathan Hemmings of Jamaica. Committee chairs were appointed across key areas including Theological Education, Christian Education and Stewardship, Disaster Response and Human Needs, Mission and Evangelism, and Communications. Department leadership was also confirmed, with Miss Joneil Powell



Members of the Kingstown Baptist Church Worship Team from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, leading the praise songs at the opening service of the CBF General Assembly and 55th Anniversary Celebration in Trinidad and Tobago.



Launch of the CBF History book, 'An Enduring Hope-The History of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship, 1970-2020.' (l-r) Mrs. Julie Justus Williams, BWA Director of Partnerships, Rev. Karlene Edwards-Warrick, President BWA, Rev. Anslem Warrick, CBF Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Rev. Karl B Johnson, BWA Chair and Rev. Marsha Scipio, Director, BWAid.

heading the Youth Department, Rev. Karlene Edwards-Warrick leading the Women's Department, and Rev. Stephen Ferguson directing the Men's Department.

Adding to the celebratory atmosphere, a 21-member Music and Worship Team from St. Vincent and the Grenadines provided inspiration throughout the Assembly. Their ministry enhanced the worship experience and demonstrated the rich musical heritage of the Caribbean Baptist tradition.

As the Fellowship enters its next quinquennium, it does so with renewed commitment to its strategic priorities: building communication networks, facilitating holistic mission engagement, achieving financial sustainability, combining training with theological reflection, and supporting viable Christian publications for the region.





176TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BOULEVARD BAPTIST CHURCH, ST. ANDREW
& CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, MONTEGO BAY
FEBRUARY 18, 19, 20 & 22, 2026

Wed, Feb
18
2026

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm DAVID JELLEYMAN LECTURE (Online)

Lecturer: Rev. Doreen Wynter
Subject: “Countering Poverty, Envisioning Hope.”
Biblical Readings on Poverty for Contemporary Ministry



Thu, Feb
19
2026

“COUNTERING POVERTY”

08:30 am – Noon REGISTRATION (Boulevard Baptist Church)
10:00 am – 11:15 am BIBLE STUDY
11:30 am – 1:00 pm PLEANARY/ASSEMBLY TALK 1
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm LUNCH
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm PLENARY / ASSEMBLY TALK 2
07:00 pm – 09:00 pm OPENING SERVICE (Boulevard Baptist Church)
Leader: Rev. Merlyn Hyde Riley - General Secretary
Preacher: Rev. Dwight Fraser - President
Subject: Countering Poverty



Fri, Feb
20
2026

“COUNTERING POVERTY THROUGH ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT”

08:30 am – 10:00 am PLENARY
10:15 am – 10:30 am BREAK
10:30 am – 11:30 am PLENARY
11:30 am – 1:00 pm MEMORIAL & BIBLE STUDY

Sun, Feb
22
2026

“COUNTERING POVERTY THROUGH ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT”

10:00 am – 12:30 pm WORSHIP SERVICE (Calvary Baptist Church)
Leader: Ms. Karah Pinnock, Mandeville Baptist Church
Preacher: Rev. Judith Johnson Grant,
Pastor, St Margaret Circuit JBU
- Reception of New Ministers
- The Lord’s Supper



From Ruin to RENEWAL

An Appeal for Support

Hurricane Melissa struck Jamaica in October 2025 with devastating force, leaving a trail of destruction across the island. The Jamaica Baptist Union, which has been at the forefront of relief efforts since the storm passed, now appeals to friends and partners at home and abroad for support as we move from emergency response to the critical work of rebuilding.

The scale of damage is immense. More than 100 church buildings and properties, some of them heritage sites, have been destroyed or severely damaged. Manses that housed pastoral families lie in ruins. Schools operated by our churches, including the primary school at St. Leonard's Baptist Church in Westmoreland, have lost roofs, windows and equipment. The beloved Nutshell Conference Centre in Duncans, Trelawny, which has hosted generations of young people at summer camps, ministers at family retreats, and countless gatherings of the Baptist family, sustained significant damage.

These buildings are not mere structures. As General Secretary the Rev. Merlyn Hyde-Riley has observed, our churches run schools, clinics, homework programmes and feeding ministries. When their roofs are gone and equipment destroyed, vital community services are halted.

Under the banner "From Ruin to Renewal", the JBU is coordinating repair and reconstruction efforts across the affected parishes. Your financial contribution, however large or small, will help restore places of worship, learning and fellowship that have served Jamaican communities for generations.

To give, please contact the Jamaica Baptist Union directly or speak with your local church about how you can assist. Together, we will rebuild.



Monetary Donations can be made to the following designated accounts:

Bank address: National Commercial Bank, 94 Half Way Tree Road, Kingston 10

JMD ACCOUNT

Account Name: Jamaica Baptist Union
Account Type: Current JMD
Account # 304 310 006
Branch: Half Way Tree
Branch Code: 000 30 077
Swift Code: JNCBJMKX

USD ACCOUNT

Account Name: Jamaica Baptist Union
Account Type: Savings USD
Account # 306437623
Branch: Half Way Tree
Branch Code: 000 30 077
Swift Code JNCBJMKX
Intermediary Bank: Citibank, New York
Swift Code: CITIUS33

£ STERLING ACCOUNT

Account name: Jamaica Baptist Union
Account type: Pound Sterling
Account #: 306505726
Branch: Half Way Tree
Branch Code: 000 30 077
Swift Code: JNCBJMKX
Intermediary Bank: Citibank, New York
Swift Code: CITIUS33
Jamaica W.I.

Send receipts of all donations made to the email address and WhatsApp number indicated above. This will allow us to be able to identify and account for the funds.

Persons/entities wishing to donate non-perishable items may drop off same at any of the following locations: Monday to Fridays between 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ocho Rios Baptist Church (876 332 7803), Mandeville Baptist Church, (876 962 3118/4745) Burchell Baptist Church (876 824 1899) and the Offices of the Jamaica Baptist Union (876 969-9835).

Jamaica Baptist Union Web Page: [HTTPS://JBU.CHURCH](https://jbu.church)

Click on Pay/Donate at the top of the web page