

*Coming Soon*

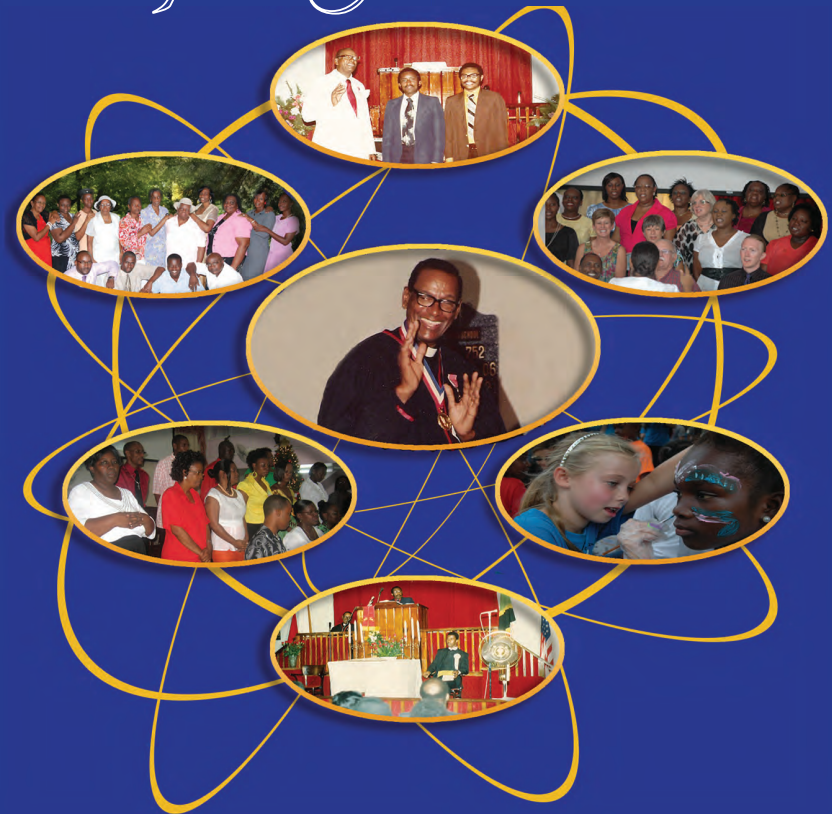


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# *Cherishing the Legacy Championing God's Cause*





“  
*The growth and development of the  
Antioch Baptist Church  
is a testament to the faith of the pioneers.”*

## The Pastor's Message

To God be the glory great things He hath done!

The celebration of the golden jubilee of the pioneering of the Baptist Movement in the Federation and the organizing of the Antioch Baptist Church, the first established Baptist Church in the Federation is a humbling experience. Fifty years in the life of an institution is worthy of appropriate celebration. However, this is also a time for reflection and introspection with emphasis on the steadfast loyal love of God towards us as a church.

The growth and development of the Antioch Baptist Church is a testament to the faith of the pioneers and the solid foundation upon which the church has been built. The founding pastor William Connor, O.B.E, Bro. Kelvin Jones, Deacon Urban Penny and all the pioneers of the Antioch Baptist Church were determined to stand on the word of God found in Matthew 16:13... “upon this Rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Throughout the past 50 years, pastoral changes, ministry changes, process changes, leadership changes and other changes were necessary to effectively minister to the needs of people in successive generations. However, while the methodology has evolved, the theology of the church has remained solid and consistent.

I commend all members and adherents for contributing to the success of this church through his or her dedication, steadfastness, contributions, diligence, prayers and hard work throughout the years.

We thank God for allowing us to celebrate 50 years of “glorifying Christ and making Him known.” Let's all continue to show gratitude and thankfulness to the one who allowed this to be and who will continue to orchestrate our future – God.

Because of Calvary,  
*Lincoln D. Connor*  
Senior Pastor

He stayed on our home and delighted all of our family with his sweet Christian spirit. We had many precious times of fellowship both at home and at the meetings for our people lived to hear him sing and preach.

At some point in time, I introduced Bro Connor to my dad and then to the church he attended. It was a Convention church, but they began to send offerings as well as I can recall. Dad was teacher of a strong Bible class at the factory where he worked. They met at their lunch hour and they also sent offerings. I remember the time when Pastor Connor visited the factory and was given a VIP tour of the plant and then he was able to address the members of that class. It was a very thrilling time for me.

In the late 1970's by God's grace, I had the privilege of traveling to St. Kitts with my dad who had retired from his work. It was one of the highlights of my life to be able to travel with Dad and also to visit St Kitts. It was all like a dream and we were treated as if we were royalty by the dear saints of the Antioch Church. We were introduced as “Daddy Ditch and Sonny Ditch” and most of the people we met had not seen a second generation Baptist.

I have a file of letters in my office that came through the years from my dear friend, Pastor Connor. These were some of my dearest times and they still live in my old heart. Now both Dad and Pastor Connor are in heaven in the presence of the KING and no more problems with sin, self, or Satan, and I am Daddy Ditch.

After some 20 years, it was my joy to return to the island with my young friend, Pastor Tim Gibson. What a time that was for both of us! The island had changed so much I did not recognize very much. The radio station was gone and many buildings had been erected. The one thing that remained was the sweet, sweet spirit of the saints at Antioch Baptist Church. By now there was a new, shorter Pastor Connor and he has become very dear to my heart.

One more trip with two pastors, Pastor Eddy Flowers and Pastor Perry Irvin sums up my visits to the island. Things had changed again, but the spirit of God in the church had not changed and once again, it was a time of special memories for an old man

By God's grace, First Baptist Church has been able to partner with you all for several years now and many of the members of this church have also graduated and are waiting in glory for those of us who remain in these clay bodies. How I thank and praise God that you have stayed in the battle and have continued to reach precious souls for Christ. I know a few names of members of the church there, but if I knew every name of every member, I could do no more than I am doing now, that is praying for you and the ministry.



## *Message from*

**RAY DITCH**

First Baptist Church, Illinois, USA

My introduction to the beautiful island of St Kitts was in the fall of 1972 when my wife and I traveled from our home in Illinois to South Carolina to see our first grandchild. She, like all grandchildren, was beautiful and we found ourselves visiting at the very time when the Northside Baptist Church where Bro Ed McAbee was pastor. They were having their annual Missions Conference. I had been a pastor of a Southern Baptist church and had never even heard of such a meeting. It was in that meeting a very tall giant of a man was called to speak. His name was William Connor and his message was very stirring to say the least.

When he had ended his message, Pastor McAbee began to relate how the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention was withdrawing their support of \$200 per month from the Antioch Baptist Church where Pastor Connor served. They would be doing this a span of four years, on a scale of \$50 per year. This was decided on the report of a representative from the SBC who had visited the island and went home to say there were about 600 attending Sunday services and they did not need any financial assistance with such an attendance. He never bothered to consult Pastor Connor or any other member to ask concerning the finances of the church. Back then the offerings were very small in comparison to the attendance so the report went in based on the number of people rather than the amount of the offerings.

Bro Ed said he believed there would be at least 10 churches that would give even \$20 per month to make up the amount the SBC was withdrawing. When I heard this statement, I immediately stood to my feet and announced that our baby church would be one of the ten who would make up the support that was being withdrawn.

By this time the SBC had withdrawn fellowship from our baby church because we were "not cooperating" with the programs of the convention. Knowing our people I was certain they would respond with a positive vote, but even if that did not happen, I would do this on my own. As I made the announcement, it seemed Pastor Connor and I both began to move to one another and we met in the aisle and then I saw how tall he was and he saw how short and fat I was. We spoke briefly and I took the information we would need to send the first offering to a place unknown to me, somewhere in the West Indies, where that might be.

When I returned to Illinois the church received the challenge with great joy and we began a friendship with a sister church far away. It was some time after that when Pastor Connor came to the States for another series of meetings that we made arrangements for him to come to our church. After his first visit to First Baptist he was like one of our family.



## **Sub-Committee Message**

The Magazine Publication Sub-Committee counts it all joy to have been afforded the opportunity to assist in the publication of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Magazine. It has certainly been a memorable experience from which we all gleaned greater insights and knowledge of our Church's rich history and enduring legacy.

Just as we applaud the ingenuity and faithfulness of the late Dr William Connor, we sincerely congratulate our visionary Pastor for his strong commitment to preserving the teachings and legacy of our Church's founder while at the same time ushering Antioch into a new era with a fresh, modern approach.

This publication is symbolic of his efforts and dedication to preserving the past for future generations. He is an inspiration to us all.

Sub-committee members congratulate our Pastor, members and friends of the Antioch Baptist Church on achieving this most significant milestone. Our prayer is for another fifty fruitful years as we continue to cherish our legacy and champion God's cause.

*Jacqueline P. Flemming*  
Sub-Committee Chair

*Diana Francis, Sherry Woods,  
Marlon Bristol, Cheryl Harris*  
Members



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I highly commend my brethren at the Antioch Baptist Church for your continued commitment to providing hope in people's hearts and a sense of purpose in their lives, for comfort, education and spiritual growth to the people of our nation. Our prayer for you is that God will continue to give you what is required to lead His people into a growing relationship with Him by creating environments where people are encouraged and equipped to pursue intimacy with God, community with others and influence with those outside the faith.

May God continue to use you to connect the passionate, purposeful, and powerful people of Antioch to carry out the vision God has given you. It is our prayer that you will preserve the ideals and dreams of those who labored for so long enduring many hardships while working in this area of the Lord's vineyard.

May God continue to make you a Church set on a hill, a light that cannot be hidden, that others may know of His great love.

## LUTHER RICE SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY

November 1, 2012

Rev. Lincoln Connor  
Antioch Baptist Church  
P. O. Box 351  
Infirmary Road  
Basseterre, St. Kitts  
West Indies

Dear Lincoln:

Greetings from Luther Rice University and Seminary.


I want to extend my congratulations to you and all of the members of Antioch Baptist Church on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

As you take this special time to look back at all that God has done, we pray that God will continue to use Antioch in mighty ways for His Kingdom in the future.

Your Luther Rice family is proud to have you as an alumnus. We thank God for all that He is doing through you in St. Kitts.

Again, congratulations. God bless you and everyone at Antioch Baptist Church.

In His grace,

  
James Flanagan, Ph.D.  
President

JF/van

## *Message from* **BISHOP RON E. DUBLIN-COLLINS**

President  
St. Kitts Evangelical Association

Dearly Beloved,

Hallelujah, To God Be All Glory and Praise! On behalf of the St Kitts Evangelical Association and on my own personal behalf, it is my pleasure to greet you on the occasion of your 50th Church Anniversary observance; 50 years of excellent Christian Witness in St Kitts. I give Praise to God for His Goodness, and for His Mercy, which rewrote my life at Antioch Baptist Church some thirty two (32) years ago. I thank you for your labour of love.

You have come this far by faith and through your ministry God has blessed our nation immensely. Your founding members planted those seed of faith through which God is blessing us today in various congregations. This Church has a glorious past and God's expectations of you are even greater today. The Lord has blessed the Antioch Baptist Church with 50 glorious and fruitful years in history! Let us give all honor and glory to God as we celebrate this milestone. May this celebration encourage you to look closely at yourselves and reflect on your legacy. Look back at miraculous past of five decades of service and commitment to the Word of God. By reflecting on your past and rekindling the flame of your calling and salvation, you can be prepared to accept everything the Lord has in store for your church, for those who love Him, for those who are called according to His purposes.

I pay special tribute and honour to the giants of the faith who blazed a trail of witness to our nation and service to God. Thank God for the Giant of Purpose, of Service and Witness, the Late Rev Dr William Connor. We are constantly reminded that we stand on the shoulders of these Christian giants who blazed the trail before us. Without their faith, courage, and vision, we would not be here today. The church has been mightily blessed by successive Ministers whose commitment has ensured the smooth running of the church.

Your 50 years of experiences testify to God's faithfulness to His people and that is undoubtedly chronicled in your history. We celebrate with you and thank our Lord that your march was never hindered by the work of the enemy. The church continues to grow and become stronger each day. Truly, the mighty hand of God is at work and he is always at your side. You have weathered the storms, you have emerged victorious through trial and trouble, the problems and struggles that you have overcome have now become blessings and steppingstones, this is all because of God's Grace. Certainly, God has been your shield and strength. He has guided you with His counsel; blessed you by His providence and inspired you by His Spirit.

## **The Living Vision**

Every nation has its heroes, its visionaries, its champions.

Pastor William Connor must be categorised as one of the champions of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

In an era of reverse colonisation when Caribbean people were 'colonising' the domain of the colonisers, Pastor Connor could have left his native land and taken on the nationality of some distant country as many did during the 1950's and 60's, the emerging post colonisation period in the Caribbean and the period immediately after World War II. Instead, he remained at home and established a Sunday school for what he described as "underprivileged, unwanted, despised, neglected and down trodden children of the village" where he was raised. This Sunday School would gain a solid footing and evolve giving birth to the Baptist Movement in the Federation and a beacon known as the Antioch Baptist Church, first established Baptist Church, in the Federation.

William Manasseh Connor was born on the first day of summer 1921, June 21st. William Connor was an imposing 6'6" and he would joke that his height was the result of him being born on the longest day of the year. In the words of Mrs. Patricia 'Dolly' Arthur, "he was tall, elegant and holiness oozed from him." His sister, Edith (1924-2010) in recounting some of their family history, recalled that he was the fourth child of his parents, Mary Burke and James Connor. He was raised in a single parent home, having lost his father at a tender age. As a result of this misfortune, William's family faced many challenges which were fuelled by poverty. Consequently, Edith disclosed, "William had to seek employment at age eleven when most boys his age would have been at school. He earned a meager two cents for each pound of cotton he harvested as a field labourer at Needsmust Estate.

*William Connor in the background at the  
St. George's Anglican Church*





Often in life, we are amazed at that type of people God would use to fulfill his purpose; however, Saint Paul reminds us that, "God uses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise." Though limited in education, William would complete various short term employment. However, at age 22, in 1943, he was given the opportunity to become sexton of the St. Georges Anglican church and accepted it.

The job included ringing the bell and cleaning and preparing the church for services among other things. This assignment gave him the opportunity for growth, outreach and mentorship. William applied himself to the task with precision, and served in the capacity faithfully for 19 years from 1943 until he resigned in 1962.

As sexton of the St. George's Anglican Church, William came into contact with many people who later helped him. Two notable ones were Mr. James Cardin who established the Infirmary, later called the Cardin Home in his honour, and Mr. Brookes a local Methodist minister, who both mentored, encouraged and introduced him to various forms of religious literature. He read about Reformers like John Wycliffe, John Huss, John Calvin and Martin Luther, but he was most impacted by the work of Robert Raikes who began the Sunday school movement in England.

The year was 1949, while South Africa was institutionalizing Apartheid—racial segregation against blacks, there at home William was feeling a sense of compassion for his people. When William observed hundreds of underprivileged children running around the streets, he, like Robert Raikes was moved with compassion and started a Sunday school with thirteen children in the St. Johnston Village area. His love for the children earned him the affectionate title, "Brother Connor."

*"...Bro. Connor's Sunday School was very happy and sang songs that I loved and remember even today."*

With a mere thirteen children, Bro Connor began the St. Johnson Village Sunday School—so called because the Sunday School was not affiliated with any religious denomination. However, as Bro Connor was sexton of the Anglican Church, many of the teachers were teenagers from the church. Some of the earliest teachers and workers who assisted Bro Connor were Eunice Boon, who migrated to Canada in 1960; Mavis Osborne; Ida Kelly; Delano Maynard; Beatile Flemming; and Misses Cynthia Francis and M Matthew.

Teachers were required to teach pupils a golden text every Sunday and have them recite it. Pupils were given a verse or hymn to learn and were expected to memorise it. Within a few months, the school experienced phenomenal growth resulting in the introduction of six classes: Beginners, Primary, Juniors, Intermediate, Seniors and Adults.

*Message from*  
**GERARD A. J. GRANADO, M.Th. (EDINBURGH)**  
General Secretary  
Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC)

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am deeply grateful to God for the opportunity to extend to you prayerful good wishes, as you commence the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the establishment of the Antioch Baptist Church. The significance of this occasion is enhanced by the fact that the Antioch Baptist Church is the first established Baptist Church in the Federation of St. Kitts-Nevis.

While recognizing the achievements of the past and thanking God for them, we are at the same time challenged by celebrations of this nature to discern the future into which we, as church, are being invited by the Lord. (cf. Rev. 2:29; 3:6; & 3:22). In this regard, it would appear that the amazing personal faith journey of your first pastor – Rev. Dr. William M. Connor – contains within itself the seeds and sense of that future direction. Even a cursory reading of Dr. Connor's biography would reveal the intriguing manner in which his journey of faith was marked by other Christian traditions – notably the Anglican and Methodist traditions. Such an ecumenical formation in the Faith no doubt influenced his own understanding of Church, mission and ministry. This is evidenced by his engagement with organizations such as The International Council of Christian Churches and The St. Kitts Evangelical Association.

In light of Dr. Connor's formative experience, as you forge ahead with the construction of your new sanctuary at Lime Kiln Commercial Development, I pray that this project may be to you a constant reminder that building a church has more to do with nurturing the growth of the community of believers, than with erecting physical structures. The apostle Paul reminds us of this when, in 1 Corinthians 3:9, he says quite emphatically: "You are...God's building." He continues this line of thought in Ephesians 2: 21 & 22 when he expresses the hope that "... all grow into one holy temple in the Lord..." (cf. 1 Peter 2: 4 & 5).

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, in keeping with the mind of Paul, and with the ecumenical thrust of Rev. Connor, my prayer for you on this occasion is that "... planted in love and built on love, you will with all the saints [i.e. ecumenically] have strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until...you are filled with the utter fullness of God." (Ephesians 3: 17 -19)

May God continue to bless you unto His glory.

## *Message from* **SHERRY FUGITT-TAYLOR**

Dear Bro. Lincoln and members of the Antioch Baptist Church,

First let me congratulate you on 50 years of service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I have been reading my Daddy's (Rev. Riley Fugitt) autobiography and reminiscing about his and my Mom's relationship with St. Kitts. My Daddy came to St. Kitts for the first time in 1966 with the "New Life Movement" in Puerto Rico. This is when he met Bro. William Connor. This started a relationship that would last until he died in 2002. Brother Lincoln was one of the preachers that spoke at Daddy's funeral.

In June of 1971, Daddy and my brother, Rev. Mickey Fugitt, came to St. Kitts for a crusade. There were at least fifteen conversions that they knew for sure and only God knows how many more. They were there nearly two weeks. In 1975, Daddy took two groups of twelve to St. Kitts for two weeks (one group the first week and another group the second week). They worked on the buildings and held services at night.

On July 24, 1979 (my birthday), on the way to St. Kitts, a group of twelve from First Baptist Church, Clyde, TX, including my Daddy, Mother and brother were aboard a Prinair airplane at St. Croix. The plane crashed on takeoff and five precious souls perished. My family were all hurt, but survived. Daddy was in the hospital 60 days, Mom 38 days and Mickey a few days.

In 1980 Daddy retired and made plans to come to St. Kitts and start a Bible Institute. Starting in January 1981, they spent the next three years with Daddy teaching the Bible courses. They were so proud of their students. They called Daddy Professor. He loved that! They lived with Maureen Solomon and loved her like a daughter and I loved her like a sister. She has since gone on to glory with Mom, Dad, my husband and Bro. Connor greeting her there.

My husband and I visited St. Kitts twice—once in 1983 and once in 1988. We loved the island and the people. Brother Connor and Maureen both visited in our home several times and they were like family to us. So you can see my family is planted deep in the soil of St. Kitts.

I wish I could be there to help you celebrate.

Bro. Connor was a Sociologist—he understood the community and the needs of the people. He is fondly remembered for his ingenious of placing his public address system on his bus and driving around the villages of St Kitts bellowing to the top of his lungs, "Mammy! Mammy! Mammy! Calling up all the children to Sunday School." This Pastor – Sociologist did so with the full recognition that women were in charge of the house-holds on this island.

The uniqueness and insight-fullness of Bro. Connor made his Sunday School the place to be on Sunday afternoons. One could stay deep in the village and hear the hundreds of young and old voices challenging the quarters of hell with vibrant, electrifying singing. This tall imposing Pastor pranced through the aisles (usually with a stick in his hand for the keeping of rhythmic time). Pastor Connor's voice would pierce like an instrument tuned for that purpose "Sing!!!" It was not a command, for every "sails" was already singing. It was just one of the ways in which his presence was brought to blend with the presence of all the people. Even in the Sunday School's singing, Pastor Connor never allowed the congregation to forget that God was in charge. Although, she had a Catholic background, Mrs. Patricia 'Dolly' Arthur recalls that she enjoyed the Sunday School. She remarked, "Bro. Connor's Sunday School was very happy and sang songs that I loved and remember even today."

Bro. Connor's Sunday School was not only spiritual; it was fun. Bro Connor's Sunday School as it was referred to then, was the sole religious grouping that organised picnics (Sunday School Outings). These were a fixture on the calendar annually. They were looked forward to with great anticipation. The children were transported in trucks to Caines', Willett's or Brotherson's pasture. As it was the only time that one would take a drive through the entire island, the event was not to be missed. The children and adults participated in lively singing with hand clapping and bouncing to the rhythm from the time the trucks pulled out (from Wigley Avenue and later Infirmary road after the sanctuary was constructed) until it arrived the destination. The ritual was completed once again on the way into Basseterre after the day's event. The most frightening part of the journey was driving across Old Road Bay with children pounding on the truck and screaming to the driver, 'drive chauffeur drive' in a bid to have the driver accelerate and over take the other drivers.



*Training Union children*

The picnics, plus so many other events and activities, made the Sunday School a force to be reckoned with. The Sunday School ministry was only one of the many avenues opened by Bro. Connor to spread the gospel. The Oxford Sports Club was established in 1951 and a touch type writing school in 1957. These organizations were used as vehicles for the spreading of the gospel. To chronicle the many unique aspects of the St. Johnston Village Sunday School then the Antioch Baptist Sunday School would require the writing of a journal. The Sunday School brought out all of the talents of its people. At a time when Mass was held in Latin and in some quarters only well to do people were accepted—Bro. Connor's Sunday School was the place to be.

Bro. Connor recounted the early days of the Sunday School, "We were not appointed, commissioned and sent out by a board, a convention or association. We were sent out by the Lord to the back streets of our village. We had no blue print. We had no plans. We had no programs. We had no buildings. We had no money. We had no benches. We had no Sunday School specialists. We had no experts. We had no training in child psychology, sociology and theology. We had no training in those subjects. What we had was a black Bible, a big stick, bless God, and the leadership of the Holy Spirit of God and we went across our village because we saw a need, because we had a vision, because we had a dream, because we had a burden and because we had a call. I rang the bell. I blow the shell. I drove the bus. I swept the building. I taught the school. I kept the money and I paid the rent".

The Sunday School conducted some of the best programmes ever in St Kitts which drew huge crowds. One of the most interesting was "Joseph and His Brethren." These performances were held in Basseterre Girl's School Hall (owned by the Anglican Church). However, in the late 1950's Bro Connor's relationship with the Church became strained and as a result he was denied further use of the hall. The Sunday School's programmes were hereafter held at the Grammar School or Unity Friendly Society Hall, until the edifice on Infirmary Road was constructed in 1966.

Bro. Connor was undeniably a charismatic leader and so the number of children attending Sunday School increased dramatically. The growth was attributed to the enthusiasm of workers and Bro Connor's charisma. Brother Connor played his part in opening the minds and the consciousness of our people to the fact that there is a better way, a higher road, a nobler path.

Bro. Connor's actions did not meet with approval. Rather he was accused by the St. George's Vestry of being evangelical since he was not teaching Anglican doctrine at the Sunday School. Bro. Connor was converted during a revival at the Wesley Methodist Church in Basseterre in 1951. Bro Samuel Nathaniel later disclosed that God began "working mightily in Bro. Connor". He said this warrior of the gospel who was "an ardent reader" became aware of "the need for Christianity" and of the need to promulgate the gospel". Bro. Connor was "obedient to the call as a disciple of God," according to Bro. Nathaniel, because of his deep concern for the young people in the village area.

## LUTHER RICE SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY

November 1, 2012

Rev. Lincoln Connor  
Antioch Baptist Church  
P. O. Box 351  
Infirmary Road  
Basseterre, St. Kitts  
West Indies

Dear Pastor Connor:

Greetings in the mighty name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

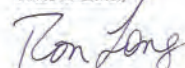
I want to extend to you my heartfelt congratulations on 50 years of serving the Lord in St. Kitts and around the world. God has poured out His blessings upon the ministry of Antioch Baptist Church.

When I look at that which God has done through that ministry, I think of the verse where the Bible says, "...and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18

Be assured that your family at Luther Rice University and Seminary will continue to pray for God's continual blessings upon the years in the future, but we must take a look back and think of the past and give God glory for what He has done.

God bless you and everyone at Antioch Baptist Church.

Yours in Christ,



Ron Long, D.Min.

Assistant to the President for Missions and Church Relations

RL/van

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## LUTHER RICE SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY

November 8, 2012

Antioch Baptist Church  
P. O. Box 351  
Infirmary Road  
Basseterre, St. Kitts  
West Indies

Dear Friends at Antioch:

I first remember hearing about St. Kitts and Antioch Baptist Church in the 1970's when I was a little girl. Dr. William Connor came to preach at our church and stayed in our home. He stayed with us many times over the years, and I grew to love him dearly.

In 1988, my parents, Roy and Sara Nealey, visited St. Kitts for the first time. During their visit, they met Lincoln who was 13 at the time. They stayed in touch with him over the years, and he stayed with us many times, as well.

When Lincoln attended Luther Rice Seminary, where I work, we became close friends, and eventually he was just part of the family. I am proud to call him my "brother."

I first visited St. Kitts in 2008 for the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. I have also had the privilege of helping with VBS for the last 3 years. I am looking forward to returning to St. Kitts for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in March 2013 and for VBS in July 2013.

St. Kitts has become my second home, and my friends at Antioch have become so dear and precious to me. I thank God that He has allowed me to be associated with these wonderful people and this incredible ministry.

Congratulations on your 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Vanessa Nealey*

Vanessa Nealey  
Executive Assistant to the President



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## The Point Of No Return

Bro. Connor, soon after his conversion, began a Bible Study on Monday Nights in the Unity Friendly Society Hall in 1951. Then The Wycliffe Crusaders were formed in 1958. This group of vibrant young men rode bicycles through St Kitts conducting open-air services. The group also went on traditional Christmas Carolling.

The Wycliffe Crusaders formed the backbone of the church that was to come into being a few years later. Members of the group included Kelvin Jones, Kelvin Thompson, Andrew James Isaac, Earnest Grey, David Liddie, Marc Powell, Alburn "Melody", Doyling/Thomas, Samuel Nathaniel and Nassibou Butler, who drafted the group's policy – "To wage war against sin". Motto – "Looking unto Jesus" – and Aim – "Victory in Jesus."

By 1959, many had been converted as a result of the Bible Class and Wycliffe Crusaders Open Airs. The Sunday School was growing at a phenomenal rate. Many women had also surrendered their lives to Christ: - Margaret Thompson, Cynthia Amory, Viola Griffin, Claris Williams, Mary Simmonds, Cynthia Fieldings, Shirley Hanley, Susanna O'Garro, V Procope, Josephine Nias, Valeria Charles, J Tuitt, Doreen Wilkes and Rosalie Kelly.

The Inner Temple, a wooden 10' x 8' wooden building was constructed at the home of his mother at Russell Village at a cost of \$400.00 and was dedicated on Friday, 03 December, 1959. It served the group as a prayer and board meeting room and typing centre. It was here the Sunday School staff held regular meetings and Bible Study.

*Wycliffe Crusaders (left to right) Nassibou Butler, Samuel Nathaniel, Kelvin Thompson, Kelvin Jones at Ramsey's wedding 11th February, 1960*



*"..many had  
been converted  
as a result of  
the Bible  
Class and  
Wycliffe  
Crusaders..."*

On Sunday, 06 August 1960, Bro. Connor left for the United States of America. He was taken by his aunt, Henrietta Tuckett, to the Thessalonica Baptist Church in the Bronx and was impressed with the style of worship and independence of the church. This was it!

Concerned that time was far spent and it was no longer time to argue, debate or discuss, but to fight, Bro Connor began contemplating crossing swords and pioneering the first Baptist Church in St Kitts.



## The Cardinal Sin

Bro Connor was classified as a threat to the religious establishment. In 1962 he received a letter from the St George's Vestry which levied the following charges against him:

1. Absenting himself from Evensong on several occasions
  2. His behaviour (the nature of behaviour not mentioned)
  3. The establishment of undenominational Sunday Schools in the Parish.
- Bro. Connor's response was a seven page letter of resignation.

Bro. Connor had committed what he described as the 'cardinal sin' in cutting himself off from the 'Mother' Church. The Anglican priest visited every home in the Village and encouraged the parents not to send their children to Bro. Connor's Sunday School. Bro. Connor did not let that deter him, rather he stood at the top of Wigley Avenue each Sunday with a bag of sweets distributing to the children and with a few weeks the attendance once more exceeded 300. The Sunday School roll eventually grew to over 700 thus establishing Bro. Connor as the self proclaimed 'Sunday School Giant' of St. Kitts-Nevis.



*Message from*  
**ROY & SARA NEALEY**  
Atlanta, G.A., U.S.A.

*"I always give thanks to God joyfully in my prayer  
for you, for your fellowship and I am confident that  
God will see you through to the end."  
(Philippians 1: 3 - 6 (Paraphrased))*

We congratulate you and the congregation of Antioch Baptist Church on the 50th Anniversary of ministry on the island of St. Kitts. We have been connected to Antioch almost from the beginning.

Our Pastor, Dr. Guy Rainwater, met Pastor William Connor in 1964 at a Bible Conference in the Caribbean. Shortly after then, our church started supporting the work of Pastor Connor and Antioch. Bro. Connor made several visits to our church over the years, and he always stayed in our home while he was here. He became a close and dear friend.

In 1988, we were privileged to come to St. Kitts along with our pastor, Rev. James Ward and others from our church. We spent a week there visiting the different churches and ministries that were outreaches of Antioch. You, Lincoln, were 13 years old at that time and washed our dishes after we ate.

Since Pastor Connor was promoted to glory, you and others have worked to keep the ministry going and moving forward for the Lord. You have stayed in our home many times and have been a blessing to us. We consider you part of our family, and we are very proud of you. On this 50th Anniversary, we pray that God continues to bless you as you lead the church in their ministry for Jesus and continue to win the lost souls to Him.

Our love and prayers always.

PS: Roy Nealey went to be with the Lord on 18th January 2013.



## *Message from*

**REV. JOSEPH ANDERSON**

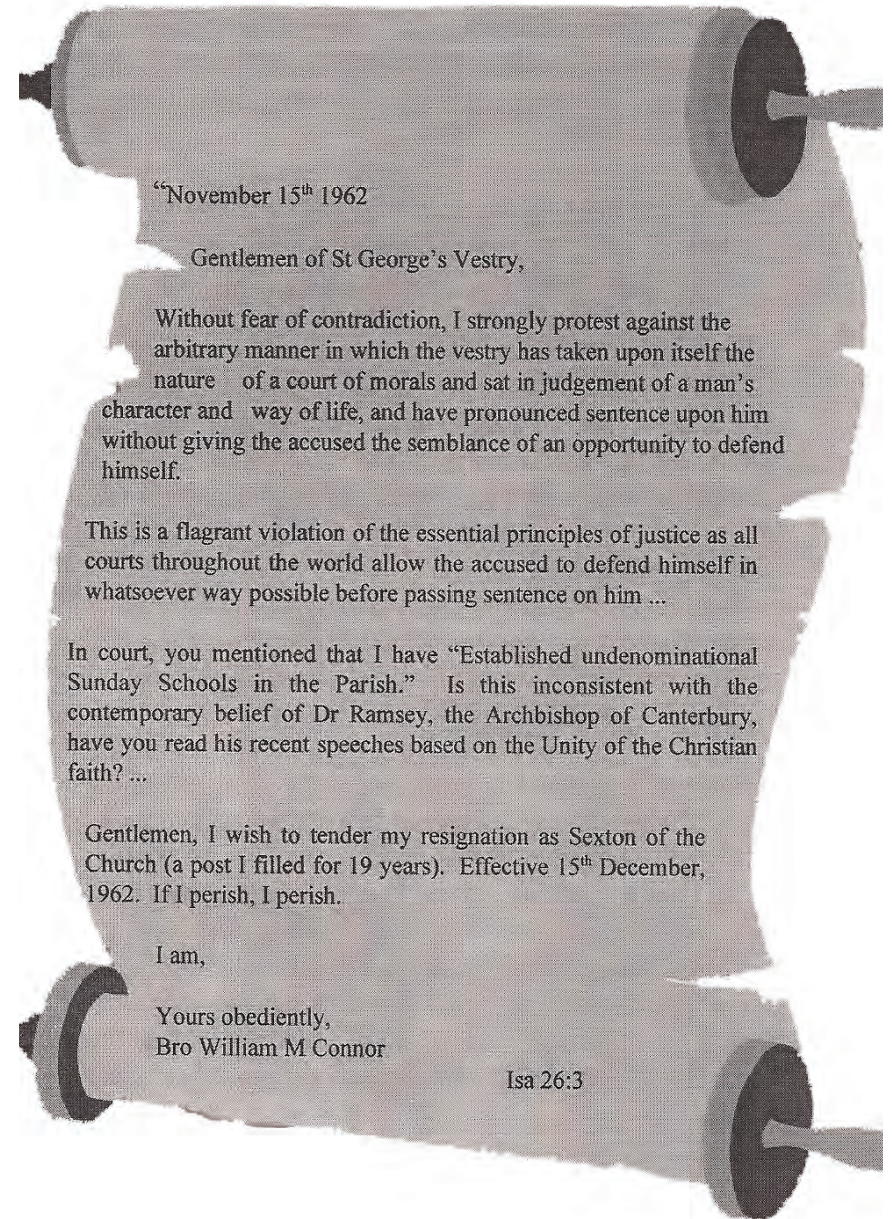
Springfield Circuit of Baptist Churches, Jamaica

I am very grateful for the opportunity to extend congratulations to the Antioch Baptist Church on achieving its Golden Jubilee. I note also that the occasion coincides with the celebration of Baptist witness in St. Kitts. I have very fond memories of the three months shared with you from January to April 2011. Though a short period, it represents the longest time that I have been away from my homeland. I therefore feel very closely attached to the country and I am always excited whenever there is any reference in the news media to St. Kitts.

I was truly impressed with the beauty of the island, the many social programmes implemented by the government, the organized and insightful leadership at the church, the varied ministry offerings, and most treasured is the dedication and commitment of God's people: the attendance and participation at Bible Studies and the love and generosity of the brethren. I am very confident that the prospects for the future of the Antioch Baptist Church and Baptist witness in St. Kitts are very bright. Despite the challenges of the time, you can be assured of victory, as "He who is with us is greater than he who is against us."

God remains faithful and powerful, and guarantees victory. As he guided those of past generations and you of the present generation, he will raise up men and women to carry the baton and accomplish even greater exploits in the future. My wife Esmine, who shared a brief period with you, joins me in congratulating you. We trust the celebration will generate momentum for your ministry.

*"Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly  
above all that we ask or think, according to the power that  
worketh in us, to him be glory in all generations."  
Ephesians 3: 20 - 21*



"November 15<sup>th</sup> 1962

Gentlemen of St George's Vestry,

Without fear of contradiction, I strongly protest against the arbitrary manner in which the vestry has taken upon itself the nature of a court of morals and sat in judgement of a man's character and way of life, and have pronounced sentence upon him without giving the accused the semblance of an opportunity to defend himself.

This is a flagrant violation of the essential principles of justice as all courts throughout the world allow the accused to defend himself in whatsoever way possible before passing sentence on him ...

In court, you mentioned that I have "Established undenominational Sunday Schools in the Parish." Is this inconsistent with the contemporary belief of Dr Ramsey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, have you read his recent speeches based on the Unity of the Christian faith? ...

Gentlemen, I wish to tender my resignation as Sexton of the Church (a post I filled for 19 years). Effective 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1962. If I perish, I perish.

I am,

Yours obediently,  
Bro William M Connor

Isa 26:3

*Extract from Bro. Connor's letter of resignation.*



## The Birth of the Baptist Movement

At a time when the missionary zeal of the United States of America was at its peak, when the churches of the United States were sending their people to pastor and pioneer West Indian Mission Houses, and when men like President John F Kennedy of the United States of America were posting Peace Corps around the world, Pastor Connor was among the first of a handful of native Kittitians to take the initiative to throw out a home grown life line to his own people.

On Monday, 04 March, 1963, Bro Connor along with Pastor Ray Thompson of St Thomas, United States Virgin Islands held discussions with the converts in the Inner Temple. Twenty-one Converts including Susanna O'Garro, Josephine Nias, Claris Williams Ismay Francis, Rosalie Kelly, Urban Penny, Kelvin Jones, Mary Tuitt, Ida Vanlow Louisa Frazer, Mary Simmonds, Spencer Walwyn, Laura Pemberton, Merleise Allen along with Bro Connor decided that they were ready for the waters of Baptism. The following day, Tuesday 5th March, at 5:00 a.m., the converts were baptised at Lime Kiln Beach. Despite adversity, in the providence of God on that same day – 05 March 1963, Bro Connor along with the converts came together with the assistance of Pastor Thompson and others of St Thomas and started the Antioch Baptist Church of St Kitts.

*Message from*  
**PASTOR JEFFREY A. McKENZIE**  
 Phillippo Baptist Church, Jamaica

*"O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good,  
 for His mercy endureth forever."  
 Psalm 136.1*

I am pleased to recognize the Antioch Baptist Church and it is a profound sense of humility that I am asked to join with the members and friends of the Church on the occasion of your Golden Jubilee.

Fifty years of Christian witness is a significant milestone for any organization, but it is particularly important for you as you stand as a witness for Jesus Christ, a beacon of hope and a light in the dark.

It is said that what gifts Christians receive are given to be shared in community, not kept in isolation. What gifts and resources you at Antioch Baptist Church have shared with the community and by extension the nation of St. Kitts must not go unnoticed but must be documented for future generations.

With the many incremental shifts in culture and traditions, you have remained anchored to the rock, undaunted and uncompromising in proclaiming Jesus Christ and rescuing lives from the vice-like grip of sin.

There are still numerous goals that are yet to be accomplished. However, go forward in the hope of Jesus, not with bated breath, but with the hope that the Church's future will be secured; as well as with renewed determination knowing that you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

Claris Williams & Rosalie Kelly



Mary Simmonds



Vinella Freeman  
 first church secretary





## THE ST. KITTS CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

P.O. Box 1269  
St. Kitts,  
West Indies



Chairman: Rev Nasel Ephraim  
Secretary: Ms Tchanai Baley

Vice Chairman: Rev. Fr. Dick Grant  
Treasurer: Mrs Claudina Davis

Tel: 869-465-2402

Cell: 869-663-8064

Email: christiancouncil\_kitts@yahoo.com

### CHRISTIAN GREETINGS

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to you on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Antioch Baptist Church. Congratulations on attaining this remarkable milestone. During this time, your congregation has had the opportunity to reflect on all that have been accomplished over the years, while looking forward to even more productive and fruitful years of ministry within the Federation.

I applaud the Antioch Baptist Church for its many years of service and fellowship. I am confident that your legacy of ministry and compassion will long grace the St. Johnson Village community and St. Kitts as a whole.

Again, on behalf of the St Kitts Christian Council we congratulate you and please accept our best wishes for memorable times of celebration and fellowship.

.....  
Rev Nasel Ephraim  
Chairman

That same day two (2) of the converts forsook the work and returned to their former church. Sis Mary Tuitt was encouraged by her Methodist Minister to abandon Bro Connor and the Baptist Witness but she refused. Bro Kelvin Jones and Bro Urban Penny were ex-communicated from the Wesley Methodist Church. Every evangelical church in St Kitts ridiculed Bro Connor for starting a Baptist Church. He was described as Humpty Dumpty on the wall and everyone was eagerly awaiting Humpty Dumpty's fall. To God be the glory—after fifty years we are still here to praise His name.

On 19 May of the same year, the first Pastor Bro William M Connor was ordained at the Calvary Baptist Church, St Thomas, United States Virgin Islands. Bro Connor thus became the first Pastor of the Antioch Baptist Church in St Kitts. From that time, it was a struggle for the young aspiring minister. People from all walks of life came out against him. Some doubted his ability to build a church, others sought ways to stop him but he could not be stopped. Pastor Connor often remarked, "I will do my duty as I see it and leave the rest to God."

On Sunday 26 May, 1963, the first communion service was held. Twenty-four believers shared in the Lord's Supper at the Unity Friendly Society Hall. The Hall was locally called "The Black and White" and was used for wedding receptions and dances. As a result, on many occasions much cleaning had to be done on Sunday mornings before church. This was unacceptable and new ways were sought to correct the situation.



*William Connor, Kelvin Jones, Urban Penny  
(seated) at the Unity Friendly Society Hall*

*"...others sought ways  
to stop him but he  
could not be stopped."*

*Pastor Connor sharing  
with Sis. Josephine Nias*



*“Things were happening in the new church. There was excitement. There was power and there was vision.”*

The excitement of these new believers could not be quenched. Therefore, on 12 March 1963, the week following the formal establishment of the church, the mission which had no money, recall a miracle when the Lord through Sister Sue Ogarro provided the funds in the amount of of \$2,750.00 to purchase an old four room wooden house from Esbon Ross, the current location of the present sanctuary. On Sunday, 31 March 1963, a Sunday School session and an evening service were held on the premises.

Things were happening in the new church. There was excitement. There was power and there was vision. Towards the end of 1963, the church purchased from A M Losado Ltd a 12 seater Bedford van costing \$4,800.00, for the purpose of transporting its members, thus becoming the first church in the island to own a vehicle. The license plate number was CN1867, and the first driver was Bro Kelvin Jones. As it was yet unheard of for a church to own a van, this evoked jealousy from the already existing churches.

The Antioch Baptist Church recognised the importance of the Bus Ministry and led the way. Today practically every church in the island has a Transportation Ministry.



*Message from*  
**HONOURABLE SHAWN RICHARDS**

Leader of the Peoples Action Movement and Parliamentary Representative

It is a great joy for me and indeed a great privilege to offer my congratulations on the illustrious occasion of The Golden Jubilee of the establishment of the Antioch Baptist Church in the Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis and to join with you in celebrating your achievements here.

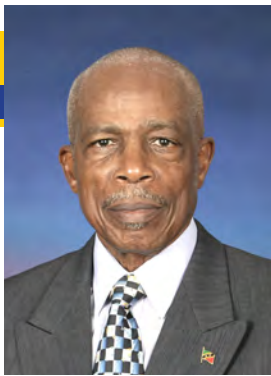
Fifty years ago saw a new dawn in this Federation; creative and committed, Bro. Connor led a group of men and women full of hope, excitement and enthusiasm to establish the Baptist Movement in the Federation. The desire for renewal, new learning, new and developing relationships, reflection and dialogue was in the very air. New ideas and creative ways of delivering gospel and gatherings of all kinds, began to emerge to meet the needs of this new time through your various ministries.

Your motto, glorify Christ by knowing him and making him known, has been reflected in your ministry through the years as you exemplified the Lord Jesus Christ, and faithfully did as you were bid in Philippians 4:8-9: Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

We are most thankful for your service of steadfastly proclaiming the gospel, for the past fifty years, week by week and year by year. Your work has spared countless of our citizens from an eternal future of misery and sorrow, and delivered a future of eternal bliss and joy. Fifty years of professions of faith and baptisms. Fifty years of worship and praise. Fifty years of teaching your members to build up ‘treasures in heaven’, where moth and rust (and hurricanes) do not destroy.

On behalf of myself and the Peoples Action Movement, congratulations again on this milestone in the life of your church and I pray the lord’s blessings on your anniversary and hope that he will grant you many more, for it is promised that “... he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.” —Micah 5:4.





*Message from*  
**Dr The Rt. Hon. Sir Kennedy A. Simmonds**  
K.C.M.G., M.B., B.S., D.A., F.A.C.A., PhD. (Hon.)


Lady Simmonds joins with me in extending hearty congratulations to the members of the Antioch Baptist Church and indeed to the entire Baptist Community in St. Kitts and Nevis, on the achievement of your Golden Jubilee. It is a very special and significant milestone to which the blessings and guidance of Almighty God has brought you. As you celebrate your achievements over the last fifty years, it is the working of God among us that you celebrate.

When I think of the Antioch Baptist Church, I think of Pastor Bishop Dr. William Connor, taken from being sexton of the Anglican Church, chosen and fashioned by the divine hand of God to be a great Shepherd calling his flock from far and wide to Sunday School every Sunday.

From these early beginnings Pastor Connor and the early Baptist stalwarts with him did great work, not only among the young people of the Village Community, but with young people throughout St. Kitts and Nevis, molding young minds and creating Leaders for Christ, like Pastor Kelvin Jones and Pastor Calvin Hazel and my own School-mate Eldon Jones who built the Antioch Baptist Church as a labour of love.

As you reflect on the history of the Antioch Baptist Church and its outreach you cannot help but realise that "God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform." Let your joy be unconfined and give God all the glory, Great things he has done.

**HARMONY**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
COUNSELING CENTER

 **Concord Church**



*Congratulations*

**PASTOR LINCOLN CONNOR  
& THE ANTIOCH  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS**



**BRENDA RICHARDSON**  
DIRECTOR OF HARMONY CDC  
COUNSELING CENTER

**Harmony Community Development Corporation**  
6969 Pastor Bailey Drive, Suite 250 • Dallas, Texas 75237  
Ph: 214.751.3932 • Fax: 214.206.3538  
[www.HarmonyCDC.org](http://www.HarmonyCDC.org)

**ON CELEBRATING  
50 YEARS OF SERVICE**

# Ground Breaking For First Baptist Church

**I**N the cool hours of last Thursday afternoon a large gathering witnessed the breaking of the ground for the building of the Antioch Baptist Church at Infirmary Road.

The ceremony was conducted by Pastor W. M. Connor, founder of the Church. In his opening remarks he gave an outline of the history of the Church. Organised in 1933, the field of activities now covers three mission points in the country districts.

The programme for the occasion included an address by the Minister of Social Services, Hon. J. N. France, scripture reading as well as items rendered by the choir.

In his impressive style Rev. Robert Mayer, Missionary Director of Radio Station PJD2, St. Martin, delivered the message.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the performance of Dick and Shirley Morris of South Carolina, U.S.A., who rendered two duets which were well received.

Mr. K. Jones and Mr. S. Nathaniel also took part in the ceremony.

On the whole, the atmosphere of admiration for the bold endeavour prevailed. *The Labour Spokesman* joins in wishing Pastor Connor and members of the Antioch Baptist Church every success in their undertaking.



CROSS SECTION OF THE CROWD AT THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY. IN THE BACKGROUND DICK & SHIRLEY MORRIS OF SOUTH CAROLINA MAKING REEDITION.

On my regular visits to my aunt in "De- Village" I observed him also, through the windows of the Unity Friendly Society Hall as he diligently attended his Sunday School classes or prayer-meetings.

I however became acutely aware of him, as he traversed the streets of that community, seemingly, as its patriarch. Be it on his bicycle with bell in hand, or walking through the streets and alley ways, he towered over all, commanding respect from the entire community. Indeed, it was not only the children who paid attention to his teachings, but his peers and other elders sought after and acted on his advice.

On my selection in 1987 to replace the late comrade J.N. France, as Labour's candidate for the said village community, I visited Pastor William Connor to discuss my candidacy. He prayed with me and wished me well. However, he shared strong views regarding the spiritual values and principles that should guide government's policies and programmes. He explained essentially, that "Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord!" During his watch, I of course attended Antioch on many occasions and was truly blessed by his stirring sermons and teachings.

Without a doubt, one can agree that this "believer" weathered many storms of ridicule, discouragement and yes, purification; and as it were, turned them into stepping stones and blessings. And so it was that, with God's guidance, with supreme inspiration, steadfast faith, determination and support of foundation members, "Brother Connor" pioneered a large and vibrant Sunday School Movement and the Baptist Mission, the first of which being the Antioch Baptist Church.

He built his Church, (thankfully in the constituency I represent) on the foundation verse which was oft declared – "I will build my Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it". Matthew 16: 18. I know he is rejoicing now with all the "Saints" who from their labour rest!

In looking back over the past 50 years, one could clearly see the hand of God at work. God only, knows just how many souls were saved through this Church; or how many souls were entrusted to Antioch, to be disciplined and nurtured in the Lord. We give thanks and praise for the positive impact of this Church on our Society, for undeniably the lives of many citizens were changed through the effective preaching of God's word and the church's outreach to the lost. And yes, as a church, you have inspired, encouraged, empowered and facilitated the growth of so many of our citizens in the things of the Lord.

We are aware also, that worldwide, there are Pastors, evangelists, deacons and other disciples, emanating from this sanctuary, who are faithfully labouring in the Lord's vineyard; proclaiming His word and bringing others to know and serve Him. We are pleased that the good Lord has predestined one such servant of His, Pastor William Connor's nephew, Pastor Lincoln Darrel Connor, to be the present Senior Pastor of the church which we today acclaim, the Antioch Baptist Church. I am blessed to be able to worship there on a frequent basis.





*Message from*  
**THE HONOURABLE SAM TERRENCE CONNOR**  
 Parliamentary Representative

I feel a great sense of Honour, pride and joy as I join with the Antioch Baptist Church Family, in commemoration of this most significant milestone achievement of your 50th Anniversary. And indeed like so many appreciative individuals and organizations across the globe, I offer heartiest congratulations and best wishes for God's continued grace and guidance.

A momentous occasion of this nature is deserving of much celebration. And yet one is mindful that there is nothing that one can do quantitatively to reciprocate what God has done in your lives as a Church, other than to offer Sacrifices of Praise and Thanksgiving, for His faithfulness through the years.

For truly, the Lord has touched and taught you mightily through His Word; and you have reached out by way of sermons and lessons, so that there was never a time, when Antioch has experienced a famine, as described in Amos 8:11. For indeed, the preaching of the uncompromising Word of God, is one of the hallmarks of this renowned assembly.

Today I rejoice and give thanks with the entire Antioch Baptist Family, as you celebrate a 50 year historical and spiritual journey; one characterised by immense faith, dedication, sacrifice, steadfastness and fervent prayers, in a quest to build up the Body of Christ. Surely, there is credence in St. Paul's assessment in 2 Timothy 2:19; that any foundation built in Christ, "standeth sure". To God be the glory..... Antioch stands as a beacon of hope.

"For, those whom God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son"..... Romans 8:29 NIV. Reverend Doctor William Manasseh Connor was assuredly set apart by God and placed in specific locations, to become a light shining for the testimony of Jesus Christ, in our Federation and further afield.

As a boy and young man, I encountered, like so many of my peers, this giant of a man, first as the sexton of the St. Georges Anglican Church, as we accessed the "shot-cut" through the churchyard to and from Sunday school at Moravian Church and school at Basseterre Senior School. "Brother Connor" was apparently always on duty to instil discipline, to insist on the use of good language and to encourage proper overall behaviour, among the youth.

## NEW BAPTIST CHURCH DEDICATED

The new Antioch Baptist Church at St. Johnstone's Village was packed to overflowing on Thursday afternoon, when the building was dedicated "to the glory of God."

Guest speakers were His Honour the Administrator Mr. F. A. Phillips, the Chief Minister Mr. R. L. Bradshaw, and the Minister of Education, Health and Welfare Mr. Franco.

Pastor Robert Meyer of St. Maarten delivered the sermon, and the Scripture was read by Mr. Kelvin Jones.

Precisely at 5 p.m. His Honour arrived and was escorted to his seat by Pastor William Connor.

On the platform were Mr. R. L. Bradshaw; Mr. J. N. France; the Speaker, and Mrs. M. P. Allen; Brother Ralph Rogers, Programme Director of Radio Station P.J.D.2 of St. Martin; Pastor Robert Meyer, of the New Testament Baptist Church in Phillipsburg, St. Martin; Pastor Clarence Hedington of the Bovoni Baptist Church and Pastor Bentley Thomas, of the Bethel Baptist Church of St. Thomas. After the singing of the opening hymn "To God be the Glory", Bro. Rogers offered a prayer.

### Welcome

On behalf of the Church Pastor Connor welcomed the visitors and gave a brief outline of the history of the

work which began in 1949 as a Ragged Sunday School for barefooted children.

He said after his conversion in 1951 an open air Ministry and Bible Class also began, but it was not until 1963 that the Baptist work was born.

The Pastor said that it was never his original intention to establish another religious denomination in the Island, but with the march of the years it became increasingly and abundantly clear that God was leading him into a fuller ministry.

In his opening remarks he thanked Mr. Eldon Jones of Greenlands for his valuable help, also the Unity Society for allowing the use of their hall as a meeting place for 17 years, also Mr. Riggs of the United States, Pastors Meyer and Hedington for their help and support.

Pastor Connor also thanked the firm of J. W. Thurston & Co. Ltd. for their kindness in giving credit for material, and to the Government for much help and co-operation.

At this point in the ceremony Miss Cynthia Fielding, President of the Usher Board presented a gift to the Builder and Engineer Mr. Eldon Jones.

The Choir under the direction of Mr. Kelvin St. Clair Thompson, rendered two anthems and Mr. James Liburd presided at the organ.



TOP: HON. JOSEPH N. FRANCE

BOTTOM: HON. ROBERT L. BRADSHAW

(EXTRACTED FROM THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN OF  
DECEMBER, 1966)



Pastor Kelvin Jones



## Mount Carmel Baptist Church

In the year following its formation, driven by a missionary spirit and upon the invitation of Ms. Marjorie Weeks, the Antioch Church started a new mission station in Lodge Village.

That same year, 1964 Bro Urban Penny and Bro Kelvin Jones were ordained on Sunday, 01 November as the first two Deacons. Deacon Penny died at sea on 02 August 1976 after serving the Lord faithfully as Deacon, Preacher and Sunday School Superintendent. In that same year, Deacon Kelvin Jones was ordained and installed as the first Pastor of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church which was the second Baptist Church in St Kitts. Pastor Jones' journey with the Baptist Witness in the Federation began with his conversion on 16 March 1959. When Kelvin Jones attended the Bible Class session conducted by the Bro. Connor, God spoke to Kelvin and he trusted Christ as his Saviour.

Pastor Jones linked up with the Wycliffe Crusaders. When the Baptist Witness was in its embryonic stages, Pastor Jones had plans to migrate to Canada to pursue studies in medicine but felt the Lord calling him instead to work alongside Bro Connor in pioneering the Baptist Movement in the Federation. Pastor Jones also pastored the Antioch Baptist Church for twelve years after the death of Pastor William Connor, 11 November 1990 until Bro. Lincoln Connor was ordained and installed as pastor on Sunday, 26 May 2002. Today we are indebted to Pastor Jones for his sacrifice and selfless service to the Lord and the Baptist Witness in the Federation.



PRIME MINISTER  
ST KITTS AND NEVIS

GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS,  
P.O. Box 186,  
ST KITTS • WEST INDIES

Ref No: .....



## GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH

It is with heartfelt respect and appreciation that I extend this message of congratulations to the Antioch Baptist Church on the occasion of your Golden Jubilee.

For fifty years now, Antioch's sustained and compelling leadership has brought the people of St. Kitts & Nevis into direct and ever-expanding contact with the positive message and works of the worldwide Baptist Movement, thereby considerably enhancing the spiritual dimension of life in St. Kitts-Nevis.

I am keenly aware that the spiritual lives of any people, in any country, play a tremendous role in shaping the destiny of the country in which those people may live. And for half a century now, the people of our nation have been the spiritual beneficiaries of Antioch's clear and uplifting message of faith, hope, and positivity, undergirded, of course, by Antioch's impressive tradition of good works – a tradition that has strengthened and enhanced our communities in ways too numerous to count.

For all that you have done, and for all that you continue to do to uplift, strengthen, and bless your congregants, your community, and therefore our nation, we thank you. And I extend to you my very warmest congratulations and sincere best wishes for continued growth and ever-deepening esteem in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Denzil L. Douglas".

Denzil L. Douglas (Rt. Hon. Dr)  
Prime Minister



## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

*Message from*

**HIS EXCELLENCY SIR CUTHBERT SEBASTIAN**  
GCMG, OBE, MD, CM

It is with distinct pleasure that I submit this message to be included in your anniversary newspaper edition of the "Baptist Star", commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Baptist Movement in St. Kitts.

I extend my own personal congratulations and best wishes from our Federation for God's richest blessings on you as you celebrate this significant and historic milestone; and commend you for the sterling contribution and positive impact which you have made on the development of our society. The holistic approach toward the development of the individual has been your focus and you have always been an active participant in the struggle for human dignity; and by faith, love and hard work over so many decades, you have been a tower of strength in the society. You must celebrate and highlight the impact of the novel Sunday School and Vacation Bible School which have blessed so many lives.

To build on a solid rock is to follow Biblical advice. As pioneer and visionary, the late Reverend Dr. William Connor, OBE painstakingly structured the foundation of the Baptist Movement in St. Kitts, firstly, his home church the Antioch Baptist Church followed by the establishment of the sister churches, Mount Carmel Baptist Church and the Calvary Baptist Tabernacle. He and his Christian family saw the manifestation of Matthew 13:8, "Some seed fell on fertile soil and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty and a hundred fold."

You have a wonderful history and as you celebrate your Golden Jubilee, you have been blessed to reach this significant milestone, give thanks. And of equal importance is the future and I implore you, remember your relevance as you face the challenges, the role of the church is still that of executing the "Great Commission" given by Jesus, to preach the living word of God. Remember therefore, you have come this far by faith. And as the Antioch Baptist Church continues to be a beacon of hope to our world, may God grant fresh anointing on Pastor Lincoln Connor and the church to continue with the mantle for another fifty years.

May God bless us all.



*William Connor, Kelvin Jones & Calvin Hazel*

## The Fire Spreads

The Holy Ghost fire that had consumed St. Johnston Village and the surrounding areas was now spreading around the island. This time in the western direction. Information out of the village of St Pauls had indicated that a group of young men wearing black shirts and bearing the name 'Black Shirt Gang' was terrorising the villagers.

Establishing a work in St Pauls was no easy task. Bro Connor and his team were greeted with open hostility. The villagers who had already attached themselves to one of the existing churches (Pilgrim Holiness, Church of God, Anglican or Methodist) concluded that Connor should leave, for they wanted no more church. Bro Connor was continuously praying and encouraged the workers with these words:

Despite people's efforts to retard the work of the Sunday School, it was attracting members. This inspired Bro Connor to begin another Sunday School in the Lodge at Newton Ground. This second Sunday School was placed in the charge of Ms Lorna Harvey. The village of Parsons was next. The children were gathered at the side of the road and taught the Bible. Eventually, the residents allowed him to use the community centre but later withdrew this privilege.

*"We are surrounded by misery, but if it's God's  
will we will stay, if not, we will leave."*





*A cross section of the crowd at the Calvary Mission,  
Deacon Penny playing the timbrel - 25th January 1974*

The school then moved back to the side of the road. Eventually, the Parsons Sunday school was being held on the verandah of Sis Lucina Francis – of the Calvary Baptist Church. Six years after the Sunday School began in St Pauls, the work was organised into a mission by the Antioch Baptist Church. The Mission began on Friday, 03 September, 1971, with 12 members. Pastor Kelvin Jones of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church spoke on the subject “We are Moving On”. The first member of the new mission to die was Bro Eustace Pringle.

In 1971, the top floor of a two-storey wooden building was rented from Sis Myrtle Micham, now deceased, and was used as a place of worship for the new Mission. The ground floor was a rum shop. Services were held mainly in the night after Sunday School. The building was later bought by the Antioch Baptist Church for the sum of \$9,600.00 and another \$6,400 was spent in repairs, a total of \$16,000. Then in August 1974, the land measuring 4,200 sq ft, Lot No 227, was bought from the Government for the sum of \$1,000.00.

In the providence of God, believing that it was God’s will, thirty-six believers entered into covenant to become an organised fellowship of baptised Baptist believers on Thursday, 07 August, 1975, thus establishing the Calvary Baptist Church, the third Baptist Church in St Kitts, with Bro Connor as its first Pastor. The speaker for that occasion was Pastor Clifford Phillip of North Carolina, United States of America. Deacon Urban Penny, collected the offering which totalled \$225.00.







*Church Board missing Michael Penny*

*For as we have many members  
in one body, but all the members do not  
have the same function, so we, being many, are one  
body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*

*~ Romans 12:4-5*

With the introduction of exciting, enriched and new programmes within re-organized ministries, slated for the new church year, it is envisaged that the Antioch Baptist Church will provide an opportunity for more stimulating and effective ways of learning, participating and fellowshiping. It is expected that the package would also allow for the church family to reach beyond our current mission area, for a chance to attract new members whilst simultaneously inspiring and stimulating present members to grow in knowledge and service of our Lord and Saviour.

Formulating a strategic plan to realize this vision is the task of a planning team, lead by our Senior Pastor. Although the renewal process may seem difficult, still, we must pull together, as people of God to move mountains. Antioch Baptist has come a long way over the last 50 years; and by the grace of God, it will in the future be further developed and cemented.

I wish finally to thank the 50th Anniversary Committee members most sincerely for all the work undertaken to organize meaningful and memorable celebrations, suitable for the commemoration of such an important, historic milestone event. It is my fervent hope and prayer that the good Lord will continue to steer, guide and sustain this great mission, as it continues to grow from strength to strength, to His honour and Glory.

*Eugenie Condor, Chairman of the Board*

With the establishment of the church, services were held at Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings. The growth of the work and limited transportation placed a strain on the workers travelling to Calvary. The Sunday morning speaker had to be in St Pauls by Saturday evening. The alternative was waking up at dawn and stationing themselves at the Bottling Company "Bryson Factory" to seek transportation. By good faith it might be possible to get transport to Old Road where you began walking until you met a kind-hearted driver travelling in your direction who might be willing to take you to St Pauls.

Mr Rudolph Isles (deceased) recalled, "often we walked from Sandy Point to St Pauls and upon arrival, there was no time to rest but to take our position at the pulpit and deliver the Word."

During the years that Pastor Connor ministered the work of the Mission, two young men, Bro James Hazel and Bro Enric Richards answered the call of God to full time work and one of the young ladies, Sis Lyneth Hazel went off to Bible School. The two men are today out in the field pasturing Baptist Churches in the United States of America.



*Pastor Riley Fugitt and his wife Vonceil.*

On 14 November 1972, Bro. Calvin Hazel was licensed by the Antioch Baptist Church as a gospel preacher. After working alongside

Pastor Connor for four years as Assistant Pastor, on Monday, 18 July 1977, the Antioch Baptist Church ordained Bro. Hazel as Pastor to the full gospel ministry. The ordination was attended by the then Governor General, Sir Probyn Inniss and the message was delivered by Pastor Riley Fugitt of Clyde, Texas, United States of America. In January 1981, Pastor Calvin Hazel was given full responsibility for the Calvary Ministry by the Antioch Baptist church.

*"Paul planted, Apollos watered; but God  
gave the increase."*

*1 Corinthians 13:6*

*Youth Ministry Executive*



## Youth In Focus

Early in the establishment of the Baptist Movement, young people played a critical role. On 21 April 1966, Pastor Connor established the "Ambassadors for Christ", an organization for girls, with the aim of training them in domestic work. The first President was Sis. Enid Sommersall. Another organization, the "Brotherhood", was established for the boys. The Brotherhood produced the "Baptist Star" a monthly publication that revealed news and other items of interest from the Antioch Baptist Church. In 1980, both groups were amalgamated to form the Young Baptist Fellowship. In June 1983, a delegation of six namely J. Dasent, O. Hazel, J. Whyte, M. Byron, E. Phipps and C. Benjamin along with Pastor Connor attended the 11th World Congress of International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC) at Cape May, New Jersey, United States of America.

The Antioch Baptist Church continues its tradition of a strong emphasis in youth development.

*Delegation to Cape May  
ICCC, 1983*



As one carefully analyses the situation of the Federation's first Baptist Church today, it is comforting to note that at Antioch, relationships are warm and cordial, engendering as it were, a family-type atmosphere. There is high involvement of dedicated, hardworking individuals in all ministry areas, led and encouraged by our resourceful Senior Pastor, who is committed to promoting and assigning leadership roles to those with the appropriate skills, gifting and willingness to learn and lead.

The strengths of the Church include: the use of applicable Information Technology Systems; programs and activities geared toward building knowledge of Bible and life issues and cooperation with other churches, institutions and organizations. Antioch's weaknesses lie mostly in the physical limitations of the church's property and surrounding area, for existing programs; and there is most certainly, a lack of space for expanded or new initiatives. Inadequate financial resources are of course also a source of concern.

Despite these challenges however, the Antioch family would like to see a re-organization and increase in the programming of the various ministries, to include amalgamation, improved transportation, communication and information technology. This should allow for a more effective outreach appeal to residents over a wider geographic area. Additionally, given the demands for programming space, the time seems right for an architectural renewal of our facility. The opportunity is also ripe for building, in a tangible way, on the co-operation of our fraternal churches, institutions and other organizations.

Whilst it is true however, that it is important to be ever mindful of weaknesses and outside threats, it is imperative to remain true to Antioch's strengths and philosophy and to the opportunities at hand. And so, with the confidence that we will be sustained by the Holy Spirit, we must press on in the fundamental acceptance, that growing the church is the work of the Holy Spirit, as the church belongs to Him. I am of the view that God has gifted the Pastor and his team with the task of leadership, for the management of the "gifts" of His church.

I further believe that the mandate of the church's ministries is to assist the Pastor to minister the Word of God in such a way, that family relations will be restored, the wayward would return to God and that together we would work to transform our people into devoted followers of God.

It is our aim therefore, as leaders within the Church Ministries, embodied in love, prayer, obedience, discernment and servant-hood, to be prepared to use our gifts to compliment Pastor's and together, to take the initiative as effective leaders, to endeavour to build a church of loving and caring people, who touch the lives of others with warmth and inspiration; not only within the Church family, but within our homes and the community at large.





*Children's Ministries Leadership*



*Divine Praise Dancers*



*All About Christ Dancers*

## The Antioch Baptist Church

WILLIAM M. CONNOR—*Pastor*

P. O. BOX 305, BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, W. I.

*We proclaim a living Christ for a lost and dying world.*

Our Policy — To wage war against sin : Our Motto — Looking unto Jesus : Our Aim — Victory in Jesus

21st April, 1966.

### THE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST DOMESTIC CLASS

Dear Sir,

Christian greetings to you once again in the Wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour who have made us and fashioned us after His own likeness and best of all have provided the way by which we can have free access to the throne of Grace.

It is my greatest privilege to write to you this letter, which is all about a little idea which I have suggested with the help of my assistant, Sis. Venelma Browne.

My letter is all about a little domestic class which I thought would be of great interest to we the young people of today. As Lamentations 3:27 says we must achieve something in our youthful period of life; and I think it is full time for our colour to be up and doing for I realize as a young girl that we will be the future mothers and wives of tomorrow and so I intended to teach them the little I know.

I would like to teach these children who are interested in Domestic, worksuch as Washing, Ironing, Cooking, Baking, Salad-Making, Table-Setting, Bed-Making, Etc. Etc. There would be a small fee of \$1.00 monthly as we would purchase food stuff and Equipments for the Centre. If my letter if of any help to the girls please let me know.

I Am,

*Chris E. Sone*



# EXTRACTS

## From Messages

Tomorrow Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March will mark the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Antioch Baptist Church. The first Baptist Church of St. Kitts.

As God would have it, in 1963, 21 years ago, the Lord added another army to bombard the devil and so the 5 March 1963, 22 of us felt the call of God to join forces. We summon up the blood, unleash the gallant battle axe—the Bible and with relentless, reckless fury, like an erupting convulsive volcano, belching out hot lava, move on the war path for God. Shout yes everybody.

My brethren selected me to be the overseer of the new work understanding the gap and to make up the edge, a position, I still hold after 21 years and I have no intention to back off. When I was called to administer this church, I was fully aware and fully conscious of the fact that a prophet has no honour in his own country. I was fully aware of that. I knew Mr Connor you are from this country a native son of the soil and there is no honour for you. I was fully aware of that.

When I was called to administer this church, I was fully aware and fully conscious of my inability and my unworthiness but I was equally convinced that with God, all things are possible and so I went to the fight looking to God for help so in March, I took up the ministry of this church in partnership with God and I haven't regretted one day. After 21 years have won every fight, I have won every fight. I have won every bout in the match and I thank God for that this morning. Abraham Lincoln, the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States who died on the 14 April 1865, once said, "I shall do my duty as I see it and leave the rest with God." Those words of this great man, Abraham Lincoln, those words have greatly inspired me and have challenged me and I went on doing my duty as I see it leaving the rest with God.

From that humble beginning 21 years ago, five (5) solid young men came out of this work and have gone out into full time gospel work on the mission field: Pastor Kelvin Jones of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church; Pastor Calvin Hazel of the Calvary Baptist Church; Pastor Spencer Walwyn to the Grace Baptist Church of St Croix; Pastor Bently Thomas to the Bethel Baptist Church of St Thomas and Pastor Lambert Mills to the Central Baptist Church of Antigua and Barbuda. I give God thanks for these boys who came out of this humble beginning.

*Extract from -Sunday, 4th March, 1984. (On the occasion of the 21st Anniversary of the Antioch Baptist Church) Topic: Full Score For '84. Text: Psalm 23:1.*

**Pastoral fruits of Antioch Baptist Church:** Kelvin Jones - St. Kitts, James Stapleton - UK, Laurence Knight - St Kitts, Jedidiah Kwame Rydell Blake - U.S.A., Maureen O'Garro Lewis -Canada, Oral Lewis - Canada, Ralph Rogers - U.S.A., Lincoln Connor - St Kitts, James Hazel - U.S.A., Lambert Mills - Turks and Caicos, Bently Thomas - St. Thomas, USVI, Anthony Nisbett - U.S.A., Clive Rogers- U.S.A., Calvin Hazel-St. Kitts, Spencer Walwyn- St. Croix, USVI.



## Celebrating 50 Years of Progressive Ministry at Antioch Baptist Church

As we come together to celebrate 50 years of existence of the Antioch Baptist Church, I humbly and joyously, with other members of the Church Family, give praise, thanks and honour to Almighty God, ever mindful of His covenant faithfulness that has brought the church thus far along the way.

I join also, in expressing sincere gratitude and admiration for the founding fathers and other foundation members, whose commitment and dedicated toil, have pioneered the glorious success story we today acclaim.

Indeed, we salute with grateful hearts, all pastors, ministers, deacons, evangelists and other leaders, past and present, of the church, for painstakingly nurturing the congregation, through the written and spoken Word of God. Undoubtedly, we are, as a church family, eternally indebted to Pastor Lincoln Connor, our present Senior Pastor, for his ministry of the Gospel that he has enhanced, while sustaining and building on the solid foundation laid.

This is evidenced by the phenomenal growth which the church has experienced in terms of additional ministries, membership, and adherements manifested through the filling of the Sanctuary each and every Sunday. There is also the growing participation in Bible study and other activities of the various ministries. It is important to note also, that the membership and the congregation in general, span significant groupings, relative to age, sex, skills/gifting mix and communities.

Deacons and Deacons Elect missing Leonard Claxton



Baptist Academy Preschool



Last, but by no means least, in my struggle to say thanks, I have to make special mention of the Hon. Sam Condor and his charming wife sister Eugene Condor for their generosity and hospitality.

May the God of grace bless Antioch now and always.

*Contributed by Rev. Zereal B. Williams (Pastor)  
Porus Circuit of Baptist Churches  
Jamaica*

I have been appointed by my fellow Pastors to tell you tonight what God has to say to all of us on this momentous and historic occasion. And the subject on which I would like to address you is entitled: 'One Nation of People Under God' ..... As a foundation to the message, I wish to draw your attention to Psalm 33:12.

There is within the breast of each individual, the desire to be free, to independent, so that we can manage our own affairs. So these two beautiful sisters of the Caribbean, St Kitts and Nevis, tonight 18 September 1983, will dismantle themselves of 360 years of British rule and will prepare to take that long step into the unknown future, looking to God for guidance ....

As we stand on the threshold of Independence, we must remain in the never changing hands of Almighty God, who directs our affairs, and though we may pledge allegiance to our land, we may state as did Sir Thomas Moore to King Henry VIII of England; "We are our Government's good servants, but God's first." ...

There seems to be a lessening sense of sin in our country; morality and respect for God's word, His day, and His house seem to be things of the past. We must put God and the Bible back in this country. We must remember that righteousness exalteth or lifts up or elevates a nation, but sin is a reproach or a disgrace to any people... I feel that we have shaken loose from the discipline of marriage, family, church and government. Adultery is creeping into the sanctity of marriage and teenage pregnancy continually haunts us. Our young people no longer aspire to excellence. They believe that merely possessing ability is a reserve ticket for achievement. We no longer associate efficiency with reward...

My people, I urge you to let us go forward from here together as one nation of people under God. I urge you to let us live together in unity. The Bible records in Psalms 133:1 "how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to live together in unity". United we can live up to our ideals and capture the admiration of the world, but if we are disunited, we will fall into shame and disgrace...

*"There seems  
to be a lessening  
sense of sin in  
our country;  
morality and  
respect for God's  
word, His day,  
and His house  
seem to be things  
of the past."*



Let us go forward together as one nation of People under God. For blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. If God be for us, who can be against us? May Almighty God bless and prosper our new nation.

*Extract from 18th September, 1983. (Delivered at Warner Park, Basseterre, before 23,000 people on the occasion of the Nation's Independence.)*

*The following are some of the quotes used by Pastor Connor to build his faith and encourage those around him.*

"I will roll back my sleeves and carry this battle to the very gates of hell and call the devil out for a showdown."

"With one hand tied behind my back, I will whip the devil in this country."

"If Ellie matt is the hardest hard, Connor is the toughest tough."

"The more they try to do me bad, the better I live in this country."

"Let the world deride or pity, we'll glory in his name."

"I did not start to stop, open to close, come in to go out, jump on to jump off, it will take eight bearers to take me to Springfield Cemetery."

"I might not be a success, but I am going to be faithful."

"When you want your things mash up lend niaga."

## 12 WAYS TO KILL YOUR CHURCH

- 1 Don't come, and if you come, only on Sunday morning.
- 2 If you do come, come late, and when you leave go out through the back door.
- 3 Never accept any office of responsibility.
- 4 Visit other churches half the time, show your pastor you aren't tied down to one church and that you are free.
- 5 Let the pastor do all the work.
- 6 Never encourage the pastor, just sit in your seat and look sour.
- 7 Criticize your pastor and refuse to pray for him.
- 8 Don't pay your tithes, building fund and bus fund. Show that your money is yours.
- 9 Object to everything that the church is trying to do.
- 10 Don't visit, don't pray, don't invite anyone to the services.
- 11 Only say "Amen" to your favourite preachers.
- 12 Refuse to speak to the believers of the Church.



Transportation & Maintenance Ministry

**Bus Ministry:** The bus ministry of Antioch is quite commendable; it is one of the legacies the founding father of the church the late Rev. Dr. William Connor left behind. I enjoyed it and at times even served as driver in picking up congregants for worship services and other functions.

In speaking of the founding father of the church, it would be remiss on my part, I believe, were I to close this reflection without mentioning that my ministry at Antioch was enhanced through the life and ministry of this giant of a man the Rev. Dr. William Connor who 'being dead yet speaketh'. His standard of ministry is often mentioned by many of the older people of the church and in the island a whole.

When the memorial service was held for this founding father, the late Rev. Dr. William Connor, the honour was mine to have been asked by Rev. Lincoln Connor the nephew, to preach the sermon.

Time and space is not available to say much more about my time and ministry at the Antioch Baptist Church and St. Kitts as an Island, but I am compelled to express my deepest gratitude to the Almighty God for the experience in knowing and ministering to and among my special Caribbean brethren.



Men of Honour Executive

*“We are now in a global world that is more and more catering for multitalented persons and learning music is crucial for the future.”*

### **Music Ministry:**

Antioch is a fertile music centre. She is blessed in having several different kinds of wonderful musical instruments and gifted musicians who can use music to shake St. Kitts for God, but unfortunately this is not happening. The choir, during my trips, performed well below its potential in my estimation. It has not shown that it is fully aware of the importance of the music ministry in a church nor of their potential to make a difference for God.

The Bell Choir ministry as an example is quite a rare thing in the Caribbean and for Antioch, a small church to be blessed with such 'high class brass bells', is a blessing the church needs to cherish and utilize much more for God's glory. Thank you Antioch I was (I am) a member of the Bell Choir and thoroughly enjoyed this ministry under the leadership of Sister Doldria Penny and pray this ministry will grow in the church. I am using this medium to encourage parents and members of the church to motivate their children to capitalize on the opportunity to get more involved generally in the church's music ministry and more specifically in learning to play the different instruments at Antioch and hone the skill for God's glory. We are now in a global world that is more and more catering for multitalented persons and learning music is crucial for the future.



## **Present and Future**



Situated at Lime Kiln Commercial Park, the proposed facility will house a new worship center and all of the current Ministries including the school with additional space for the proposed Bible Institute, Medical Centre, Counseling Facility and Youth Leadership Centre.





## Through the Years



*Pastor William Connor*



*Senior Choir, 1990*



*Sis. Penny and family, 1982*



*Ladies Sunday School Class, 1988*



**Ministry at Antioch:** Admittedly, the people of Jamaica and the people of St. Kitts have much in common. We are of the same African descent, our main source of income was from sugar cane, (St. Kitts was even called 'Sugar City'), and English is our main language, but there are few noticeable minor cultural differences between us. The morning worship service structures come to mind. At Antioch, the American musical upbeat rhythm is used in services in the singing of hymns/songs. I also found the leading of worship services at Antioch to be more pastor- centered. While at home we cling more to the traditional rhythm and more to the British hymns. We also allow more persons the opportunity to participate in the leading of worship. But for me because worship is dynamic not static, the few cultural differences were no problem. They were embraced and fully enjoyed.

While I was engaged, in various ministries at Antioch, it was less strenuous in comparison to ministry at home where I had to pastor three different congregations and do community duties as Justice of the Peace etc. Leading worship and preaching on Sunday mornings, participating in Sunday evening services, conducting weekly Bible Study, visiting the sick, and spending time in the office were my main weekly duties at Antioch and for sure Antioch and I had things in common. We looked forward as pastor and people to spending time together in worshipping God.

**Visitation:** Special mention must be made of the weekly Visitation Ministry with the wonderful ladies of Antioch headed by Sister Enid Shoy. We visited mainly the hospital with occasional visits to a few shut-ins at their homes. A special visitation bond was forged between the seven ladies and me during my entire stay and although I was the lone male, we looked forward to visiting the sick. We also led several persons to accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour and cheered the hearts of many. Mention must be made of Minister Dameon Jacobs our regular driver and Evangelist L. Knight, our occasional driver for transporting us on weekly trips.



Perhaps, the request from the Antioch Baptist Church in St. Kitts through their pastor Rev. Lincoln Connor to the Jamaica Baptist Union for pastoral assistance to the Antioch Church in his absence on study leave was God's plan for my life. Information received is that I was the first person the union thought of when the request came and this for me could be interpreted to mean that the God who reads the recesses of every heart guided the union in asking me to consider this request.

I answered the call to serve as interim pastor of the Antioch Church and served September to November 2010 and was invited to serve a second stint January to May 2012. Two other senior colleague ministers of the Union also served as interim pastors between the times of my services. On reflection, my two pastoral mission trips were of special spiritual blessings reciprocally as will be shown later. The first stint set the pace for Antioch to have had the confidence of asking me to return to close this special pastoral relationship forged between us on one hand and between Antioch and the Jamaica Baptist Union on the other hand.

**Antioch Church Reception:** The people of Antioch were very warm and receptive to me on arrival and during my entire stay as their pastor. Special efforts were also made to make me feel at home and very often enquiries were made about the well-being of my family and this circuit of churches I had left to serve Antioch.

Let me document what I said verbally to you my dear brothers and sisters of Antioch; for your love, care, respect, encourage and generosity you showered on me during my pastoral stay with you in St. Kitts, I will always be grateful and you will remain on my prayer list.



*Women of Faith*



*Sunday School Teachers*

## Cherishing the Legacy, Championing God's Cause

I had been a friend of the Antioch Baptist Church since the late 1970's and a very dear friend of the Pastor William Connor (deceased). My children also attended Sunday school at this church for many years. However, my personal journey began at Antioch, when on Sunday, January 4th, 2009, I was late for worship at my regular church, and a voice spoke to me and said turn around and go up to Antioch. Therefore I put on my indicator, turned around, and headed up to the village where I went and worshipped at the Antioch Baptist Church. The warmth of the welcome, the very energetic pastor, the informal worship and fellowship were very encouraging and uplifting which gave me the impetus to return the following Sunday. Since then, Antioch has become my regular place of worship.

In attending Antioch Baptist Church, my hunger for the word of God increased along with my spiritual growth. As my spiritual growth continued, I wanted to reconfirm my commitment to God and offered myself for baptism. I was then baptized on December 18, 2010, one week prior to Christmas day. That was my Christmas gift from God, and I am blessed to be a member of the Antioch Baptist Church.

The Lord Jesus has always played the role I wanted him to play in my life. There were periods when I was not actively involved in church and yet He never left me. He has always been my help, my friend, my source, my inspiration, my guide, my protector and my Lord. He gives me reason to smile every day in spite of whatever life throws at me. My duty is to continue to be faithful and true to the end.

*Personal Reflections by Shirmel Woods*



## Through the Years



*Revival Services, 1988*



*S. Garnette, F. Jeffers and  
G. Huggins, sitting behind*



*Junior Choir, 1985*



*Baptist Bible Institute, 1982*

As we travel this road, here are a few more points worth considering:

If you build it, people will not necessarily come. Whether it is a website, blog, chat board, podcast, twitter feed or Facebook page, our digital presence must be relevant, must demand attention, must add value to people's lives and must be seen as trustworthy. Moreover, it must be marketed, even if it is by frequent mention via traditional means such as radio.

The ride on the Information Highway is not free. It might not be as expensive as some other traditional means of communication, but there is the recurring cost of time and energy to produce fresh and relevant content, the time cost factor of connecting to our online community (emailing, responding to questions, engaging in conversations, etc). In fact, the dollar cost grows with its level of use and sophistication.

It is not only the younger generation that uses technology. However, to better steward technology, just as pertains to business, we need to meet people where ever they connect, whether this is in front of their television set, via the radio, twitter, Facebook etc. This notwithstanding, there might still be a mission for the church to provide training to its constituents in using modern tools such as video equipment, and online services, to better prepare them to be citizens of our modern environment. In this area too, the Antioch Baptist Church is already making significant inroads.

On a final note, technology does not replace real-life relationships. Technology enables the church to communicate with more people in more ways without the constraint of time or space, but it is not a substitute for the church's face to face gatherings, where heart, soul, mind and spirit can be best be ministered by the physical presence of the human touch or smile.

*Contributed by Bibiana Henry*

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In this synoptic reflection, let me begin by stating that several times in the past, I can remember using this phrase in my prayer in reference to God as "The God who reads the recesses of every heart". It is something that I truly believe; God the Almighty in His sovereignty and omniscience knows every heart, reads the thoughts and recesses of every heart.

I cannot recall using this phrase though with any special emphasis or about any particular need. But serving as a missionary in one of the Caribbean Islands was always a dream I cherished but had never communicated it to any earthly human being.



## The Church On The Information Highway

The church has long used technology to communicate, archive, and evangelize, in its efforts to ensure ultimately, that God's will be done on earth: Stone hieroglyphs, papyri, drums, printing press, microphones, and video projectors. Man's personal and commercial drive for omniscience, has birthed what we today dub, "the Information Highway". This is principally data and Internet driven, spawning tools such as websites, social media, texting, mobile TV, and from simple to sophisticated public address systems.

The question today is: how might the church mastermind its presence on this highway to fulfil God's command to "go into all the world and preach the gospel"? The pioneering spirit of the Antioch Baptist church is already securing its position along this great journey. The gradual but steady growth of its orchestra, its prevalent use of music, PA system and video projectors to enhance its worship experience and Media Ministries to capture important moments for posterity, its presence on the Internet, its use of technology to archive its resources, together send a powerful message that it is serious about using technology in Kingdom building.

Much as the gospel message is eternal, it is difficult for God's people to influence the 21st century if we are not adequately knowledgeable about modern tools for influencing world opinion, such as the Internet (email, Facebook, twitter, website, etc). We need to saturate the Internet with evangelistic websites and information, which can win over unbelievers from the kingdom of darkness, to Christ's marvellous light, much as we have done with the overwhelming physical presence of churches in our communities.

Pastor Lincoln Connor is a Minister of the Gospel who possesses passion. Yes, passion. There is a distinct and noticeable difference between the passion of Pastor Lincoln Connor and a large number of gospel Ministers. Pastor Lincoln Connor believes two important things make his ministry one of a different caliber. These two things are:

1. He believes that the best way to truly transform people is to understand them and that the only way to understand them is to educate himself, and he is correct.
2. Pastor Connor is a young man who is brimming with ideas. Not ideas about himself. His ideas are all about his people. Pastor Connor lives for people.

He believes very firmly in setting high standards, and that he must be the example of these high standards, whether such be in the manner of dress and deportment, the manner of speaking or the manner of behaviour. It makes no sense saying that Pastor Connor is not perfect, as being perfect is humanly unattainable, but anyone who focuses on the imperfections of another human being, be he Minister of Religion or anything else, is beating at the wind, getting nowhere accomplishing nothing.

Pastor Connor does not use his time focusing on his critics nor his detractors of which we can be certain there are some. He rather uses his time thinking how he may make the path clear, the vision plain, the people grow and the nation better. No one can do this without being angry at times, as quite often, passion rides on the wings of a storm. Jesus once stormed through a church with a whip in his hand leaving in his wake overturned desks, chairs and tables, along with flapping birds hiding in the ceiling and money scattered all over the ground. Someone had to straighten up the place when it was all over, but the people got his message. Sometimes the only way to make people understand that they need to change for the better is to generate a storm and Pastor Connor is not afraid to do so when it is necessary. Possessing passion is a vital part of successful leadership.

St. Kitts is Pastor Connor's nesting place. Wherever he travels in the world his mind is preoccupied with St. Kitts because St. Kitts is his home. His church is the core through which he reaches touches and challenges the people of his nation, and he does it well. His vision is broader than the four walls of any building. The building is only his mailing address. The nation is his mission field, and his people, no matter their age or social status, are neither above nor below his interest, his love and his willingness to care. He is a Minister of the people. St. Kitts and Nevis will only be better under many more years of his exemplary leadership.

**Contributed by L. Tatem**



*Pastor Connor receives award from Dr. Edward Mc Abee  
at the church's 25th anniversary, March 1988*



On 11th November 1990, Bro. William Connor made the triumphant march and went to be with the Lord. At the time of his passing he had served the Lord faithfully as a Sunday School teacher for 41 years, a Christian for 39 years and Pastor of the Antioch Baptist Church for 27 years.

At the time of his passing, Bro. Connor had received several honours including:

- 1979 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II appointed him an Officer of the British Empire. He was also awarded the Doctor of Divinity by the Caribbean Evangelical Association Incorporated.
- 1981 he was appointed an Honourary Deputy Sheriff of the State of Texas, USA.
- 1982 he was awarded Citizen of the Year by the organization of Progressive Nationals of St. Kitts as eminently and ethically qualified in the field of Sociology.
- 1983 when St. Kitts was granted Independent status from England, he was afforded the honour of giving the Keynote Address before a crowd of some 23,000 people.
- 1983 he was commissioned to the Order of Kentucky Colonels of the State of Kentucky, USA.
- 1986 he was awarded an Honorary Citizenship of the City of Lincoln in the State of Illinois, USA.
- 1988 he was also appointed as Lieutenant Colonel Aide De Camp Governor, Staff by His Excellency the Governor of the State of Georgia, USA.
- 1988 he was honoured by the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis by having the new St. Johnston Village Primary School named in his honour, (Dr. Williams Connor Primary).