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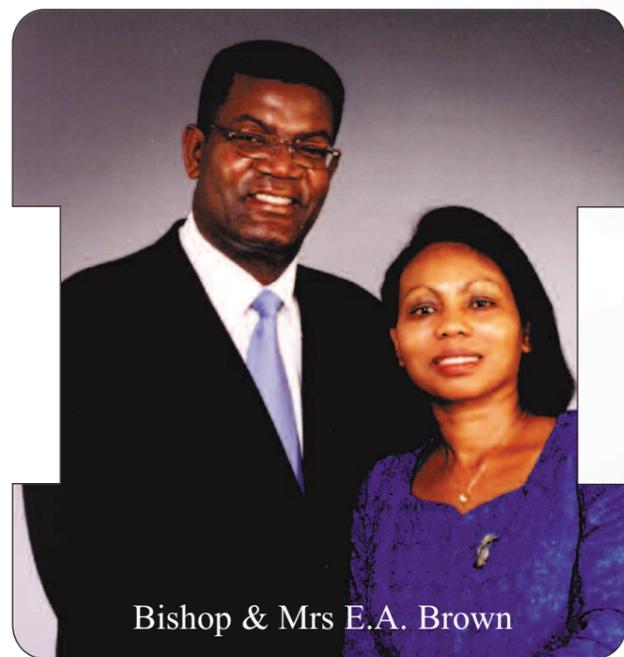
RAP



IS A COMMUNICATION TOOL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BISHOP

February 2003

ISSUE 1



Bishop & Mrs E.A. Brown

R eview

Christian greetings in the mighty name of Jesus. **RAP** is a communication tool between you, the leaders of our church, and myself. By this means I wish to keep you in the loop and to seek your support and prayers.

I join you in giving God thanks for His unfailing love and His sustaining grace throughout 2002. I am committing myself, as I am sure you are, to serving Him faithfully and to do extraordinary things for Him in 2003.

■ Firstly, we have had a smooth transition in National Leadership of the Church and I wish to thank Dr. R. O. Brown and the National Executive Council for the part they played in ensuring this outcome.

■ We have submitted yet another unqualified Audited Accounts to Company House and the Charity Commission. For this, we thank you and your administrative staff and especially Rev. Louis McLeod and his staff for your diligence and hard work.

■ The National Ministers Conference was a most uplifting experience with over 170 Ministers in attendance. We are working for maximum participation and a different format this year.

■ There have been some changes at the Headquarters. Ms. Leony Titus now serves as my P.A. She and her 8 year old daughter Toni have moved to Northampton and are settling down in work and school quite well.

■ The Departmental Conventions and Seminars held in 2002 and indeed the National Convention were all successful events. However, we are committed to look at them again and to ensure that they become vehicles of transformation and impact for our Church & Community.

■ Sadly, we said goodbye to a number of God's faithful servants who answered His call to 'Come up Higher'. These were:

- Rev. Josiah Beckford (Former Pastor – Erdington)
- Rev. P. G. Kelly
- Rev. Luther Rowe
- Rev. R. E. Atkinson (Former Pastor – Southampton)
- Rev. J. Armstrong (Former Pastor – Brockley)
- Rev. Mother E. E. Beccan (Pioneer and Former Pastor of Mile End Church)
- Rev. Henderson (Evangelist resided in the USA)
- Rev. S. Linton (Former Pastor – Handsworth)
- Father J. C. East (Honourary Minister of the Wood Green Church)
- Brother Green (Husband of Rev. Floris Green) from Rugby
- Sis Letford (Wife of Rev. F.A. Letford) from Walsall

We salute these great servants of God and their valued Ministry to the Church of God.

MINISTERS ON THE MOVE

■ Bishop Benjamin Grey and his wife, former District Pastor of Sheffield, retired and returned to their native island of Jamaica.

■ Bishop C. Fisher and his wife, former Pastor of the Huddersfield Church, also retired this year and are returning to Jamaica.

■ Rev. & Mrs. John Grey, Evangelist and former Director of Men's Ministry, left us in December to assume pastoral duties in the US Virgin Islands.

■ Rev. W. A. Bucknor, former National Youth Director, former Secretary/Treasurer and former Pastor of the Erdington Church resigned in December on the grounds of ill health.

We are grateful to all these dear servants of God for their anointed Ministry amongst us here in England and we pray God's continued blessing upon their lives.

Do remember these servants of God, their families and their congregations in your prayers. Some of them are coming new to the Ministry and need special encouragement.

Action

We formally announce the following appointments

PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS

Revd. Dr. Ron O. Brown	<i>District Bishop, Bilston</i>
Revd. Dr. Joseph Roberts	<i>District Bishop, Sheffield</i>
Revd. Barrington Burrell	<i>District Bishop, Wood Green</i>
Revd. Donald Bolt	<i>District Bishop, Aldershot</i>
Revd. Jonathan Jackson	<i>Pastor, Brookfield</i>
Rev. Lincoln Davis	<i>Pastor, Oldbury</i>
Rev. Richard Jones	<i>Pastor, Trowbridge</i>
Pastor Andrew John	<i>Pastor, High Wycombe</i>
Pastor Navo Figia	<i>Pastor, Maidstone (New Filian Church)</i>
Rev. B. Mullings <i>(Pastor Designate)</i>	<i>Erdington</i>

WM PRESIDENCY APPOINTMENTS

Mrs Gloria Roberts	<i>District President, Sheffield</i>
Mrs Maxine Burrell	<i>District President, Wood Green</i>
Mrs Joycelyne Bolt	<i>District President, Aldershot</i>
Mrs Annette Jackson	<i>Local President, Brookfield</i>
Mrs Pauline Jones	<i>Local President, Trowbridge</i>

■ Pastoral Appointments are yet to be made for the churches at Huddersfield, Castle Vale, Peterborough, Northampton and Oldham. Your prayers for God's guidance would be greatly appreciated.

■ The Thanksgiving Service for the late Rev. Mother Beccan was held on Saturday 11 January 2003 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Great Hall, Wembley Conference Centre, Wembley, Middlesex.

■ The Thanksgiving Service for the late Revd Linton was held on January 16, 2003 at 12:00 midday at the Handsworth Church.

Your prayers for the bereaved families would be appreciated.



P review

NATIONAL WOMEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT 2003

As a start to our programmes, the Women's Ministries will commence with a Retreat at Le Meriden Hotel, Warwickshire. The Retreat will start on Friday 28th February and will conclude on Sunday 2 March 2003. The theme for the weekend is **'YOU MATTER'**. We are delighted to welcome Pastor Penny Francis, from Ruach Ministries, dealing with **'YOUR FAMILY MATTERS'**. This section will look at how families relate to each other – from the husband and wife to the extended family, and how we affirm family members.

Rev. Phyllis Thompson, a member of the pastoral team at the Mile End Church, will be presenting **'YOUR FAITH AND FUTURE MATTERS'**. Here we will look at the essential elements in our Faith, how we maintain our Faith, and how our Faith is linked, not only to the present, but also to our future. Ms. Paulette Simpson, Chief UK Representative Officer, Jamaica National Building Society will be speaking on **'YOUR FINANCE MATTERS'**. This session will give us practical advice/information on how money can work for us, making sensible investments, and preparing ourselves financially for retirement.

I believe this weekend will assist in the transformation God is doing among His people. We matter to Him and everything we own matters to Him greatly. Our Faith, our family, our finances and our future are all linked and if we become unbalanced in any of these areas, it will affect the way we respond to our God. We are looking forward to a great time.

NATIONAL YOUTH & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONVENTION 2003

THEME 'EQUIPPING PEOPLE FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY'

It is quite clear in scripture that each Christian has a responsibility to share the gospel. We are called to inform others of the good news of the birth, death, resurrection and forgiving power of Jesus Christ.

This message though simple, requires thought, prayer and planning regarding how we impact individuals, families and communities. However, the Society and communities in which we presently live sometimes present a very serious picture of fear, hate, violence, abuse, dishonesty, ungodliness and materialism. How then does the church impact the lives of individuals in our communities?

EDUCATION SUNDAY - 16TH FEB 2003

For well over a hundred years there has been an annual recognition of Education Sunday in England.

This day is set aside to celebrate all teachers and the way in which we all teach and learn. For Christians, teaching is one way of following Christ's call. Some of these examples are found in these scriptures Matt 19:13, Mark 10:13-16, Luke 18:15-20 where Jesus showed his concerns for children. Both Churches and schools have a common concern they want the best for all young people. Churches and schools are part of the local community. They are neighbours who can work for the good of that community.

HOW INVOLVED IS YOUR CHURCH?

- Highlight Achievers in our church/communities
- Invite the local Police to do a talk on crime prevention in your area.
- Arrange a workshop as a showcase for practical skills e.g. Art & Craft.

The criminal killing of the two young people in Aston, Birmingham and the wounding of others, is a blight upon the whole community and sends out a clear call to the Church and its Leaders, not only to pray but to actively engage the community and the powers that be to bring an end to these senseless killings in our urban cities. We must work to stop

NATIONAL MINISTERS' SEMINAR...

DATE 21-23 March 2003

VENUE Hilton Hotel – Coventry

COST £170.00 per Person for the weekend (approx)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE

STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S MYSTERY

STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S MONEY

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS & CHURCH ACCOUNTING

not only those who are gunning down our youth but those who are 'gunning up' the gunmen. All it takes for evil to succeed is for good people to stand by and do nothing. Let us act now by giving active support especially to our Leaders who are working for peace.

PREVIEW

This year will mark the 50th Anniversary of our Church's witness in England & Wales. This event will be celebrated jointly with the National Convention being held in Brighton on the 24th-27th July, with the theme 'Celebrating our Past, Charting our Future'.

Our founding Father and First Overseer, the Honourable Dr. O. A. Lyesight and his dear wife Rose, who are now living in 'Active' retirement in Sedgley, West Midlands will, by God's grace be sharing this momentous occasion with us. This event will be blessed with special guests from home and abroad including returning Ministers and members. It is an occasion not to be missed. All delegates must not only register, but also make their own hotel reservation from now.

Financing the event will depend on each congregation playing its full part. Information is being sent under separate cover to each church.

The recently highly publicised involvement of the Charity Commission in the work of some of our well known churches, give added impetus to us in our pursuit for proper management at the local and national levels. As Stewards, we are not only responsible, we are accountable. Don't miss this Seminar.

Mrs. Brown and I will be away in Jamaica from January 27 to February 10, 2003. Rev. Dr. Issachar Lewinson, Senior Executive Council Member, will be responsible in my absence.

AND FINALLY... The 'Big Move'

At my induction and subsequently at the Ministers Conference, I announced some concepts that will be developed to drive our church work over the next four years. The task as I see it is to:

BUILDING COMMITTED CONFIDENT
LEADERS

INFORMING AND IMPACTING OUR YOUTH

GROWING HEALTHY CHURCHES

MOBILISING THE CHURCH FOR MINISTRY
& MISSIONS

OFFERING HOPE TO OUR
COMMUNITIES

VALUING OUR WOMEN AND OUR MEN

EVANGELISING EXTENSIVELY

We have entitled this the '**BIG MOVE**'. It is born out of the belief that our church has done good in the past and has a lot more to do, but must change in order to maintain its relevance and credibility.

I invite you as Leaders to support the 'BIG MOVE'.

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