

How Jamaica Bible Seminary is: “Making a Difference on the Island of Jamaica”



Jamaica Bible Seminary is building a new generation of Christian leaders that can lead Jamaican Churches into the 21st century. The agents of this change will be the 93 students that have attended Jamaica Bible Seminary.

I. TRAINING MEN FOR MINISTRY

With this sense of purpose Jamaica Bible Seminary is endeavoring to give Jamaican leadership the tools and training to serve over 50 current congregations and build New Testament Churches and Basic Schools throughout the island of Jamaica

and into the Caribbean, the United States and beyond the Atlantic to Great Britain itself. The students are some of the best within the country... a beacon of hope for the region.

From its early beginnings in 1945, Jamaica Bible Seminary was established by Luke D. Elliott to provide leadership for the growing number of churches only to see the hurricane of 1951 destroy most of the church buildings and this was topped off with a mass exodus of many Jamaicans moving to England to rebuild that country after the war.

Donald Fream, Jim Herget and Woodrow Phillips from Ozark Bible College, were joined by a Jamaican national A.M.. Hepburn and conducted classes actively from 1950-1959. There were over 31 students trained. The property was given over to Jamaica Christian Mission to run a Christian Day School under the direction of Harold and Adele Hill. The Bible Seminary was in a hiatus until August 8, 1994.

Dr. Danny R. Gabbard then reopened formal Christian Training under the eldership of the First Christian Church in Cocoa, Fl under the name of Jamaica Christian College. A few years later it reverted back to it's original name of Jamaica Bible Seminary, LTD, due to another college registering the former name. We are currently registered and incorporated according to the laws of Jamaica and the laws of Florida.

Four one week seminars in February, May, August and November, 30 hours in length, will be conducted over 5 years to complete the course. This enables local leaders to attend to their family and church responsibilities and still continue their education in the Word of God

There has been a total of 32 different students that have received training from 12 instructors. On March 10, 1998, Dr. Richard J. Geringswald was confirmed as President by Dewey Garner of the American Advisory Board of Jamaica Christian Mission. The College is now under its own Board of Trustees.

Today there have been over 43 teachers from Christian Churches and Churches of Christ, half of whom hold Master's to Doctorate Degrees. Thirteen additional graduates are now serving 15 Churches in Jamaica and England. Currently 93 students have attended the College and Seminary with more than 24 degrees, certificates or diplomas granted.

II. SEMINARS AND SATELLITE SCHOOLS

Often the teachers of JBS will visit student and area churches to give Saturday seminars on timely topics such as: Sabbath or Sunday, Is One baptized in the name of Jesus Only?, the Christian Home, Hebrews, Fasting, and Revelation. Other graduates have begun local leadership training and Bible classes. This affords us an opportunity to encourage the brightest and best to take advantage of the Kingston classes. Extension programs have been conducted in Gayle, Mineral Heights, Mandeville, Top Hill, and the newest location is Savanna-la-Mar with the Terry Johnson family.



III. PROVIDING BOOKS, MATERIALS, AND TOOLS FOR THE ISLAND CHURCHES RATHER THAN FOR PERSONAL SALARY



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What used to be 70# of side luggage with Sunday School material and Bibles on the airplane has expanded to 800#'s of barrels of song books, donated retired preacher and church library references, King James Bibles, Beka Book Materials for the Basic schools, communion glasses or sets, computers, sewing machines and even sling shots with cat-eye marbles for killing birds to add a little meat to the supper table. Also, larger shipments of passenger and back hoes have come loaded in 26,000# freight containers.

In cooperation with Caribbean Construction, our goal is to build 10 new churches on the island of Jamaica while also helping the existing churches. Mineral Heights, Llundasville and Macca Tree are the beginnings of reaching these goals.

IV. WHAT THE COLORS OF THE JAMAICAN FLAG MEAN

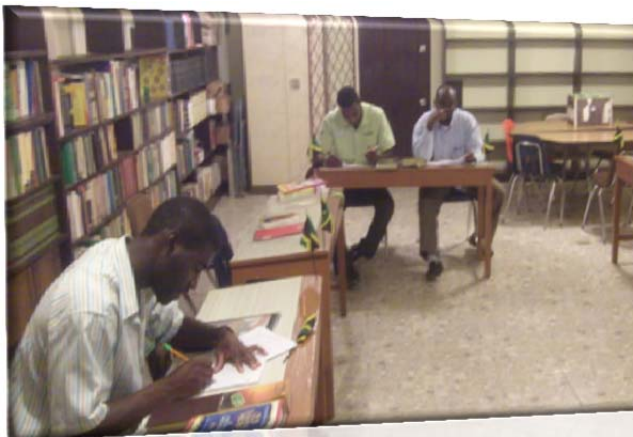
The Jamaican flag is a tri-colored banner in green, yellow and black. The green is for the lush verdant country and the abundance of growing things. The yellow is for the golden sunshine that warms the land. The black is for the many hardships that the country has endured with patience and courage of faith.



V. HUNGRY FOR THE WORD

It is not unusual to have power outages on the island and the students getting up at 2 a.m. in the morning when the lights come back on to prepare for the morrow's lessons. It is not unusual for a student to travel 4 hours across the island to study God's Word. It is not unusual for a 6 hour Bible class on a typical day to expand to 7 hours because of student interest.

VI. A UNIFYING FORCE



The 42 teachers and instructors who raise their own support to come to the island come from varying backgrounds including Independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, the Ottumwa- Portland Fellowship Churches of Christ, and some acapella Churches of Christ. They have all united in common cause to train men for ministry and women to teach in the Christian Schools. Also, from stateside over 30 other churches, mission groups, Bible Colleges, and benevolent organizations have united in sending Bibles, books, chairs, tents, desks, cricket and sports

equipment, work teams, medical doctors, nurses, teacher trainers, and teachers. And the students come from approximately 30 Churches of Christ/Christian Churches on the island. These fellowship groups include Jamaica Evangelism, Jamaica Christian Mission, Church of Christ, Incorporated and several other Restoration Movement Churches and Missions. This cooperative spirit has spread to the island churches, and previously divided leadership has now publicly joined hands and hearts and efforts to cooperate in building the kingdom of God in Jamaica. Rallies that in the past have numbered 900 attendance have gone to 1500 and preacher retreats that once averaged 30-35 now will number 50-70. Camp efforts for reaching youth have embraced unity and have become more effective. Local Jamaican churches are beginning, as a mission of their own, to support not only their own preachers but, also, new church planting efforts and even scholarships for the Jamaican men in training.

VII. THE IMPACT OF THESE SUCCESSES

Once, many local churches simply sang some songs, read some Scripture, made some comments, said a few “Amens”, and went home. Many were blown about by every wind of doctrine. Today there is better quality and depth to the preaching. Scripture and solid doctrine has brought conviction and a stability to the local churches. The churches in which the students labor are 10 years ahead of other churches in developing a local leadership of elders and deacons, while challenging the young men in their ranks to preach the Gospel!



Before Jamaica Bible Seminary Mineral Heights had been one of the newest churches on the island and it is over 10 years old. Since the start of the Seminary 6 new churches are being built all over the island of Jamaica and students are involved in many of them.

Some of these buildings will hold from 300 to 1500 people. One of the oldest church buildings among the Churches of Christ in Mocho was recently renovated by Jamaica Christian Mission and reopened by one of the college students.

A new scholarship fund by the Harold Hill family is now granting a year of education to a worthy camper from Constant Springs Camp.

Because over half the JAMAICA BIBLE SEMINARY staff have Master's Degrees and Doctorates, our student's transcripts have easily transferred to accredited colleges in the states. Seven of the staff are administrators or presidents of their own Bible Colleges. Some of the top minds in the brotherhood have taught their best subjects to anxious willing students.

The graduates are practicing II Tim. 2:2, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." Several of the men are running organized 2 hour nightly classes in their local churches to train men and women in ministry.

The student body has also become a resource for leadership in more and more churches--Preaching the Word faithfully!



FINANCIAL & PRAYER NEEDS.

Even if materials and textbooks were available on the island, which they aren't, they would not have the money to pay. It has been our goal to get quality books, videos, films, Sunday School, Basic School, and computer soft

ware into the hands of the church leaders.

The island is very poor. Peanut butter is \$6 a jar. Gasoline is \$3 a gallon. The average Jamaican worker earns \$50 a week. A gift of \$50 a month covers materials and a hot meals for one child in a Basic Christian School. A gift of \$25 per month will support one college student one year in the college. \$300 will provide a barrel of 100 King James Bibles for many church's evangelism needs. \$500 will sponsor one student intern to work in your church for two weeks. \$800 will underwrite one professor or teacher to teach for 30 hours of classes and give needed books and materials to each student enrolled. A gift of \$500 monthly will support one preacher.

We need your help for your College in the Caribbean!

If you would like to donate to Jamaica Bible Seminary send your gift to:



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