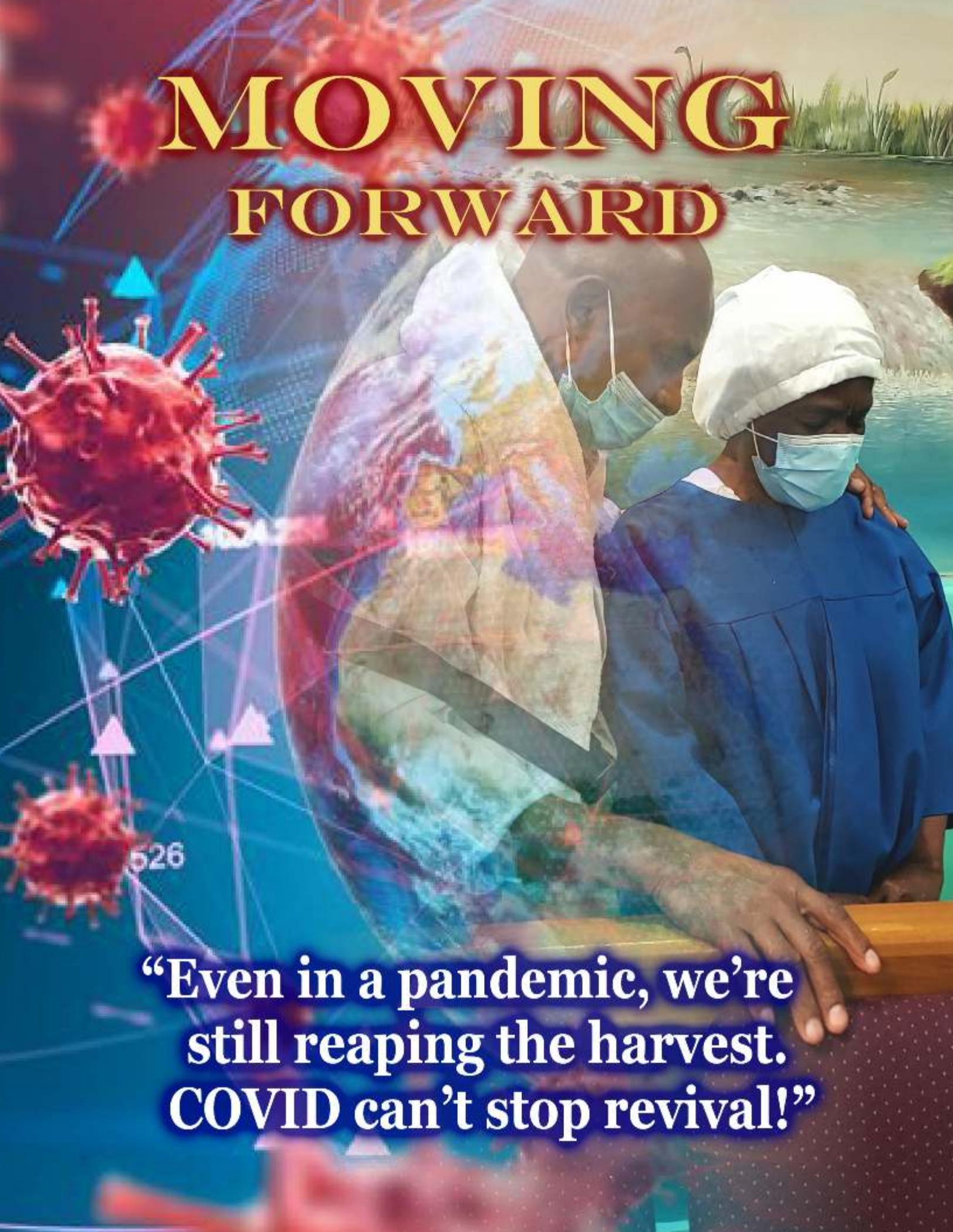


# MOVING FORWARD



**Annual Ministry Report 2020**  
**ONENESS REHOBOTH APOSTOLIC CHURCH Inc.**

# MOVING FORWARD



**“Even in a pandemic, we’re still reaping the harvest. COVID can’t stop revival!”**



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# PASTORAL REPORT



**T**o the church Board of Directors, Ministers, and the entire family of the Oneness Rehoboth Apostolic Church, greetings in the exalted name of Jesus, our Lord. When people honor each other, there is a trust established that leads to synergy, interdependence and deep respect. Both parties make decisions based on what is right, what is best, and what is valued most highly. (Blaine Lee)

It is with that in mind that, I in the capacity as Pastor of this great institution called the Oneness Rehoboth Apostolic Church, salute and honor the men and women who serve on the Church Board who have done a phenomenal job on behalf of our ministry and church.

Additionally, to all the faithful men and women who served so dutifully in your respective offices over the past year in spite of all the upheavals in our country and community and indeed the world. You have valiantly demonstrated your commitment to the cause and have assisted in creating an environment of which we are all very proud.

To all the saints of God, who have been extremely supportive during this time of exceeding struggles; I say thank you for staying the course and for supporting the ministry throughout the present ordeal. May the Lord Jesus reward you for your faithfulness. Without you the Oneness Family would never be what it is.

Certainly, it is indeed an honor for me and my family to be given the opportunity to serve this great church. I admit that the challenge of leading God's people is not a light matter, but the Lord has always made a way whenever it seems we need it the most.

The year 2020 was an eventful year to say the least. We had no idea that the turn of events would be so dramatic and catastrophic, we had so many plans for our ministry advancement and Kingdom building but everything was suddenly put on hold.

The Coronavirus took an international toll on the world; the entire economy of the world came to a halt, people were dying out of control, governments were helpless, the medical community did not know how to respond and seemingly all hands were up in the air in frustration. Until to date, there is still a high level of uncertainty nationwide.

However, through it all the Lord has been faithful to us and has kept our families and church together. In the process we have lost a few of our dearly beloved brethren, namely Sister Jones, Brother Nigel Reid, Sister Scott, Sister Robinson, Sister Sawyers, Sister Grant and Sister Fields. Their precious memories linger on with us and they have gone on to their eternal reward.

On March 22nd, we had our last in person regular Sunday service before the shut down, but with the support of Minister Bertram, Minister Bailey, Bro. Marsh, Deacon Robinson, and Brother Robert Bourne we were able to continue to minister to the church body without much interruption. We did so by way of Bible



Studies on Wednesday evenings via live streaming, Youth ministry via the Zoom platform and prayer meetings by online conference lines during this period.

With the help of a long list of saints which constitutes our Task Force, headed by Sister Loren Bartley, we were able to start limited in person worship on June 21st and that is still ongoing. Since inception, they have worked tirelessly to ensure all of us are safe in our effort to come together for public worship, and to date God's favor has kept us with no one adversely affected in this effort.

Now we stand on the threshold of the year 2021 with all its uncertainties and we have no crystal ball to predict the future, yet we firmly stand upon the promises of God that he will see us through. Therefore, we are moving forward and do have some definite goals for this year.

The current climate has opened the hearts of many new people to receive our witness. Therefore, I am encouraging everyone to become engaged in Kingdom building. If we become detached and disengaged, we will find ourselves becoming spiritually lukewarm.

(3) As much as we are able to, we will work to bring as many of our brethren together for fellowship and spiritual renewal, which is vitally important to the strength, health and spiritual wellbeing of the body of Christ.

Other areas of concerns will be addressed as the Lord grants us wisdom and insight for each occasion. Again, I would like to thank everyone for your support in prayer and words of encouragement as we strive together for the overall good of the Kingdom.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Pastor A. Thomas*



(1) To move forward as expeditiously as possible with our building project. Last year we were hindered somewhat due to the closure of the Building Department at City Hall, but we were able to get a limited amount of work done as they granted us the permit to have the roofs repaired. Now we are waiting for the general permit in order to start the interior construction. Please continue to pray with us as we trust the Lord to supply the necessary resources to finish the project.

(2) In spite of the limitations we face, our intention is to grow our ministry through consistent Prayer and Fasting, Home Bible Studies, and personal witness.



Rev. Eli Hernandez at Holy Ghost Rally Feb-Mar, 2020



# Pillar of The Church Awardee 2020

Missionary Daphne M. Lawrence



*“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”  
Ephesians 4:11 & 12.*

It is a fact that the Ministry here at The Oneness Rehoboth Apostolic Church has been truly blessed to have among its finest, individuals who have been gifted in all the aforementioned areas. Tonight, we are delighted to honor one such individual - a heroine of faith, a woman of God one who has not been easily marred or broken. Like a fortress, she has stood solid, earnest, unmovable, unshakable, resolute, resilient and firmly committed to safeguarding the truth of God’s Word. She epitomizes the theme of the verse found in Romans 1:16, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation”*. Not only does she live her life to replicate this great truth, but has dedicated her God-given talents and abilities to the sharing of this truth and more so, to the nurturing of the newborn babes as they are born into the Kingdom of God here at ORAC. It is on this premise that we present to Lady Daphne Lawrence- *“The Pillar Of The Church Award 2020”*

Her passion for the doctrine is evident in her teaching. She is a stalwart that is unflinching, and a great defender of the faith once delivered unto the church. Lady Lawrence defies the odds and reminds us of Phoebe in the Bible who was a great help to the Apostle Paul. Like Phoebe, she wears the badge of kindness and has been like a spiritual “Big Sister” and great support to our Bishop. She has been fundamental to the growth of the New Converts Ministry at ORAC as she continues to pour herself into the nurturing of new members. Many of those that she fed with the sincere milk of the Word are now vibrant members of the Ministry. She is highly regarded among all brethren and has been described as the mother bird that brings food to her nestlings who eagerly await the nourishment.

Her devotion is an inspiration to many. There are numerous persons who preach sermons from the pulpit but Sis. Lawrence preaches from her chair. Her lifestyle is a testament of God’s faithfulness and her true devotion to Him. She has been a consistent force at every church service, before the COVID-19 pandemic, at prayer meetings, Bible studies, Sunday services or Board or Members Meetings.

She has been a faithful member of the Prayer Team that meets every morning at 5AM. It is not unusual to hear her groaning in the spirit and interceding with many tears. Whenever she is called upon to encourage the brethren or to leave a word of exhortation, you can be sure that she will give a word in due season that will impact every hearer.

Lady Lawrence symbolizes the Apostolic flag bearer, the standard bearer, the soldier that walks before the tomb of the unknown soldier. Ever present, through all weathers, and seasons. As a rock that resists against the storm, wet yet it stands, wind thrown yet it stands.

Her scholastic achievements include being among the first graduating class of The Oneness Apostolic Bible Institute.

Lady Lawrence is mother to two remarkable young ladies Geraldine (Joy) and Elesia (Hopie) both of whom are dedicated members of this assembly. She also has a grandson, Dominique. Revelation 3:12 tells us that *“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God....”* Sis. Lawrence has weathered many storms but still stands firm, a pillar indeed.





# CHURCH BOARD



Seated (*left to right*): Pastor A. Thomas, Glasmin Brown, Daphne Lawrence  
Standing (*left to right*): Leon Bertram, Kenneth Henry, Paul Bailey, Michael Thomas

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;  
For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:  
Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man,  
unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ  
Ephesians 4:11-13 (KJV)



# DEACON BOARD



**Ralston Brown**



**Steve Carty**



**Patrick Drummond**



**Albert Chambers**



**Jethro Livermore**



**Douglas Matthews**



**Dermoth Mattison**



**Desmond Ormsby**



**Richard Robinson**



**Caulter Spaulding**

The year in review will go down as one of the most traumatic year in the modern era. Every area of life was affected by the prevailing pandemic: religious, social, financial, educational etc. as many lost their jobs, lost love ones and even lost their health and in some cases their lives. The final toll from the Covid-19 will be mind blowing and catastrophic. One cannot help but be reminded of the end-times prophecies noted in the Word of the Lord: Pestilences in diverse places, famines and even great loss of life.

In the midst of this fear plagued times, our ministry reports highlighted several note worthy facts that must not be missed: God is still saving people, He is still keeping those who trust in Him, He gives peace even in the midst of storm and finally, His people who trust in Him will always be inspired by the Holy Spirit to come up with ways to keep moving forward.

Like the Children of Israel at the Red Sea, God's message to His church in these trying times is to keep moving forward. It's not time to sit and wait for a more opportune time, we must press forward against the fear and intimidation, against the unfamiliar, against the contrary winds and against all opposition.

Let us obey the Lord's command and move forward.



*Paul Bailey*

# MINISTRY REPORTS





*Glasmin Brown*

# Family Life Division



# Men's Ministry



The Men's Ministry led prayer on the first Saturday in the months of February and March. The theme for the year was "Intentional Outreach". Our goals for the year were to grow numerically through intentional outreach efforts and to strengthen our bond as a group by making intentional efforts to establish meaningful relationships with each other and new brothers in our congregation.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to organize several sessions on Saturdays on the Zoom platform. The sessions focused on health, finances, and

relationships. One of our most impactful sessions was a discussion about race relations in the United States. During the session, our brothers were given the opportunity to share their thoughts surrounding the incident involving an African American male and the police. Our Pastor and Assistant Pastor also addressed the issue.

In the month of June, we held a special Father's Day service. The tributes were a true blessing to our men. Our pastor ministered the word. The highlight of the year was our Men's Conference which took place on October 10th under the theme "Stand". Our guest speaker was Dr. Nyarko.

Throughout the year, we reached out to the men on our contact list. We appointed fourteen cell group leaders to contact our men. Each leader was assigned six to eight men. They shared reports on a weekly basis.





In 2020 the Ladies Ministry aimed to provide opportunities for growth and to engage our ladies in intentionally building relationships and in fostering spiritual growth.

The ladies' leadership team connected with ladies via text messages and telephone calls to encourage and strengthen them. The ladies' mentorship (big sister) ministry was organized by placing ladies in groups based on their month of birth. A mentors commissioning meeting was held on Friday, April 3, 2020 at which time our divisional director, Minister Glasmin Brown, commended the ladies and expressed appreciation on behalf of Bishop Arthur Thomas for accepting mentorship responsibility.

Mother's Day service was live streamed from the sanctuary on May 10th with only 10 persons allowed in the building. Sister Shirley Palmer, our Ladies Ministry Director, gave her address. She highlighted the challenges that all the families were encountering during this COVID-19 crisis. Her encouragement to us was to take comfort in the words of the Psalmist David, "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (Psalms 23:4). Despite the setback experienced, women are known to be resilient, as long as the Lord, our good shepherd, is with us, we will smile again. Jesus is the light through these challenging times.

Our first ladies meeting, on the Zoom platform, was held on June 6, 2020. There was great joy in being able to connect live, though remotely. Many of the ladies shared their experiences as they lived daily through this COVID-19 crisis. The assistant director, sister Ivreen Robinson, inspired us from the word of God, to hold fast to the confidence we have in our Savior. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deut. 31:6 NIV).

The twenty-first annual Health and Education Fair was cancelled due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Similarly, The Pantry Ministry and nursery remained closed during the year, in order to adhere to the COVID-19 regulations.

August 22, 2020 was the second Zoom Conference, moderated by sister Shelly Buckle, under the theme, "Kingdom Women Trusting God." A special highlight of this conference was sister Paulette Sylvester's testimony of her recovery from a stroke and how the Lord raised her from the bed of affliction and depression. She expressed gratitude for the many prayers of the saints and sister Daphne Drummond who came and ministered to her in the hospital.

The main speakers for this event were sisters Shirley Palmer, Ivreen Robinson, and Miriam Edwards. The focus was on identity and the responsibility we have as kingdom citizens to wear the image of our King (Jesus Christ) in every area of our lives. As kingdom women, Jesus gives us power over circumstances, in this life and in the life to come. Therefore, our identity is secure in Christ.





The Agape Ministry entered 2020 with great excitement to implement our intentionally focused plan on the preservation of marriages, knowing that it would result in a stronger family unit, church,

community and nation. As the restrictions of COVID-19 became an evident way of life, we quickly adapted to making phone calls to our ministry members to ensure that they were staying well during this time of crisis. We are especially thankful for our volunteers who so generously gave of their time to make wellness calls to ministry members.

Another adjustment 2020 sent was the way we held meetings. The Zoom meeting platform became a reality. Thankfully, we were able to conduct three meetings within this environment. Our first meeting was held on May 2nd. The focus was to get to know how our couples were coping with the quarantine. We had three professionals in attendance who gave tips/suggestions on how to enhance our relationships through this crisis. The meeting was well attended with over 35 couples in attendance.

Our very first Virtual Agape Retreat sessions were held on August 13 -14th on the Zoom platform, followed by a socially distanced picnic on August 15th at the scenic Croton Point Park on the Hudson River. The theme for our retreat was, "Intimacy or Isolation". The Agape leaders thought it necessary to equip our couples with the tools needed for those who might be facing isolation as a result of the effects of the quarantine on their marriages. We were honored to have Bishop Derek Pierson as our Guest Speaker who gave four presentations pertaining to our theme. The Zoom sessions were well attended with over 50 couples each night, including guest couples from other states. Twenty-four couples attended the socially distanced picnic. Couples who attended the Thursday night session were gifted with a copy of Dr. Pierson's latest book, "I Give You My Heart, I Give You My Love - Principles to Strengthen Your Marriage."

Our final meeting for 2020 was held on November 7th. Couples shared what they have fallen into in Fall 2020 and discussed the terms "to have and to hold" and for "better or for worse." Our couples left the meeting empowered to hold more closely and love more deeply in the good times as well as the not so good times.

We beamed with joy when two young couples said, "I do", "I'll have, I'll hold from this day forward and forever" during a pandemic year! We welcome to our ministry body, Mr. and Mrs. Jovann White (Jovann and Camille), as well as Mr. and Mrs. Marcos Robinson (Marcos and Denise). We also welcomed Agape 2020 babies from the Heslop's and the Lynch's.

While 2020 was indeed challenging as we maneuvered cell groups to keep in touch with our membership body of 80 couples, we are happy to report that the Agape body still stands strong and resolute to keep moving forward. We wait with great expectation, the endless possibilities of 2021 and like Habakkuk we say, despite all the hurdles of 2020; "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." (Habakkuk 3:18)

# AGAPE





## Food Service

The Food Ministry normally provides orderly distribution of food during special events/services when requested, maintains a standard in the event the kitchen is needed for an event and provides food once a month to the community. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic caused by the novel COVID-19 virus, the normal and planned operations were canceled. We pray the pandemic will end and we will be able to resume services.



**R**esilience Ministry aims to support, encourage, enlighten and empower Singles to grow and develop to a state of wholeness and well-being in Jesus while meetings were held in the second half of the year via the zoom platform. During these meetings, discussions focused on “Matters of the Heart”. Calls were made to Singles during the on going pandemic.



## Senior Care Ministry

**T**he Senior Care Ministry began 2020 with great plans for the year, but, unfortunately, the impacts of the pandemic, COVID-19, prevented us! Our goals included exploration and other adventure trips, educational awareness activities, seminars, and luncheons. The promising re-gathering of the Seniors event, planned for September 26, 2020, was canceled due to unfavorable weather conditions and the season change to Winter. Our outreach efforts were effective! They included weekly and bi-weekly meetings to ensure and facilitate the togetherness of the saints. These meetings were productive and connections were achieved by extensive use of the telephone to make numerous calls. The group leaders, amid telephone accessibility issues at times, reached out weekly and encouraged our Seniors from the word of God that brings hope in the Lord. We are unable to make any projections or plans at this time; but it is our prayer that the Pandemic will cease and the perfect will of God be clear.

**T**he Care Ministry assist the leadership of ORAC by visiting and praying with members who are sick and shut-in and administer the Lord’s Supper when needed. Just before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic we visited and serve Lord’s Supper to Sister Grant at her home on February 19th.



## Care Ministry

# Weddings



*Mr. & Mrs. Jovann White*

Est. May 16, 2020



*Mr. & Mrs. Marcos Robinson*

Est. September 11, 2020

# Baby Dedications



*Baby Caytelin Lynch*



*Baby Nehemiah Heslop*



Virtual Children's Choir  
Sunday School Pageant



Candace Spencer

Great Sunday Schools:  
Build Great Churches.

Christian  
Education





Leadership Team

# Sunday School



During the month of consecration prayer sessions were by led by Sis. Sheryl Harris, Sis. Jennifer Powell, and others to teach the children how to pray strategically. Our children learned the benefits of putting on the whole armor of God at the Children Church's event on March 8th; Sis. Andrea Thomas assisted with incorporating some moves to the song 'This is the Armour of our Lord'. At our Sunday School (SS) teachers' meeting on March 14th, Sis. Nyarko expounded on the topic 'Passion' and encouraged the teachers to teach with compassion.

After the nation and the world went into lockdown mode, the Sunday School team had to rethink various ways to reach our children who were no longer able to attend Sunday School at our church location. On Saturday, March 20, 2020, over 30 families, including guests, joined us online for prayer @ 2:30 p.m. This was spearheaded by Sis. Sheryl Harris who reminded the children their prayers are powerful, so they should not fear what is happening around us. Joash Salmon, Lesroy Byrde, Abigail Hall, Ariel Cole, Karl Robb, Chaz Cole, and Jonathan Harris prayed earnestly for various issues. Philip Salmon read Joel 2:15-32. It was such a powerful event that we met again the following week on March 27, 2020.



## DAMASCUS TO ARABIA

- PAUL WANTED TO SEEK GOD'S WILL FOR HIS LIFE.
- HE TRAVELLED FROM DAMASCUS TO ARABIA
- HE SPENT 3 YEARS IN ARABIA (GAL 1:17)
- HE STUDIED GODS' WORDS AND PRAYED WITHOUT CEASING.
- HE SPENT TIME ALONE WITH JESUS AND PAUL WAS TAUGHT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT



Through prayer, the leading of the Lord, a desire to reach our children and God's faithfulness, the SS team held the launch of Virtual SS via the Zoom platform on March 29, 2020. Sis. Melissa Hall led the charge under the topic entitled 'I Will Not Fear'. It was a new way of teaching for us all, but our teachers embraced the idea with great anticipation. Some of the families that participated in the event expressed gratitude for the continuation of SS. Our children were eager to join their Zoom sessions which officially began on Sunday April 5, 2020 with few classes combined to ensure all classes had ample teacher support.

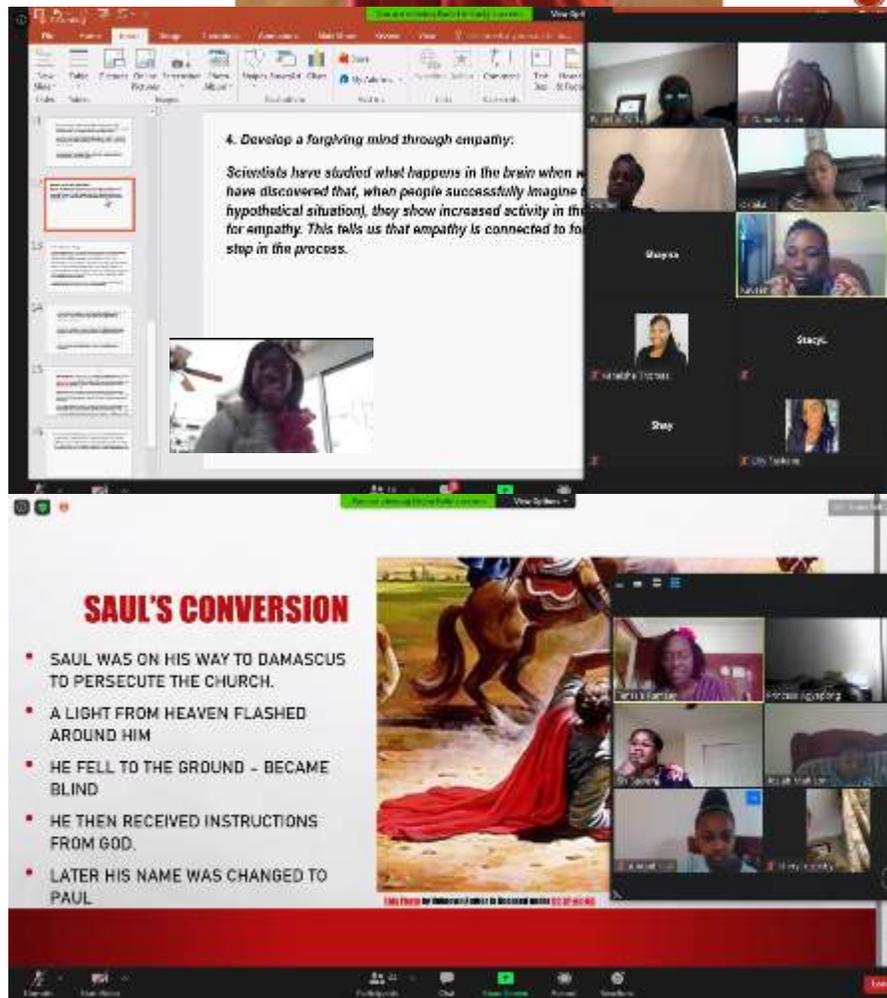
Our quizzers competed in Delaware in February 2020 where the Beginners team won 1st place out of 9 teams and Juniors placed 3rd out of 13 teams. All praise and honor to our Lord and Saviour. We are grateful for dedicated and effective leaders in ministry like our Bible Quiz (BQ) coaches; they strategized and held practices via Zoom every Sunday evening during the pandemic.

In May, quizzers participated in the 1st ever National Virtual BQ Tournament where Isaiah Smith, Jemia Mattison, Josiah Mattison, and Lamar Lawrence did a phenomenal job. They tied with another team in the 7th place out of 24 teams. Jemia Mattison and Ionie Smith were inducted into the North American Junior BQ Hall of Fame. Congratulations to the quizzers, their families, and the countless others who have supported them financially and spiritually. To God be the Glory!

ORAC participated in the 1st Virtual District Camp on August 5, 2020 despite the challenges faced after hurricane Isaias. Some of our teachers assisted with teaching Junior Camp sessions as well as participated in the Youth sessions.

In August, we had the launch of our 1st SS magazine, 'Glow Times', spearheaded by Sis. Sheryl Harris. This editorial highlighted our teachers and students in action during the Zoom sessions. Also showcased was a few of our children who elaborated on their new way of learning about Jesus. They expressed gratitude that they were still able to see each other despite

## SAMANTHA POSES & SAYS THANK YOU



the current situation. Jemia Mattison, expounded on the topic 'The Rapture' and emphasized the importance of living a holy life and the need for us to be ready for Christ's return.

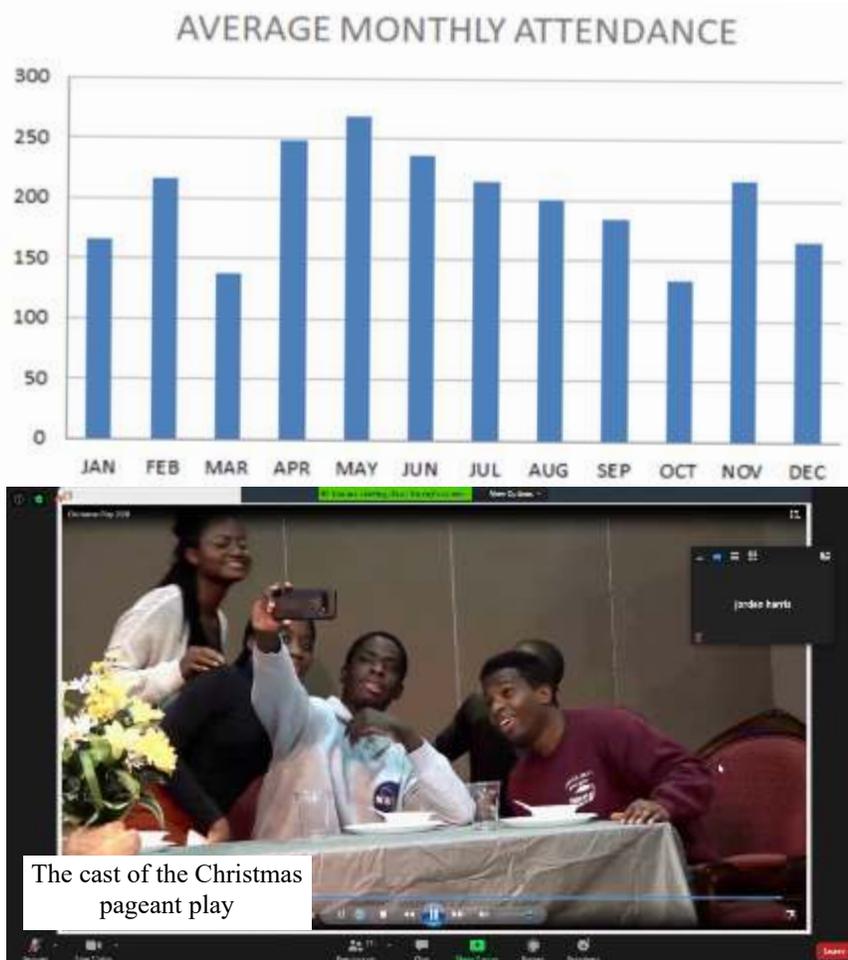
On Friday, September 4, 2020, over 100 attendees logged in to the Back-to-School Zoom service where families were earnestly prayed for in preparation for the unprecedented new school year.

During the teachers' meeting on Saturday, September 19, 2020, where 23 were in attendance, many expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to minister to the children in the adapted approach. After brain-storming various ways to keep the children from being zoomed-out, many ideas were created to ensure our children remain connected.

Our amazing Toddler/Kindergarten teachers distributed care packages to all their students as a 'Thank you' for consistent attendance. They ensured the children knew just how special they are. The children were elated to receive their goodies which were personally delivered to homes or distributed at the church location.

On Sunday, December 20, 2020, we held our 1st ever Virtual SS pageant under the theme 'A Thanksgiving Christmas' where about 300 tuned in. The event was of epic proportions and included a virtual choir (now seen on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XnLip0sRd4>), musical selections, poems, a skit produced by Rodane Robinson et al and an exhortation to remain faithful from Bro. Jermaine Matthews.

We are eternally grateful to God for seeing us through. As we continue to trust Him more and more, our goals for 1st quarter 2021 are: the SS transitions and the planning and the execution of virtual SS prayer sessions during the month of consecration.



# New Converts Care



The three main goals planned for 2020 were: - (a) to achieve a weekly average Discipleship class attendance of 25; (b) to retain a minimum of 75% of baptized new converts; and (c) to provide opportunities to assimilate them in the ORAC family, incorporating the participation of other ministries in the follow-up process. .

For the year in review 32 persons had conversion experiences as outlined below:

SALVATION EXPERIENCES	2020 QUARTERLY DISTRIBUTION OF THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS				NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS FOR JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2020
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	
Baptized Only	2	2	3	4	11
Baptized & Filled	2	1	2	0	5
Filled Only	12	0	0	1	13
Restored	3	0	0	0	3
<b>TOTAL # OF INDIVIDUALS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>32</b>

Four of the converts who were baptized during the pandemic have been consistently attending services and the Discipleship class. Their curiosity and hunger for the word of God depict growth. Students in both levels have been quite consistent and receptive. We are giving God thanks that although we could not meet physically we met online.

There was one greeting session with Pastor Thomas and the Level I Discipleship class during the pandemic. The converts were quite appreciative of him taking the time out on a Sunday afternoon to greet them. A virtual discipleship fellowship is proposed for the end of the first quarter in 2021.

Sister Felicia Douglas, one of our Level 2 converts, has been active in the Music Ministry since the pandemic. She is truly a blessing and we give God thanks.

## Average Weekly Class Attendance 2020

1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter
10	20	16	14

We continue to reach out to those who have not been diligently attending the Discipleship class. There are plans to resume sending birthday cards to all our converts in 2021.

Thanks to our Pastor Arthur Thomas, who initiated this ministry, for his constant support and to all our teachers and workers for all the encouragement, prayers, love and continued support for the ministry.

Need prayer, baptism  
counseling?

CALL our 24 Hour  
MINISTRY HOTLINE

☎ 914 297 8785



*Dean Harvey*

“Surviving COVID19”

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic upended life and disrupted our physical gathering in 2020. But through it all, the Church Division was able to adapt and evolve to continue our operations without skipping a beat.

With God’s leading and with the aid of technology, ministry continued even after our last in-person service, on March 22, before the statewide shutdown restricting all physical gatherings.

# Church Division

# Prayer Ministry



2020 began with our Month of Consecration aided by the 9th volume of our Family Devotional entitled "Spiritual Warfare – Positioned For Victory," culminating in a powerful Prayer Summit with guest speaker, Dr. Colin Cawley. Our Bishop said he was urged by the Spirit to continue prayer for at least another month. Well, now we understand why.

On March 28, we had our first online Saturday morning Prayer Meeting via Freeconferenceusa.com.

There were about 120 in attendance and it was a blessing.

Since Monday, March 30, there are Prayer Meetings three times daily, Monday to Friday, and once on Saturdays at 7:30 am. Since then, in any given week, approximately 820 calls are linked to the participants who share in our prayer meetings (many from other states and even international callers). In addition, the in-person Saturday morning Prayer Meeting was re-introduced.

Saturday morning Prayer Meeting attendance has grown from the pre-COVID attendance of about 15 – 20 persons to over 100.

Throughout 2020, we had powerful times of intercession and worship with many testimonies of breakthrough and miracles. We highlight just two below:

(1) Sis. Urah Morris who met in a very serious accident during the month of November 2020 was delivered from death by God's mighty hand.

(2) Minister Eric Brooks who had a massive heart attack, was miraculously healed and has returned to his usual daily activities including driving himself.



Bishop Cawley ministering during Prayer Conference in January 2020





# Music Ministry

There was major re-organization of the Music Ministry, with plans in place to roll out new choir guidelines, auditioning of new members, mandatory rehearsals for music and workshops. An Easter Cantata was also planned, but had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Due to the social distancing restrictions, the last live choir ministered on March 15. However, the Music Ministry continued through organized Praise & Worship Teams (4 – 6 voices), pre-recorded videos of the choir, virtual choir videos produced by Min. Maureen Wilson and special soloists and the Men’s Chorale. After re-opening for in-person worship on June 21, our Praise & Worship Teams and musicians have been faithfully supporting the ministry of the Word each Sunday at 10:00 am and 1:00pm. Over the year, we have seen the addition of young musicians under the tutelage of Min. Wilson. Earlier in the year, several Vocal Technique training sessions were conducted via Zoom. The Music Ministry has plans to continue these vital training sessions to improve the quality of singing.



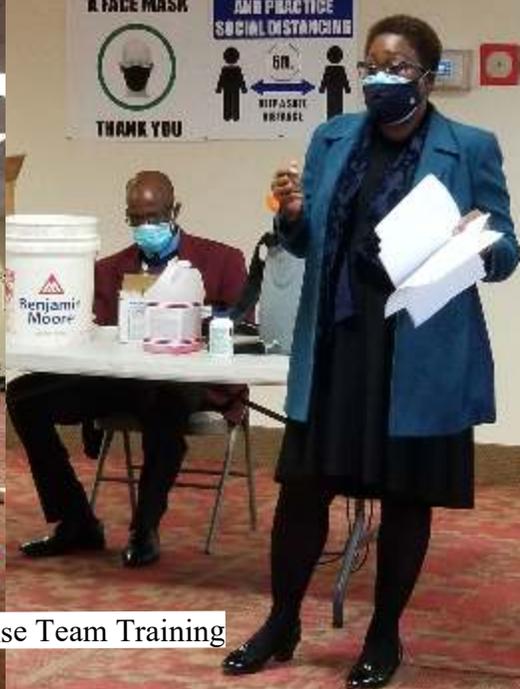
Courtesy Ministry Team

# Courtesy Ministry

Our Greeters, led by Sister Sharon Marsh along with Sister Viviene Henry, and Ushers supervised by Bro. Steve Carty, continued to offer hospitality and maintain order during our services. The supporting team served as a medium to welcome guests and

church members. Over the past year, 2020, we served many attendees. A team meeting was held on January 12, 2020 (pre COVID-19). During this meeting, we discussed the team being outfitted with a uniformed dress code. We had four (4) training meetings via Zoom during the month of June, which focused on ORAC’s procedures for return to in-person worship. We utilize a combination of WhatsApp, email and text messages to communicate with the team. Many of the Courtesy Ministry team members are now working closely with the COVID-19 Task Force under the leadership of Sis. Loren Bartley. All staff wore the appropriate personal protective equipment as they served attendees and followed the mandated guidelines. During the team planning session on Sunday, December 13, 2020, after the 2nd service, responsibilities and duties of greeters, ushers and screeners were further outlined and reinforced.

Bro. Meredith demonstrating the use of the Electrostatic sprayer



Throughout 2020 and especially during the height of the pandemic, the PR Ministry continued to maintain communication between church leadership, members and visitors via our website, Informational Briefs on Sundays, promotional videos, social media platforms and email blasts. Due to the Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines, printing of weekly bulletins and fliers were prohibited. The PR Ministry assisted the COVID-19 Task Force in setting up our Registration System to accommodate those registering for in-person worship. PR also facilitated enhancements to our live streaming by adding text overlays, and picture-in-picture insets along with promotional images to supplement announcements.

On September 27, at the request of our Bishop, Announcers were added to the PR Team to enhance our online presentation on Sundays. Announcers cover the following segments of the service: welcome and introduction, giving, the closing remarks and Informational Briefs. The Announcers are: Sis. Sheigla Smalling, Sis. Kay Bourne, Bro. Dejon Reid, Sis. Lisa Evans, Sis. Nicole Kirkland, Bro. Oliver Buckle, Bro. Hesketh Wade and Bro. Dean Harvey. A 24-Hour Ministry Hotline was also set up via Google Voice.

# Public Relations



# Technology & Media

Due to the COVID 19 outbreak, we had to reduce the number of personnel occupying the Sound Room at any one time. We currently have an average of two operators per service on Sundays and nine (9) workers on rotation.

We added Sis. Danielle Marsh, Sis. Dionne Robinson, Bro. Stephen Bartlett and Bro. Marc Palmer to the Media team, to replace 4 other workers who have decided not to return to the ministry. We added four (4) more wireless microphones to the audio system to accommodate the needs of the church services. Since the start of the pandemic, we have been live streaming our services.

We upgraded our video system from analog to digital and added a third HD video camera. We also upgraded our Youtube and Facebook online streaming video system to better facilitate a higher quality of streaming. We continue to stream all services :10:00 am and 1:00 pm on Sundays, Wednesday night Bible Study and some special Prayer meetings.

We also assisted in setting up Zoom platforms to facilitate meetings, Sunday School classes and special services like Pastor's Appreciation and our Sunday School Pageant.



# Stewardship

During the first quarter, much emphasis was placed on planning for the launch of our 18- month Capital Stewardship Campaign, "Together We Will – Vision 2020." A Campaign Leadership Team (CLT) was assembled, several meetings were held and most of the campaign promotional materials were prepared - the pre-launch brochure, Project Prayer cards, printed campaign magazines, campaign website and campaign video. The Vision Support Team was in training and the Campaign Calendar was finalized with the launch scheduled for March 15 and the Leadership Advance Commitment event for April 3. A contract, with a \$ 2000 deposit, was signed with Greentree Country Club for the latter event. However, because of the COVID-19 crisis, the events scheduled were cancelled.

Together We Will Vision 2020 is now on hold. The Church Board continues to assess the situation (the economy, impact on members, calendar events, etc.) to determine when we will launch the campaign. In the meantime, our Bishop asks that if God

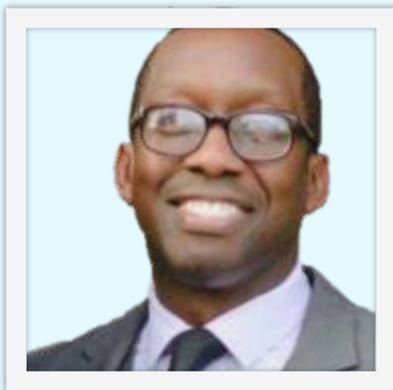
blesses us, we should not forget to support the Building Fund.

Even with the downturn in the economy, our people were faithful to the Ministry with their financial support. We promoted our "2 Main Ways to Give" each Sunday (online via [www.orac.church](http://www.orac.church) and using our mail drop). Giving envelopes were suitably packaged, and the congregation marched with their tithes/offerings each Sunday while maintaining social distancing.





# Youth Division



*Michael Thomas*

**C**rossHeirs, the Youth arm of ORAC, seeks to mobilize the young people of the church to fulfill God's purpose for their lives. Our mission is to: Honor Jesus with our lives, Equip the youth of ORAC to Impact others with the word of God, Reach the lost and help to Settle them in the body of Christ.

It is our aim that Jesus Christ be glorified in all that we say and do. To this end, our meetings are geared to be dynamic worship and praise experiences while allowing for warm fellowship. In these services, we are always impacted by the ministry and gifts of our peers as they are used by God for His glory. We are committed to the propagation of the Gospel of peace. To this lost, confused and dying world we present Jesus Christ: the way, the truth and the life. We seek to be faithful to the doctrine of the Apostles: repentance, water baptism in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins and the receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost evidenced by speaking in other languages as the Spirit gives the utterance (Acts 2).



# CrossHeirs

Prior to planning, the Youth committee sought God in prayer in order to determine the approach to be used to strengthen the youth group, ORAC CrossHeirs. The dual approach used included dynamic and exuberant youth services as well as supplemental study sessions to address topics like holiness, Christian liberties, marital preparedness and end time prophecies.

Intentionally and prayerfully designed youth services, prayer sessions and life groups facilitated the main goal, Spiritual Growth.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the youth quickly became innovative and adaptive and held the first virtual Friday night service via Zoom with close to 80 in attendance. Our young people were challenged to allow God to use them in His kingdom. There was significant growth in our young people during the initial months evidenced by the noticeable increase in their levels of participation and involvement in prayer, worship, life groups and ministry.

Numerical growth, another fundamental focus and goal, manifested primarily in the Summer months due to the strategic outreach services held outdoor in the parking lot. Many, including visitors, were blessed, prayed for, and moved to tears as they experienced the presence of the Lord. Average Youth Service Attendance was 50 and there were five visitors who joined our virtual sessions consistently and diligently; one of them intends to be baptized. Due to the global pandemic, there were no Wednesday night Youth Bible studies. The young people raised \$1425 towards our building project.

The CrossHeirs Youth Conference (CYC), during the Summer, included outdoor service as well as the first Youth Sunday of the year in the sanctuary! The powerful and restorative move and leading of God were present. The preaching of the word by Pastor Michael Thomas was timely; and the entire weekend of services was well attended and life-changing!



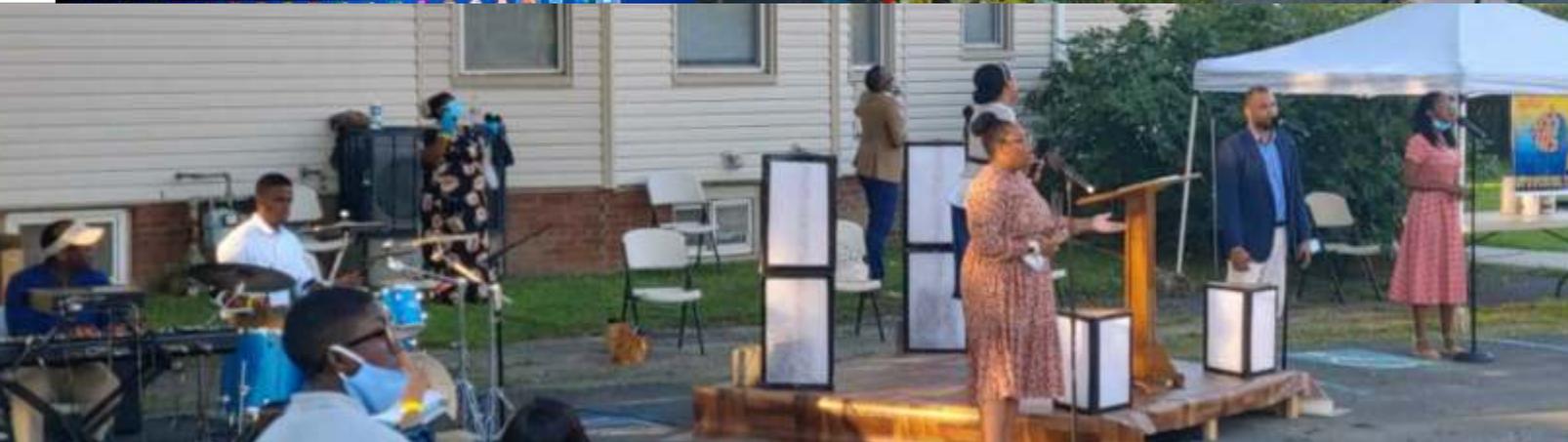
In July 2020, the Youth Ministry hosted a Friday evening celebration for our graduates via Zoom. The graduates were truly appreciative of the efforts displayed by their Youth Ministry. The celebrations continued Saturday with a drive-by where our graduates were showered with congratulations and love. This was truly a memorable weekend to begin our Summer!

We are excited for what God is doing in the lives of our young people. Even in the midst of a pandemic, young people were motivated to assume active roles in Youth ministry activities. To strengthen the evangelistic arm of the ministry for 2021, our youth will teach newly converted youth Bible studies. We charge our young people to continue to sound the alarm in these last and closing days!

Daughters of Zion (DOZ)- The DOZ ministry was able to keep in contact with the group members and their families. Happy to report that everyone is well. To God be the glory!

Omega Rho- No events took place for Omega Rho this year.

HYPHEN: The Hyphen ministry is still working to form a committee to lead this ministry. The group meets every other Thursday to develop relationships. We were privileged to have special speakers: Lady Margaret Banks-Butler, Bro and Sis. Bartlett, Pastor and First Lady Teena Thomas, and Pastor Daemon Nelson. The Hyphens of ORAC were poured into, not only spiritually but practically.





*Leon Bertram*

The mission of the Outreach Department is to develop, plan and implement effective evangelistic strategies and plans of action that will help to equip our members in reaching others and bringing them into relationship with Jesus Christ.

This ministry is the reaching arm of the church and is responsible for keeping the church informed about potential missions involvement and to explore other opportunities. We minister in various areas such as nursing homes, prisons, tract distribution, street ministry and home Bible studies.

# Evangelism Division



# MISSIONS

The Missions ministry seeks to redirect the focus of our congregation on the awesome responsibility of reaching the lost world during this unprecedented time. As the body of Christ, we are His representatives; therefore, we are to perceive, act and speak on His behalf. If this gospel is to reach the world, we are the ones who have to “Arise and use the medium available to us” to reach our families, friends and neighbors.

The Missions & Outreach Ministries are led by Min. Leon Bertram, Bro Chris Williams serves as his assistant and Sis Judith Livermore as Secretary. The following individuals also serve as committee members, with assigned responsibilities:

- Bro. Ralph Lynch, assisted by Sis Shelly Buckle – Home Bible Study Ministry
- Sis. Maxine Brown - Prison Ministry
- Bro. Andrew Buckle - Mount Eden Ministry
- Sis. Nicole Kirkland - Assists Min. Bertram with secretarial duties

Due to the COVID-2019 Pandemic, our in-person services were significantly curtailed for approximately 6 months then expanded with some restrictions.

During the month of October, our first Mission Service was held after the lock-down with the theme: “His Blood Still Works.” Two (2) additional services were held in the months of November and December with themes “Is there not a Cause,” and “Fanning the Flame of Revival” respectively.

The world at large has been affected by this Pandemic, with an increase in the number of people suffering from depression, anxiety and confusion, etc. We are comforted by the word of God and knowing that He is in control and nothing takes him by surprise.

In spite of the challenges created by this Pandemic, this is an incredible opportunity for the Church to grow! The following wonderful works of God are happening in our local assembly and on the Foreign Missions field: the gospel is being preached, Bible studies are being taught, souls are being baptized in the name of Jesus and filled with the gift of the Holy Ghost, and people are being healed!

During our services we were privileged to hear testimonies from some of our brethren in our local assembly who were baptized during the pandemic. We were also able to view tapes and hear reports received from some of our Global Missionaries.

Our local assembly has maintained its continuous support for our Global Missionaries with our prayers and finances. We aim to be more effective in fulfilling the mission of this ministry especially in this unprecedented time through personal evangelism, teaching Home Bible Study, keeping the focus of Missions before the church and getting people involved.



# Catalyst Program



Cheryl Dennis

The Catalyst Program celebrated its 7-year anniversary on November 20, 2020.

Designed to meet some of the social service needs of the community, we provide life skills classes, trainings and job-seeking skills to men and women on parole. In addition, we are open to teaching life skills to other populations in need.

This past year's highlights are as follows:

## Course Cycles

Due to COVID-19, the regular schedule of three cycles of life skills/anger management courses was reduced to two cycles. The graduation dates of the two cycles were April 2020 and November 2020. The average class size was 30. In 2020, 13 and 18 men respectfully graduated. Due to COVID-19, the April 2020 graduating class was small due to social distancing restrictions.

## Change in Curriculum and Graduation Delivery

In March 2020, in the middle of Cycle I, we switched from teaching in the OABI classrooms to the Zoom video conferencing platform in response to the pandemic. Our classes are now being taught via Zoom until further notice. The November 2020 course, Cycle II, was the first time the Catalyst program completed its program 100% virtually.

The graduation which had historically been held during the ORAC Sunday evening service, was switched to being held virtually via the Zoom video platform. The April 2020 graduation was not held. At the November 2020 graduation, via Zoom, speakers included: Bishop Arthur Thomas; Min. Paul Bailey; and Ron Hood, Program Director, Valhalla Prison Re-Entry Program.

## Graduates

In 2020, thirty-one (31) men and one woman graduated with their certificate in Life Skills with a concentration in Anger Management.

## Church Attendance

Throughout the year, we saw many of our graduates return to attend church services and bring their families with them, as well.



- **SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**
- **SCHOOL OF LIFE SKILLS**
- **SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**O**ABI exists to train men and women to rightly divide the word of truth, thus facilitating their development in articulating the gospel of Jesus Christ and growth into effective leaders and workers in the kingdom of God.

The Oneness Apostolic Bible Institute admits qualified men and women (of the apostolic faith) to further prepare them for Christian service. We offer programs and courses that facilitate their development in the practice of spiritual discipline, in order to create an environment conducive to the movement of the Holy Spirit in the churches at all times.

A student studying at OABI can expect to become better in their current area of ministry and or find practical application as Sunday School Teachers; ministry leaders and evangelists.

Together  
WE WILL...  
**VISION 2020** **WON**



**The Future Home of  
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[www.oracministries.org](http://www.oracministries.org)