

February
2012

THE PILLAR

"...I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." I Timothy 3:15 (NKJV)

St. Thomas Church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:00 am—Bible Classes

10:00 am—Worship

7:00 pm—Worship

Wednesday

7:30 pm—Midweek Meeting

Missionaries

Curtis & Elister Abraham
Marigot, Dominica

Dilian & Josian Bellot
Scotts Head, Dominica

Terrance & Ann Griffith
Morvant, Trinidad

Radio Program—Each Sunday

According to the Scriptures
7:30 am—WVWI—1000 AM

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by the Public Relations & Communications Ministry

GOD'S GOSPEL PREACHER

By Bro. Samuel A. Matthews

While Scripture plainly sets forth the qualifications of elders, no such list is given for preachers. However, Paul provides a concise summary of the preacher's life and work (1 Timothy 4:6-16). The preacher who conforms to these instructions will be a good minister of Christ Jesus.

1. A good minister of the Lord is first of all a servant, for that is the meaning of the Greek term *diakonos*. In his work he serves God, the church and his fellow man. Jesus taught that "whosoever would become great among you shall be your servant" (Matthew 20:26-27). The man who seeks glory, honor and special treatment should not be in the pulpit.

2. The Lord's preacher will put his brethren in mind of God's truth (1 Timothy 4:6). The Greek suggests, NOT issuing orders, but to **counsel and advise**. Paul recommends the opposite of the drill sergeant who barks his orders in a pugnacious way.

3. God's man will find his own spiritual nourishment in the Gospel which he always follows (1 Timothy 4:6). "Nourished" is a present participle and suggests continuing activity. A good minister is a habitual student, feeding and strengthening his

soul day by day. No teacher can effectively give out without first taking in. The day a preacher ceases to study, he begins to atrophy and die.

4. A true Gospel preacher refuses the profitless theories of false teachers (1 Timothy 4:7). He has no time for myths and speculations. Human traditions are vain (Matthew 15:9). Human philosophy is deceitful (Colossians 2:8). He knows that such things have no vital relationship to salvation.

5. The servant of God exercises himself unto godliness (1 Timothy 4:7). As an athlete trains his body, so the preacher trains his soul. Even Paul had to discipline himself to keep his body in subjection lest he be rejected (1 Corinthians 9:27). Spiritual growth never just happens; it must be conscientiously developed.

6. The hope of the man of God is set on the living God (1 Timothy 4:10). A preacher whose hope is set on a higher salary, a larger congregation, or brotherhood recognition needs to revise his values.

7. A New Testament evangelist labors and strives in his ministry (1 Timothy 4:10). The word "labor" suggests working energetically

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Brother's Keeper—St. Clair Dowers / Building Maintenance—Earl Chandler
Support—Cavel Farrell / Evangelism—Samuel Matthews / Fellowship—Jacqueline Hodge
Finance—Catherine Charles / Outreach—Thaddeus Bruno / Public Relations & Communications—Shirley J. Peters / Singles—Lakesha Moore / Teaching Children—Elaine Bruno
Transportation—Cleophas Hodge / Welcoming—Cynthia Matthews / Youth—Samuel Matthews

to the point of weariness. A lazy man has no business in the ministry. Truly, Paul said, it is "the **work** of an evangelist" (2 Timothy 4:5). The public delivery of the sermons and classes is but the culmination of a week of study and preparation. Add to this visiting, evangelizing, problem solving, consoling, exhorting, and counseling and one begins to appreciate the scope of his work.

8. The humble servant of the Lord commands respect by his exemplary conduct (1 Timothy 4:12). Some might despise his youth, but his mature Christian conduct will command respect. Plato responded to false accusations by saying, "Well, we must live in such a way that all men will see that the charge is false." Most attacks are best answered this way. His moral life will exhibit **purity and allegiance to Jesus' standards**. Of Christians, the Roman Governor Pliny wrote to Emperor Trajan, "They are accustomed to bind themselves by an oath to commit neither theft, nor robbery, nor adultery, never to break their word, never to deny a pledge that has been made when summoned to answer for it."

9. God's minister gives heed to reading, exhorting and teaching (1 Timothy 4:13). While his private reading is indispensable, it seems that here Paul refers to the public teaching of the church. Scripture should be publicly read as in the synagogue, men should be exhorted to obey its precepts, and doctrines should be taught and explained. A good minister will never scrimp on the amount of scripture used in his lessons. Good sermons don't just happen; rather they are the result of giving much heed.

10. A right thinking Gospel preacher will earnestly and diligently give himself wholly to his work (1 Timothy 4:15). A good minister has one grand aim in living—preaching the Gospel! Any less commitment results in mediocrity. In 1 Kings 20:39-40, we read of a "servant who was busy here and there" and allowed his prisoner to escape. So have many preachers failed in their responsibility to God because they were too busy here and there with a hundred trivial jobs. A good preacher cannot be the errand boy and maintenance man of the congregation.

11. The progress of a Holy Spirit guided evangelist is evident to all (1 Timothy 4:15). Preachers must grow or fossilize. A congregation will outgrow a static preacher. If, however, a preacher is to continually grow in his knowledge and ability, the flock must be willing to cooperate by helping him to do so.

12. The good minister of God is an example in **word**. He takes heed to himself and his teaching (1 Timothy 4:16). His speech will always be with grace, seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6). Self-examination and approval are essential to faithful service (2 Corinthians 13:15). His manner of life will "be worthy of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27). Toward all he will reflect *agape* love, i.e., an unconquerable

benevolence that seeks the good of others, regardless of how they treat him. He will exhibit **faithful loyalty to Christ**. The world will have little use for Christianity until it produces the best people in society. A good minister will be among them.

13. The slave of the Lord will save souls for the Lord (1 Timothy 4:16). All else looks to this one chief end. Are souls being brought to Christ? Without this, nothing else matters. Oratorical power, knowledge of Bible languages, expansive scholarship are but sounding brass and clanging symbols if no sinners are brought to repentance.

"Dear GOD: help every Gospel preacher to be a good minister in your sight, and help every Christian encourage him to that end." In Jesus' name, let us all say, AMEN!

LUCINDA MILLIN HOME FOR THE AGED VISIT

By Bro. Samuel A. Matthews

On Tuesday, 3 January, 15 brethren and 15 patients gathered together on the second floor of the Lucinda Millin Home For The



Aged for our monthly devotional with the elderly people there. Brother Bruno led us in many songs of praise to God, Brother Dowers led us in prayer, and Brother Matthews read a poem entitled the "Crabby Old Man." The poem was meant to show that the patients were not just old mean people, but inside their crumbling bodies a young person with hopes and

dreams still dwelt. After an hour of fellowship, each of the brethren had a few words of encouragement to say to the patients, and we closed the visit with prayer and hugs. Lord willing, our next visit will be Tuesday, 7 February.

NEW EVANGELISM INTERESTS

By Bro. Thaddeus Bruno

There has been a significant increase in the number of personal Bible studies being conducted here in St. Thomas. Between Brother Matthews and Brother Bruno, no fewer than twelve new prospects are currently being studied with. We thank God for the soil of new hearts in which we scatter the precious seed of the gospel.

MARRIED COUPLES GET-TOGETHER

By Bro. Samuel A. Matthews

On Friday, 6 January, 17 brethren (representing 9 families) met in the Family Center for our second bi-monthly married couples get-together. The night began with a "Knowing Each Other" exercise to reveal how well we knew our spouse in 7 different areas. Next, in order to get each of us to better see our own weaknesses and faults, we wrote down and discussed 5 things that we knew our spouse would like us to change. The goal was to cause us to begin correcting our own faults rather than spending so much time and energy trying to correct our spouses faults. From a more positive point of view, we then listed 7 good and attractive qualities that we knew our spouse possessed. We then confessed our appreciation to him or her for the blessings their good qualities had given to our marriage. After a great finger-food meal, we began discussing the barriers to a happy marriage (selfishness, pride, and low self-esteem). We defined and discussed the four Greek words translated "love," and ended our session by documenting the 5 priorities for a successful married relationship (God, spouse, children, vocation, and other ministries). Lord willing, our next meeting on Friday, 2 March 2012, will be a "date" night at a local restaurant.

DVD VIDEO SERIES ON HOMOSEXUALITY

By Bro. Samuel A. Matthews

On Wednesday, 18 and 25 January, our combined Bible class watched the first and second part of a three part DVD series entitled, "The Christian's Response to Homosexuality." The enlightening information in the first video dealt with our cultures view of homosexuality. The speaker revealed that the pro-homosexual agenda is a high pressure well organized marketing campaign aimed at the young people of the world. Unfortunately, many of our political leaders (from the President of the United States on down) have bought into the campaign. This fact can clearly be seen by the changing laws concerning this sin against God, marriage, and the home as God would have it. The second DVD dealt with the plain Bible teaching on the subject. Both the Old and New Testaments have much to say in opposition to this abomination. The third DVD will help the Christian formulate a proper response to those who practice and support homosexuality. Lord willing, it will be shown on Wednesday, 1 February.

PUERTO RICO REVIVAL SERVICES

By Bro. Thaddeus Bruno

Brother Bruno, in keeping with his outreach focus travelled to San Juan Puerto Rico, to conduct revival services for the church that meets at Park Gardens in Rio Piedras. Brother Bruno reports a very successful meeting in which a total of eight persons responded with requests for prayers and rededication. The congregation there has been served for several years by Leroy Smith. Brother Smith however, is having some mobility challenges and has asked for assistance in the leadership of the congregation. A new minister is on his way to provide the needed help. The members there, mostly composed of women, are very commit-

ted to the Lord and His church, and were very appreciative of Brother Bruno's preaching. They reported that the attendance had never been as good as it was during the meeting, for as long as they could remember. Brother Bruno stayed at the facility upstairs of the meeting place. The sisters showed no little kindness in bringing sumptuous Latin and Caribbean dishes on different days.

SCOTTS HEAD MISSION REPORT

By Bro. Samuel A. Matthews

Bro. Bellot reports that the beginning of 2012 has been of great encouragement to the church in Dominica. They have made evangelism their focus for 2012, and their theme is "Go Ye means Go Me." To accomplish their evangelistic goals, they have confirmed a two week crusade (from 1-13 July) with field workers from the US assisting in the effort. The mid-week Bible class is focusing on "Personal Evangelism." Plans are continuing for a five day Youth camp in the month of February, and Bro. Bellot plans to train some of the ladies to teach a children's class, also beginning in February. The 5 lesson Visualized Bible Study Series is being shown to the congregation with an open invitation to the community.

Sunday Sermons



January 2012

Sunday morning sermons are available on CD and/or DVD. If you are interested, kindly check at the office.

1st Sunday Bro. Samuel A. Matthews
How To Be Happy In 2012

2nd Sunday Bro. Thaddeus Bruno
Why I Believe

3rd Sunday Bro. Samuel A. Matthews
Samson: A Lesson On Temptation

4th Sunday Bro. Samuel A. Matthews
Our Freedom In Christ Jesus

5th Sunday Bro. Samuel A. Matthews
The Fear Of Commitment

January 2012 Attendance & Contribution

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
1st Sunday	83	\$3,079.00
2nd Sunday	79	2,607.00
3rd Sunday	76	2,597.00
4th Sunday	87	2,969.00
5th Sunday	96	3,131.00

PRAYER CORNER



Let us continue to offer prayers on behalf of our brethren who have requested them. Kindly pray for the following:

- Bro. Elien Gerald & Family*
- Sis. Cavel Farrell & Family*
- Bro. Victor Brown & Family*
- Bro. Andray Edwards & Family*
- Sis. Mona Lindquist*
- Sis. Shirley Smith*
- Bro. Charles Wheatley & Family*
- Bro. Sarville Moses & Family*
- Bro. Thaddeus Bruno & Family*
- Sis. Manuellin Pierre*
- Bro. Patrick Benjamin*
- Sis. Josette Williams & Family*
- The McKay Family (Beau)*
- Sis. Linea Metor & Daughter*
- Sis. Ashby Danet*
- Young People of the Congregation*
- Sis. Paula Frederick & Family*
- The Dowers Family*
- The Dominique Family & Co-workers*
- The Adams Family*
- Bro. David Ogiste*
- Sick, Shut-in & Fallen Away Brethren*

Where Will You Spend Eternity?

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

1. Hear God's word (Romans 10:11-18, Acts 15:7).
2. Believe in Christ (John 20:31, Hebrews 11:6).
3. Repent of my sins (Acts 2:38, Luke 13:3).
4. Confess Christ (Romans 10:10; Acts 8:37).
5. Be Baptized (Acts 10:48, Mark 16:16, Romans 6:4, Galatians 3:26, 27).
6. Be faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10).

WHEN YOU MEET WITH THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.....

You can expect to find a group of Christians assembled to worship God in the same manner that Christ directed the first century disciples (John 4:24). You can expect these Christians to have respect for the inspired Word of God, which is the only and complete authority in religion today (II Timothy 3:16, 17). Since Jesus declared, "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). Churches of Christ look to Jesus as their founder. For this reason the church also wears the name of Christ. There is one Lord, one faith and one baptism (Ephesians 4:5).

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS AN INVITATION TO WORSHIP WITH US.

"Come now, and let us reason together." Isaiah 1:18

Upcoming Events 2012

- Lucinda Millin Home Outreach*
February 7th —10:00 am
- Family Life/Relationship Seminar*
February 19th—22nd
- 42nd Annual Caribbean Lectureship*
July 15th—18th

February Birthdays



<i>AnNesha Flecha</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>Sylvia Son Demming</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Roslyn Gregoire</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>Samuel A. Matthews</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Colette Anthony</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>Maslyn Telemaque</i>	<i>28th</i>
<i>Cavel Farrell</i>	<i>6th</i>	<i>Michelle Dominique</i>	<i>29th</i>
<i>Gloria Davis</i>	<i>6th</i>		
<i>Masdem Isaac</i>	<i>6th</i>		

Kindly forgive us if your name has been left out or we have made an error. If you are uncertain that we have your birthday, kindly contact Sis. Peters or Sis. Dominique. We will be delighted to add you to the list.