



BIU Members Attend CCL Delegates Conference in Bahamas

By Ronnie Burgess



Bro. Glen Simmons, Sis. Molly Burgess, Dr. Thomas Bastian, Bro. Chris Furbert and Bro. Herbie Bascome.

The Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) recently held their 18th Triennial Delegates' Conference, October 23rd 2013 to October 24th 2013, in Nassau Bahamas at the Super Clubs Breezes. The theme for the conference was 'Reorganizing CCL to Confront a Changing Global & Regional Economic Environment'. There were some 40 delegates from various unions across the Caribbean.

The Conference was addressed by the Hon. D. Shane Gibson, MP, Minister of Labour & National Insurance. In his address the Minister stated that the Government of Bahamas is a Labour friendly government; fully committed to the betterment of all workers in the country.

The Minister informed the conference that 'the Bahamas Government has introduced new legislation, namely

the National Tripartite Council Bill 2013, which will be passed, in short order and lead to the formation of a National Tripartite Council (NTC).

The primary goal of the Council will be to create a more harmonious working relationship aimed at promoting Tripartism amongst Labour Unions, Employers and The Government, in order to properly expedite negotiations related to workers' concerns. It will also bring their labour laws into full compliance, International Labour Organization standards.'

The conference was to be addressed by the Prime Minister of Bahamas, the Hon. Perry G. Christie, MP; but he was still in Parliament addressing a very important issue. The Prime Minister's speech was delivered by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Urban Development, the Hon.

Philip Davis.

The new slate of executive officers that were sworn in are as follows:

- Sen. Hon David Massiah – retained as President (Antigua & Barbuda Workers Union)
- Sis. Jennifer Isaacs-Dotson - First Vice President (NCTUB Bahamas)
- Bro. Glen Simmons - Second Vice President (Bermuda Industrial Union)
- Bro. Seepaul Narine - Third Vice President (Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana)
- Sen. the Hon. Chester Humphrey – retained as General Secretary (Grenada Trades Union Council)

The Officers and Members of the Bermuda Industrial Union congratulate Bro. Glen Simmons on being elected to serve as 2nd Vice President of the CCL and wish him all the best. Congratulations to all of the officers of the CCL.

In attendance representing the Bermuda Industrial Union were Brothers Chris Furbert, Glen Simmons and Herbie Bascome, Sisters H. Molly Burgess and Ronnie Burgess. Also in attendance representing the Bermuda Public Services Union were Brothers Ed Ball and Jason Hayward.

The Union representatives were also greeted by a long-time friend of the Bermuda Industrial Union and fellow Trade Unionist, Bro. Dr. Thomas Bastian, former President of the Bahamas Hotel Union. ■



RAFFLE PRIZES

Draw: Friday, December 6, 2013
10:00 p.m. at BIU Headquarters
Tickets: \$2.00

**Proceeds in aid of
 B.I.U. Building Fund**



125 KYMCO Motor Cycle
 Bermuda Motors Ltd.

125 KYMCO Motor Cycle
 Bermuda Motors Ltd.

IPad
 A.F. Smith

42" Plasma TV
 M&M International

Golf for 4
 Belmont Hills

\$1000.00 Travel Voucher
 World View Travel (Formerly C Travel)

\$500 Travel Vouchers (3)
 World View Travel (Formerly C Travel)

Grocery Vouchers
 MarketPlace

Grocery Vouchers
 Supermart

Voucher
 BelCo

Voucher
 Bermuda CableVision Ltd.

Gas Vouchers
 BIU Gas Station

Movie Tickets
 Liberty Theatre

Mystery Prize
 Bermuda Telephone Co.

Various Hotel Packages

THE WORKERS VOICE

PUBLISHED BY THE
 Bermuda industrial union
 40 Union Square
 Hamilton HM 12
 Bermuda

T (441) 292-0044
F (441) 295-7992
E lfurbert@biu.bm

EDITOR
 Calvin Smith
 csmith@biu.bm

ASSISTANT EDITOR
 LaVerne Furbert
 lfurbert@biu.bm

LAYOUT AND DESIGN
 Phaedra Howes

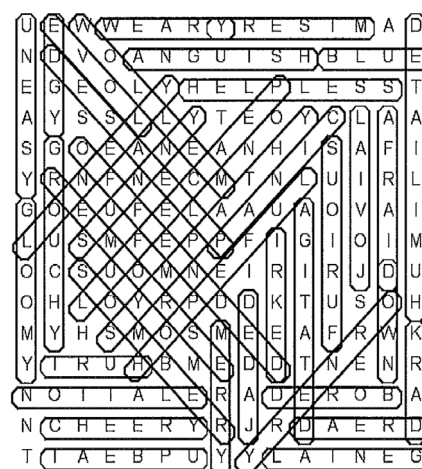
**GENERAL COUNCIL
 REPRESENTATIVES**
 Shirlene Simons
 David Bean

PRINTED BY
 The Bermuda Industrial Union

PUZZLE SOLUTION

MOODS & EMOTIONS 1

This is the solution to the puzzle located [here](#).



AFRAID	ELATION	JADED	PEACEFUL
AGITATED	FURIOUS	JOVIAL	PLEASED
ANGUISH	GENIAL	LONELY	REMORSE
BLUE	GLOOMY	LOVE	SOMBER
BORED	GROUCHY	MELLOW	SUNNY
CHEERY	HELPLESS	MERRY	SYMPATHY
DARK	HOPEFUL	MISERY	UNEASY
DOWN	HUMILIATED	OFFENDED	UPBEAT
DREAD	HURT	ORNERY	WEARY
EDGY	IRKED	PANIC	

The hidden word is: ASTONISHMENT

Premier Cannonier Needs to Take His Own Advice

In my opinion, Premier Craig Cannonier needs to take his own advice that he offered at the Bermuda Reception held in London last weekend. During the meeting he told those Bermudians present that “the time for looking backwards and playing party politics had come to an end”. As I see it the Premier, and most, if not all of his ministers, in particular the Minister of Finance, continue to look backwards and play party politics each time they open their mouths, whether in Parliament or through press statements.

For the Premier to intimate that there is no room for party politics in Bermuda is farcical. I guess the Premier has forgotten that the resignation of John Barritt as the Member of Parliament for Constituency 12 and his subsequent election to that seat and by extension his rise to the Leadership of the OBA of the OBA and eventually as Premier of Bermuda was the epitome of “playing party politics”. Let us not forget, prior to his meteoric rise to leadership, Craig Cannonier showed no interest in politics.

Further, I contend that the OBA leadership continues to look backwards and each time they speak they verbalise that they indeed continue to look backwards, or as Premier Cannonier and Finance Minister Richards have stated on numerous occasions, they look “under the hood”. It was Premier Cannonier who stated not too long ago that “Our look “under the hood” took us to a new level

of concern. Within weeks of coming into office, we had to seek emergency loans on Wall Street because the government was running out of money, literally days away from not being able to pay its bills, including the salaries of civil servants; incredible but true.” Needless to say, the Finance Minister had to correct the Premier with regards to the “Wall Street loans”, which in my opinion, was another example of his political naivety.

It was actually Minister Richards who coined the phrase “looking under the hood” in reference to the PLP’s term of office. Nevertheless, Minister Richards has yet to find anything untoward under the hood, in spite of looking there for the past nine months. I find it most interesting that Minister Richards never took the opportunity to “look under the hood” when he was the Shadow Minister of Finance by way of the Public Accounts Committee, which he had the authority to do. In my opinion that was serious negligence on his part. If he would have called meetings of the Public Accounts Committee during his tenure as Shadow Minister of Finance, he could have been “looking under the hood” during the PLP’s fourteen years in power.

Although Premier Cannonier was full of praise for Bermuda at the 9th World Islamic Economic Forum this week, highlighting “Bermuda’s enviable reputation as being a center for excellence for captive insur-



IN MY OPINION
BY LAVERNE FURBERT

ance and stating that “Bermuda is well recognized as the leading offshore financial centre for the insurance and reinsurance industries, with world-class support services such as legal and accounting”, he uses every opportunity when speaking in Bermuda and to Bermudians to denigrate the PLP.

On October 13, 2013, just a few short weeks prior to the World Islamic Economic Forum, Premier Cannonier blasted the PLP when recapping the OBA’s first parliamentary year, he stated “From the start, our work has been focused primarily on rebuilding Bermuda’s economic foundation. The Island we were elected to govern was in a financial and reputational tailspin; something I believe all Bermudians understood in their gut, if not their pocketbook. Beyond the chilling numbers, Bermuda’s reputation as a place to do business had taken a beating. International business, the mainstay of our economy, had been shifting people and jobs overseas or shutting up shop all together. There are all sorts of reasons for this – competition, red

continued on page 18

Police Week 2013: Commissioner for a Day Winners



On Wednesday, October 9th as part of Police Week 2013, nine students from various schools were 'Commissioners for a Day' after submitting winning entries to the annual creative artwork and short essay competition held by the Bermuda Police Service.

The competition was open to all public and private primary, middle and senior schools across the island. This year's Police Week theme is 'Building Community Confidence Through Engagement.'

The primary school students were asked to produce police related artwork, while the middle and senior schools students were asked to write a short essay. The short essay topic for the middle school students was: "If I were Commissioner I would ..." and the short essay topic for the senior school students was: "How can The Bermuda Police Service build partnerships within the community?"

A committee consisting of police personnel as well as radio personalities Ms. Kristy Burgess (Miss Thang) and Mrs. Patrina O'Connor-Paynter (Power Girl) chose the winning entries. The winning students received iPad & iPod prizes.

SENIOR SCHOOL WINNERS

Imani Smith, Age 15

The Berkeley Institute. (iPad Mini)

Ciboney Swan, Age 17

The Berkeley Institute. (iPod)

***Farah Ming, Age 17**

The Berkeley Institute. (iPod)

MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNERS

Ayanna Weeks, Age 13

Sandys Secondary Middle School. (iPad Mini)

Stefan Ackah Simons, Age 11

Bermuda Institute. (iPod)

Sophia Tessitore, Age 12

Dellwood Middle School. (iPod)

PRIMARY SCHOOL WINNERS

Allan Winters-Tait, Age 8

West End Primary School. (iPod)

Elishae Smith, Age 9

West Pembroke Primary School. (iPod)

Jada Davis, Age 8

West Pembroke Primary School. (iPod)

Each Commissioner for a Day met Commissioner of Police Michael DeSilva and his Senior Command team before being taken on a tour of police facilities and vehicles, including a ride on a police vessel. The winning students and their families also enjoyed lunch with the Commissioner and Senior Command team. The Bermuda Police Service would like to congratulate all of the students who entered and the nine prize winners in particular, for their impressive submissions.

*Berkeley Institute student, Farah Ming, is the granddaughter of Brother George Scott, BIU Chief Organiser. ■

Union Corner

Last night, much to my annoyance, I missed the appearance of my son Stephen on "UNION CORNER" hosted by Larry Scott. I suppose I can claim innocence since I do not recall being informed by anyone that he was to appear. When I told my colleagues that I had not been informed about the event, they retorted "Of course you were told, you just forgot".

Personally, I persist in my opinion that I was not told Stephen was to appear; although, I will concede that as I get older, I am constantly being plagued by forgetfulness. However, I do not expect anyone to admit that he/she failed to inform me about an event in which I had a personal interest. Still, whether I was told or not on this occasion, I was extremely proud that Stephen did appear on the program and performed very well according to those who heard the show.

Those persons who are not Union Members and who normally do not listen to shows being promoted on the Radio, are probably missing out on important information that is taking place in their own community. This is because the radio can more easily obtain important news about Bermuda than is the case for TV. But because the television screen carries sight and sound, it seems to be so much more informative radio. However, when one considers the cost of getting television news, one should not be surprised that its broad coverage is much more restricted than that of radio which can reach far more easily the furthestmost spots in any country even though it may be equipped with little more than a microphone and recording equipment.

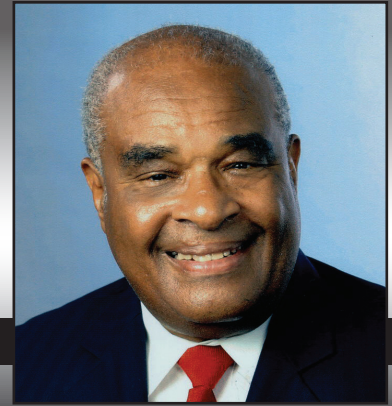
Of course one may also argue that television has the potential or providing a wider reach; however the cost of creating that long reach is often prohibitive. For this reason, Television tends to concentrate on events which tend to

have the main subjects of the presentation crowded together within a superimposed structure such as a stadium, arena or a park. Further, the structure selected for an event will be expected to stay within that structure for a considerable period of time. Thus Television handles Sporting events very well. This is true even when the event is not centralized as in the case of a Marathon.

Readers will recall that during Bermuda's frequent marathons, when the event is taking place there is usually only one set of Cameras motoring up and down the Island in order to catch various aspects of a particular race. However, because of limited equipment and staff, an inordinate amount of time is spent on the top ten runners or fewer, if large spaces develop between the top runners.

A further difficulty occurs when a broadcaster is dealing with events in which he/she has a personal interest in the outcome of the event. In such cases, there may be a tendency for the reporter to allow his/her own personal inclinations to influence their reporting with respect to what is actually taking place. This tendency is particularly strong with respect to discussions regarding ones political allegiance. However, strong religious beliefs may also greatly influence a reporter's judgment on the importance of the relative aspects of what is really taking place.

For example, a strong a strong political allegiance, is particularly dangerous should this allegiance influence seriously the selection of one's friendships and associations. I remember only too well the break-up of many friendships and associations when Bermuda entered formerly into party politics in the sixties. Before the advent of political parties, groups of people would get into rousing arguments over a piece of new or existing legislative. With the formation of political parties, many of those holding strong



BY CALVIN SMITH

views along with an ability to express those views, tended to join branches of the newly created political parties. Some of these persons went further and used their debating skills to try to get elected to the House of Assembly. Several actually succeeded. However, the emergence of political parties caused these groups eventually to dissipate, with those holding views applicable to either party tending to join branches of that Party and carry on the discussions with persons who largely shared their views.

It is this aspect of the political party system that has the potential for greatest value as well as disruption. The ability to discuss a view or opinion with a group of persons who share the view or opinion is an excellent means of getting the matter cleared up in one's own mind. However, for this strategy to result in an improvement of one's understanding of the society in which he lives, there must be two prerequisites: firstly, the person or group with whom one is having the discussion must have an excellent grasp of the topic under discussion; and secondly, both parties must be prepared to acknowledge that they agree with a particular point being made. If these two criteria are present, then the resolution of a disagreement can advance the knowledge and experience of the persons involved in the discussion. If they are not present, than further discussion

continued on page 18

Dear Editor,

“Neither Slavery nor Involuntary Servitude - Should exist in Any Place where Slavery Has Been Abolished”.

The present OBA government has attempted to Justify this significant atmosphere, that has been a conceptual topography of our island home. The perverted mindset that identifies that only foreign investors must enjoy the fruits of labour in Bermuda, and in the main create a formidable ceiling to stifle the wealth of this island falling in the hands of THE BERMUDIANS.

While the method may add financial value to a select few of our community, the absolute truth is it CANNOT BE SUSTAINED.

For you my Bermudian brothers and sisters understand this fact – YOU CANNOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT SOMETHING YOU DO NOT CONTROL. That is the underlying foundation why the bottom fell out for us in Bermuda, as the world-wide economic depression set in. During the past ten months we have experienced much legislation that has removed the ideal of

Bermudians first, or even more humiliating, Bermudians being told to share the disparity and learn to live with less opportunity in your home country. The process implemented by the OBA government is to ensure all foreign workers have greater levels of selective growth than the Bermudian voters. The OBA government is prepared to create and install an open ended contract for any and all foreign workers earning money in Bermuda.

Those who own properties will rejoice in their financial income once again expanding, yet do not see the hardship that falls on their cousins around the islands. Perhaps they prefer this stigma until it assists with creating a new breed of anti-social behavior.

Our evolution must rest on reinventing Bermuda with sustainable self-productive measures that we as a people can grow, maintain and control. With patience and inspired focus we can develop a series of systems that is centered around us as celebrated residential members, while renovating fundamental needed activities that invite visitors to explore our island

home on a whole scale rather than a minute select group of institutions. The OBA government has intentionally ignored many of us as a people with the ability to invest in our own bonds, this is self-evident in the fact that they bypassed our chance to purchase any, by immediately going overseas to make others wealthy off our corporate loan.

The OBA government recognizes we have limited land mass in Bermuda, but made sure the convenience of our children and grandchildren would have far less land mass available for them to purchase. Remember this Key – If there is less land to sell, the price not value will grow above the average Bermudians ability to purchase in the future.

John Holdipp III

Editor's Note: Views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of the Workers Voice. ■

The Future of Bermuda's Exclusive Economic Zone

As a debate heats up concerning what is to be done about Bermuda's Economic Zone (EEZ), I never thought I would be in agreement with the opinions of two former UBP premiers concerning this issue. But I do find myself in an agreement with their comments. I am not in favour of turning Bermuda's EEZ into a marine reserve, not until there has been a thorough geological study conducted under the seas surrounding Bermuda to see whether there is the prospect of deep sea mining for minerals and/or other natural resources that could benefit Bermuda economically.

In that regard, Bermuda is in a dire economic situation and in desperate need to develop a third leg for the Bermuda economy. We may be at the top of our game in respect to International Business, but the fiscal state of our nation is not going to go anywhere. In an era of ever-growing budget deficits and the desperate need of governments to find more and more tax revenue for their coffers, they will not look too kindly on low tax regimes like Bermuda, not matter how much we insist that we are not tax havens.

It seems to me that the environmentalist lobby has got to jump on any other idea except the creation of its Blue Halo concept for the waters around Bermuda. They no doubt hope to take advantage of the relative ignorance of Bermudians concerning the economic prospect. No doubt they hope to take advantage of the relative ignorance of Bermudians concerning the economic prospect of the waters that surround our island and especially what may lie under those waters.

This is a far cry from the awareness of generations in the past when Bermuda had its own maritime industry replete with ship-building capability.

Granted, it was half-slave and half-free, but that has never been my focus when I look at this historical period. What I like was the independent mind of that day and the awareness of Bermuda's international interests which was far greater than the non-focus and the lack of awareness of the same in today's generations, fixated as we are on this very small country of only twenty-one square miles. That is why I disagree with not examining the economic potential which Bermuda's EEZ may represent other than turning it into an economic sterile expanse of ocean.

In no way can the waters surrounding Bermuda be compared with the Great Barrier Reef that Australia is known for. It just won't have the same appeal as a tourist focus of interest. If that was so, it would have long been in existence.

So far, those in favour of creating the Blue Halo have been focusing on what amounts to scare tactics to dissuade Bermudians from looking at this issue other than from their point of view. They predict dire consequences if somehow Bermuda discovered oil and if we were to have to face an oil spill. But I wish to point out that even with the oil spill disaster which overtook America's Gulf Coast, lessons were learned. They cleaned it up and they still pump oil in the area. As to whether the technology exists that will allow Bermuda to conduct deep sea mining, there have been technical advances which has allowed mining to take place where it was not possible before. I will give you three examples where this has taken place.

The first two are in Africa, being with the nation of Ghana known for the export of gold, cocoa, and other natural resources; these resources include a vast oil field - on such a scale that Ghana can become an oil exporting country - which has been discovered off the coast

THE OTHER ALTERNATIVE



BY CALVIN SMITH

of that country in their national waters in recent times in recent times.

The other African example is the Nation of Kenya where recently under its land there has been discovered a vast stream of fresh ground water, enough to not only fulfill that nation's current water needs, but has the potential to full those needs for generations to come. These two examples have come into being as a result of technical advances which have allowed for the discovery of these great economic benefits for these nations.

The third example is not the result of technical advances but could be viewed as a good and bad prospect. I am talking about the opening up of the North West Passage which for hundreds of years has been blocked by ice which prevented its use by ships. Now some scientists have said that the melting of ice in that area is a result of global warming. This is the bad part of it. But on the other hand, with the opening of this sea route, it has sent off a scramble by many nations who want to exploit the resources of the area. Canada has sent naval ships to claim sovereignty over this potential waterway. This may put a strain on one of the world's longest unguarded borders between the nations of Canada and the United States as to whether this is free, open water or the

continued on page 18

Polaris Announces New Ceo

(Hamilton, Bermuda, October 31, 2013) - Polaris Holding Company Limited is pleased to announce the appointment of Warren W. Jones as CEO for the group of companies, effective January 2014.

As CEO, Mr. Jones will be responsible for implementing the strategy of the Polaris Group of Companies as well as overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Group's subsidiaries Stevedoring Services Ltd., Equipment, Sales & Rental Ltd. and Mill Reach Holding Ltd.

Mr. Jones joins Polaris from the Bermuda Government, where he was Permanent Secretary of



Education and also held the posts of Permanent Secretary of Health and Assistant Cabinet Secretary (Policy).

"On behalf of the Board,

management and staff, I look forward to welcoming Warren Jones to the Polaris Group of Companies," said Cheryl Hayward-Chew, Chairman of Polaris Holding Company Limited. "Mr. Jones is known for his track record of accountability and performance. He has extensive senior management experience and successful leadership skills and with him we look forward to working towards our vision of Polaris being a successful, progressive, forward-thinking company – not just a proud Bermudian company, but also a company Bermuda can be proud of and whose shares are sought after by investors." ■



Safeguard Your Loved Ones Independent Life Style with Peace of Mind.

The FIRST Monitored Medical Alert System That Allows You to Speak and Listen Directly Through the Pendant.



Dwain Smith

Suite 592
48 Par-La-Ville Road
Hamilton HM 11
Bermuda
441.295.4277
DSmith@icss.bm

Commercial / Residential
Security Alarms • Video Surveillance
Medical Alerts

www.icss.bm

We Will Never Say Good-bye

By E. McNEIL STOVELL



First of all, the Stovell and Allen families would like to thank all of the people of Bermuda and the staff of the Bermuda Industrial Union who gave us their sympathy and support during our time of bereavement as a result of the loss of our loving son and grandson, Nosa'j Ayden Michael Stovell.

Friday, October 4, 2013 was one of the saddest days in my entire life. I still cannot believe that my poor, little fiery and active grandson was now lying silent in a box.

I can't speak for anyone else, but when someone close to you dies, and especially if that person happens to be young, but for me, the world becomes an emptier place, where you are left to live in the void of that loved for the rest of your life.

There have been six people in my life, both family and friends, who I have cared very much for and all of them were young people, have lost their lives tragically with the latest being my grandson, that has left scars deep in my mind that still affect me even today.

Yes, I still have my son, but every time he sees me crying, he hugs me and tries to comfort me by telling me not to worry Daddy, just remember Nosa'j for the happy little boy that he was and never ever say good-bye, I think that Nosa'j would like that daddy. ■

Free Utilities for Nevis Seniors



CHARLESTOWN, Nevis (NIA) -- Acting premier of Nevis and senior minister responsible for social development Mark Brantley described the official launch of a free utilities initiative by the Nevis Island Administration (NIA) through the ministry of social development, seniors division, as a critical and important one for the island's eligible seniors.

Phase one of the initiative, designed to provide seniors with free water and electricity, was launched at the Nevis Electricity Services Limited (NEVLEC) Customer Services office on Main Street on October 15, 2013, by junior minister responsible for social development Hazel Brandy-Williams.

"This is a critical initiative; an important initiative for Nevis. I am pretty sure that this will be copied in the other islands soon but I am happy that little Nevis is leading the way in showing our appreciation to those who have given us so much.

"We hope that this will provide some relief to you and it will make your lives a little easier, in this now the winter of your years, so that you can live out those years in a bit more comfort. No electricity, no water payment so you could use that money to do who knows, maybe you will give an extra contribution at church with it but at least you know you don't have to come

in to NEVLEC anymore and you don't have to go to Water Department's step anymore. That's a commitment made to you and a commitment kept to you," he said, about the island's senior citizens.

He told them the Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM) had had promised in its campaign that if it were elected to office something tangible would be done for the senior citizens on behalf of the people of Nevis.

"The good programmes that already existed, we wanted them to continue and we wanted to develop new programmes because we felt that it was important to demonstrate to our seniors that they have paved the way; they are the ones who have created the platform for the Nevis that we now enjoy. So we are committed to this innovative programme, saying to our seniors that once they got to a particular age, we felt if they lived on their own without a fixed income, they should be able to access electricity and water for free.

"Many said it could not be done, well I am proud to be here standing today to say that it is happening and that the seniors who are here represented, are merely an indication of the first phase. I am told we are dealing first with individuals over 80 and I am told 68 individuals are going to benefit from the first phase," he said.

The senior social development

minister also noted that he looked forward to the second and third phase of the initiative in which all the eligible seniors for the programme would begin to benefit from the free electricity and water programme.

"You may naturally ask what about the others who are over the requisite age and I am told that those phases will happen next month and the month after so that by Christmas, all the seniors who fall within the category will be accessing free water and free electricity," he said.

Meantime, Brantley stated that he was pleased to be a part of the programme and regarded it as a historic one that would be recorded in the annals of the island's history.

"I am delighted to be here and to have the opportunity as the deputy premier and as the senior minister responsible for social affairs to be a part of it. I think this is history in the making and I wanted to be a part of it because I think that when commitments are made and commitments are kept, it is important because it speaks to who we are in terms of our integrity.

"So I am very happy and those of you who are here, the five of you, I hope that you live long; that you benefit from this for many, many years to come and that you see it as a tangible contribution to you not from the government because governments come and governments go but from the people of Nevis whom you would have served for so many years," he said.

The brief but significant ceremony was attended by five seniors representative of the first 68 who will receive free utilities from October.

In Nevis, the month of October has been set aside to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Older Persons on October 1. ■

'Carwasheros' Sign Union Contracts With Biggest Car Wash Owners in New York City

AFL-CIO reports that in the space of 24 hours, four car washes—two of which are owned by two of the largest car wash owners in the city—have signed contracts with the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU).

Workers at the Webster Car Wash and WCA/Rico Pobre Car Wash in The Bronx, owned by reputed car wash kingpin John Lage, and the Jomar Car Wash and Sutphin Car Wash in Queens, owned by Fernando Magalhaes, have ratified a three-year contract similar to two other union carwashes ratified within the last few months. Lage reportedly owns more than 20 car washes in New York City and partners with Magalhaes in some of them.

"These carwasheros stood up and demanded dignity and respect on the job. And now they have achieved a first contract that will improve wages and benefits," said RWDSU President Stuart Appelbaum. "This contract sends a powerful message to all low-wage workers throughout New York City: You can fight back against poor wages and working conditions, and you can win."

The signings cement a major victory for the workers, the RWDSU and the WASH New York campaign—a joint effort between Make the Road New York and New York Communities for Change, and supported by the RWDSU. The campaign already has scored several important victories, with the RWDSU winning seven National Labor Relations Board-conducted elections to unionize car washes throughout New York City, winning a successful strike at the Sunny Day Car Wash in the Bronx, saving the jobs of workers at the Soho Car Wash, securing union contracts at Hi-Tek and Sunny Day Car Washes and improv-

ing workplace safety conditions at car washes across the city.

Workers at the four car washes were ecstatic over their new contracts.

"I feel very happy because we have finally reached the contract that we fought so hard for," said Luis Rosales, who has worked at Jomar for more than five years after coming to the United States from Mexico. "This is going to be a great change for our car wash. More importantly, we were able to show other workers that it makes sense to fight and win what seemed impossible."



David Cruz, 43, who has worked at Sutphin Car Wash for seven years, said: "I'm so happy and grateful to God for letting me fight in this struggle. The contract shows that hard-working people like us can fight for their rights and for respect. I want to especially thank the organizers for supporting us all the way and making us feel that united we could get the changes we deserved."

Ernesto Salazar, 38, who works at Webster Car Wash and is originally from El Salvador, said: "I am very happy that we achieved our objective. All the sacrifices and fights were well worth it. Now we will validate our rights under the contract at work. We will no longer be treated without dignity; now the bosses have to respect us. We hope to serve as an example to other carwasheros. Sí, se puede!"

Omar Pineda, 35, a worker from WCA/Rico Pobre Car Wash, said: "I was transferred here after Sixth Ave./Soho Car Wash was closed earlier this year. I feel super happy and proud of our struggle. It has not been easy, but with the courage of all the workers, we succeeded. From now on, we have to serve as an example to other carwasheros. We have to show them that just as we have our contract, they can as well."

Highlights of the three-year deal include: An immediate wage increase

upon signage, with three more raises over the life of the contract that will bring workers to a minimum of \$9.18 an hour.

The contract also protects immigrant workers, expands protections against discrimination, increases job security by requiring layoffs to be done by seniority, and requires that a shop steward supervise the counting and distribution of tips.

Starting next year, workers will get five paid days a year and two personal days, in addition to the right to take leave to attend a family member's funeral, their wedding, the birth of their children and to attend to immigration issues.

The employer must have just cause to fire a worker and there now is a grievance procedure and binding third-

continued on page 14

Domestic Workers in Jamaica Now Have Their Own Union



President of the Jamaica Household Workers Union, Shirley Pryce, Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller and General Secretary of the South African Domestic Service and Allied Workers Union, Myrtle

Approximately 58,000 domestic workers across Jamaica now have a union to represent them, after the launch of the Jamaica Household Workers Union earlier this year.

The union aims to protect the rights of, and provide skills training for domestic workers.

"This launch signifies another victory for domestic workers in Jamaica," President Shirley Pryce told the gathering at the Knutsford Court Hotel in Kingston. "At present the union has organized over 2,000 members and this number is growing as the union reaches out to household workers as they become more aware of its existence."

She said the organization is in the process of starting a school – "The Jamaica Household Workers Training Institute" – and is also establishing a foundation to assist needy domestic workers.

Pryce said one of the immediate goals is to have the Government ratify the International Labour Organisation Domestic Worker Convention 189, which provides specific protection to domestic workers under the heading 'Decent work for domestic workers'.

"This convention realizes the importance of the work of domestic workers and provides for all domestic workers the right to enjoy freedom, dignity and

security of a decent work," she said. "Domestic workers have waited a long time to be recognized and to be respected for the work that they have been doing. Yes, domestic work is work, and we must hold it up as our work," she told the dozens of domestic workers present.

Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Karl Wedderburn said domestic workers are vital to the process of nation building because they provide necessary care and support in households, allowing their employers to get on with various other productive and economic activities.

"Without the loyal and devotion of our household workers, Jamaica, as a nation, would probably not be where it is today," Wedderburn said.

He said the ministry continues to review the minimum wage, which now stands at \$5,000 (Jamaican) per week, with a view to bringing it up to a more acceptable ceiling.

Despite this, however, he encouraged domestic workers to make every effort to contribute to the National Insurance Scheme.

"You and your employers have an obligation to make a required contribution to the scheme as a safeguard against hardship during your course of employment and upcoming retirement," he said.

Former Prime Minister PJ Patterson, in his speech read by Dr. Leith Dunn, head of Gender Studies at the University of the West Indies, said employers must be required to treat their household workers with respect.

"The time for domestic workers to be brought in line with the rest of the workforce is well overdue," Patterson wrote. "You represent the single largest segment of the paid workforce and your voice must be heard, and it will be heard more urgently now that you are a united force. While many employers of household workers treat their employees well, it is time to force – through the law – those others who have no proper regard for their rights. They must be forced to come in line with today's reality and treat their employees with utmost respect," Patterson wrote.

Guest speaker Myrtle Witbooi, general secretary of the South African Domestic Service and Allied Workers Union, and chairperson of the International Domestic Workers Network, said planning should not only be on paper, but put into action by the Jamaican Government.

"Many of our governments have beautiful printed documents, but the documents are put in a cabinet to gather dust. But we need action to take place," Witbooi, formerly a domestic helper in South Africa said.

She said domestic workers were the backbone of the society and it was no payback time for rendering their services without due respect for their contributions and without recognition for the work they do.

"We have Convention 189, but it makes no sense if workers don't know what it is. Because if we don't know it, we won't know how to use it," she said.

"So the next step is education, educa-

continued on page 15

Domestic Workers in Jamaica Now Have Their Own Union

continued from page 14

tion, education. I am encouraging the Government to put their money where their mouth is," she said to loud cheers from the audience.

Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller, who was the keynote speaker, said she was in total support of the union and its cause, noting that domestic workers occupy positions of importance in the society and should be recognized as such.

"The concept and development of a union for household workers to ensure that they are respected and enjoy equality of rights in order to maintain their dignity in the Jamaican society in a manifestation of the vibrancy of our democracy," Simpson Miller said.

"We need to recognize that they are the ones who take care of the home affairs while their employers are involved in various aspects of national life. We could very well rename them 'ministers of home affairs', she said.

Simpson Miller said that far too often these workers have had to forego their personal development goals and those of their children and families while they take care of others.

"We also need to recognize this. These sacrifices they make for minimum wages," she noted.

The Prime Minister said that she is in full support of Convention 189.

"The Government which I lead will not fail to accept the conditions that will result in an environment of decent work for every household worker in Jamaica," she declared.

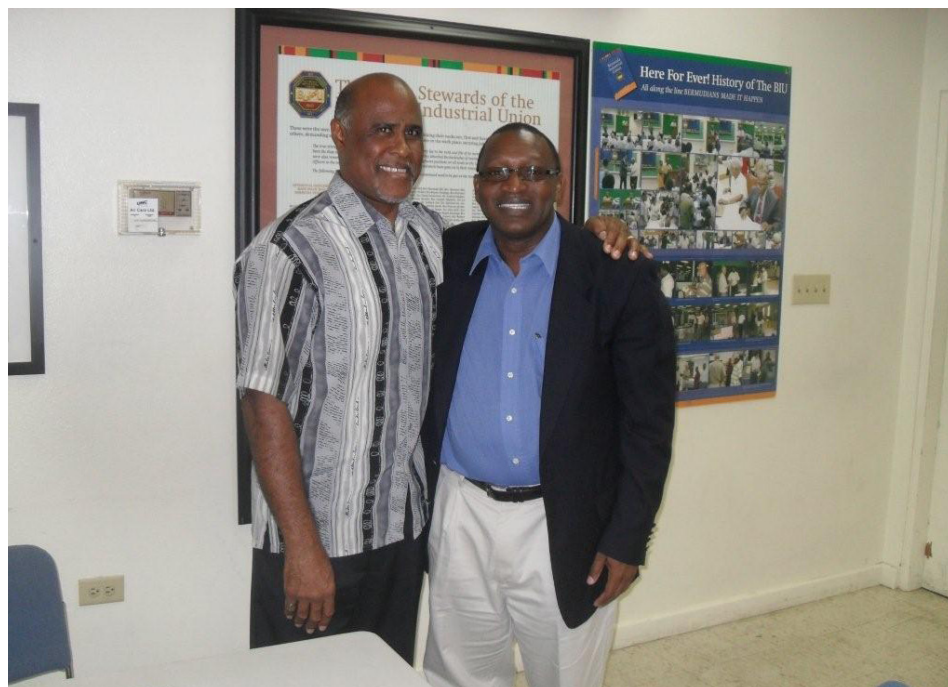
She encouraged union members to enroll in educational institutions such as HEART Trust/NTA, in an effort to hone their skills as they develop their profession.

Editor's Note: This article was taken from the Jamaican Observer. ■



Brother Chris Furbert, Sister Molly Burgess and Sir Roy Trotman, General Secretary of the Barbados Workers Union at the recently held Caribbean Congress of Labour Conference in Nassau, Bahamas.

Sister Ronnie Burgess and Brother Jason Hayward, 1st Vice President of the Bermuda Public Services Union in Bahamas the the18th Triennial Delegates Conference of the Caribbean Congress of Labour.



Brother Chris Furbert, BIU President took a moment out of his busy schedule to meet with Dr. Isaac Newton who is originally from Antigua, but is currently resident in Brooklyn, New York. Dr. Newton, an ordained minister, was in Bermuda recently to speak at the Bermuda Union of Teachers conference. In addition to being a motivational speaker, Dr. Newton is also an ordained minister. The topic of his workshop for Bermuda's public school teachers was "Teaching With Soul".

EAP CLIPS: NOVEMBER 2013

THE SCOOP ON WORKPLACE GOSSIP

Now here's something that'll get your coworkers buzzing: According to a study published in the Journal of Applied Social Psychology, up to 90% of workplace conversation is gossip. Is it possible?

If this statistic is anywhere close to the mark, it's obvious you're your coworkers are discussing YOU with greater frequency than you'd ever imagined. And although you may not consider yourself a busybody, you're clearly talking about THEM quite a bit as well.

So what are we to make of all this? First, don't take this as a sign of societal decay. Despite its bad reputation, gossip isn't all bad.

WHY GOSSIP CAN BE GOOD

There's more to gossip than petty, rumor-mongering. According to researchers, gossip is primarily driven by a desire to enforce social norms and ensure that each member of the group pulls his or her own weight.

Surprisingly, a great deal of workplace gossip is positive. It's also important to keep in mind that even when gossip is negative, it isn't necessarily malicious. According to the study, negative gossip is often driven by the desire to warn group members against the harmful or inappropriate behavior of others.

TO GOSSIP OR NOT TO GOSSIP

Gossip is one way that human beings bond with each other, so don't shun it completely. A little bit of gossip can go a long way toward building important workplace relationships.

- Don't try to eradicate gossip or scold others for engaging in it. People gossip. It's a natural human interaction. Judging others for it is a sure way of being ostracized from the group.
- Gossip in small doses. Researchers say those who gossip excessively or with too many people are perceived as untrustworthy.
- Become a listener rather than a talker. Keep your comments about others positive and brief.

- Don't hesitate to engage in trivial gossip about sports, entertainment or other subjects that your coworkers shot interest in. Remember; gossip is one of the primary ways in which people bond.
- Avoid taking sides in personal disputes.
- Evaluate trustworthiness and credibility of others before acting on gossip. Not everything you hear is true.
- Ask follow up questions when gossip turns to matters that might affect you. Walk away when gossip becomes nasty or personal.
- Pay close attention to workplace alliances and friendships and use this knowledge to your benefit.
- Note which employees consistently badmouth others. If they're doing it to everyone else, they're doing it to you.

USING GOSSIP TO IMPROVE YOUR IMAGE

Gossip an alternative means of communication that can help you achieve things that traditional communication sometimes cannot.

For example, gossip is a great way to float an idea or get feedback on a project you've been working on. This can be as simple as asking a few people, "Hey, what's the buzz on (X)? Do people like where we're going with this?"

Gossip can also be used strategically to magnify the power of a compliment. Delivering a compliment second hand accomplishes two things:

1. The person you've complimented will be flattered to hear someone was speaking well of them.
2. Your image as a positive and sincere person will be enhanced.

Finally, there's nothing wrong with occasionally dropping a self-promotional comment to someone you know will repeat it. Few things punch up your image more than other people doing your bragging for you.



Employee
Assistance
Programme
Bermuda

P.O. Box HM 381, Hamilton HMBX
Web: www.eap.bm Phone: 441.292.9000
Fax: 441.292.8002 E-mail: info@eap.bm

Log-on for additional information

If you need to talk...
we are here to listen.



THE CREDIT UNION



Over 200 million **satisfied** members in over 100 countries around the world; from Alaska in the North to Chile in the South and to Fiji in the East and Macedonia in the West. Over 55,000 Credit Unions serving the unserved and the under-served.

- 
- ✓ *Your savings are insured at no direct cost to you*
 - ✓ *Returns on savings are equitably distributed in the form of dividends*
 - ✓ *Interest earned on deposits in line with interest charged on loans*
 - ✓ *Members receive training in financial management*

BECOME A CREDIT UNION MEMBER TODAY!

Telephone: 292-0385
e-mail: creditunion@mbrscu.bm
website: www.bermudascreditunionscoop.bm
49 Union Square, Hamilton HM 12





Belize River Valley Estates

Great Land Offer!

- 2 Acre Lots—lot size 200' x 400'
- **Under 40K US**
- 10% down payment—no pre-qualifying
- 5-7 year payment plan is available at 11% interest rate
- 3 examples of sample homes are available
- Sample lot plans available upon request
- Subdivision has **electricity, water**, telephone and internet accessibility

visit **www.higroupsales.com**



For more information call for an appointment

HI Group Marketing And Consultants, LTD.

Astor House | 38 Union Street
Hamilton, HM10, Bermuda

T: (441) 292-4695

F: (441) 292-4535

email: jeneferbrimmer@higroupsales.com
www.higroupsales.com

How many Churches were established by Jesus?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Evangelical Church | <input type="radio"/> Pentecostal Church | <input type="radio"/> New Testament Church |
| <input type="radio"/> Salvation Army Church | <input type="radio"/> Latter Day Saints Church | <input type="radio"/> Presbyterian Church |
| <input type="radio"/> Church of England | <input type="radio"/> Church of the Nazarene | <input type="radio"/> Apostolic Church |
| <input type="radio"/> Lutheran Church | <input type="radio"/> Christian Science | <input type="radio"/> Jehovah's Witness |
| <input type="radio"/> Church of God | <input type="radio"/> United Holy Church | <input type="radio"/> Methodist Church |
| <input type="radio"/> Roman Catholic Church | <input type="radio"/> Baptist Church | <input type="radio"/> Seventh Day Church |
| <input type="radio"/> Church of Christ | <input type="radio"/> Christian Church | <input type="radio"/> Ethiopian Orthodox Church |
| <input type="radio"/> African M.E. Church | <input type="radio"/> Brethren | |

NOT A SINGLE CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED BY JESUS!!! Matthew 16:18

*Jesus did not say he would build a **church**.* He did not use the word *kyriakon*, which is the origin of the word church. The word church simply does not exist in the Word of God. Words must be correct, or there can be no knowledge of the truth that sets free; ignorance and liberty do not walk together in the light. Church is derived from the Greek word *kyriakon*, which is not used in Scripture!

Let there be no misunderstanding. In this, the word church is a derivative of the word *kyriakon* that does not occur in Scripture. It is a pagan name and concept for a literal house for a god. Yet this erroneous word church is most definitely found in the Bible translations. In the majority of Bible versions the word church is used repeatedly, inserted as a deliberate replacement for and mistranslation of *ekklesia*. Worse still the word church has up to six different meanings, creating the confusion which the early church intended, and all churches have loved ever since. Church can mean the main governing body other than the state, an organization, a building, the clergy, a denomination or sect. **Ekklesia does not have these multiple meanings, and most certainly never refers to a building. That is why church (kyriakon) should never be confused with assembly (ekklesia), not substituted for ekklesia, because ekklesia is not the origin of the word church.** In the New Testament it (*ekklesia*) always denotes a group of people....it never signifies a building or denomination." (Harper's Bible Dictionary).

The English Dictionary reveals that the English word "church" which is used in our English Bible is taken from the late Greek word "*kyridakon*" not "*ekklasia*." The Greek word "*kyridakon*" is not found in the New Testament and only came into being in the 16th Century, long after New Testament times. Thus the English word "church" cannot be translated back into Greek because there is no word in the New Testament Greek that is the equivalent of the understanding of the English word.

Your Questions are Welcome!!

To obtain FREE articles:

The myth of the church of the Bible
The non-biblical word Church

Write to: Search The Scriptures
P.O. Box HM 3387, Hamilton HM PX
Tel. 735-1964

Premier Cannonier Needs to Take His Own Advice

continued from page 3

tape, alienating attitudes and policies – but the end result was the loss of Bermudian business and jobs.”

I question how the Premier could boast to the attendees at the World Islamic Economic Forum that Bermuda has an enviable reputation as being a center for excellence, but yet he can tell Bermudians that Bermuda was in a “financial and reputational tailspin” when the OBA took over. The Premier and the OBA MPs and members cannot have it both ways. Bermuda is a centre for excellence, or, as Thad Hollis, the OBA Chairman put it, Bermuda was “in a mess” from November 9, 1998 until December 17, 2013.

But those of us who understand politics, understand that Premier Cannonier and Finance Minister Richards and others in their party must spend their time denigrating the Bermuda Progressive Labour Party, because we all know that the One Bermuda Alliance is bereft plans to move Bermuda forward. ■

Union Corner

continued from page 5

will only result in a lessening of understanding and the possible emergence of hostility.

At a higher level of settlement of differences, newspapers can serve a useful function. In this case, the newspaper will present the opposing views in print for all to examine and analyze. The extent that the owners of the paper and its editor are interested in improving society rather than propagating their own point of view, this method can be of great value in promoting harmony and understanding. However should the newspaper be far more interested in promoting the views of powerful elites than the newspaper will only build a foundation for further unsettling disagreement?

The point of this exercise is that UNION CORNER can be an instrument for furthering the unity that is necessary in the creation of a strong union that can protect the interests of its members. But to achieve this goal it needs to continue to encourage its members to participate in continuous and respectful debate about those issues which are of immediate concern to the wellbeing of themselves and their families.

For all of the above reasons, I believe that vigorous discussion to defend and/or promote one's view point is necessary if we wish to maintain a strong union and a successful, functioning democracy. ■

The Future of Bermuda's Exclusive Economic Zone

continued from page 7

national territory of Canada.

I merely point out that this is a natural resource-hungry world with more and more developing countries with the enthusiastic goal of developing their nations and raising the stand of living for their people. These nations are very active in the scramble for natural resources. That is why China is in Africa, along with India and even Brazil, challenging the Western nations with their legacy of colonialism which has allowed them access to Africa's natural resources.

In another area where there may be an economic benefit for Bermuda lies in the creation of a deep sea fishing industry. Granted, Bermudians do not go beyond a certain point in their local fishing efforts. But again if we look in Bermuda's history in regard to the sea, you will see we were once a whaling nation whereupon we had an industry of hunting and processing whales. Bermuda's use of the sea has a long history from trading with other nations to the activities of privateers to making up boat crews for fishing industries who ports came out of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. There is nothing to say that we may yet be forced to return to our economic roots in regard to the sea.

So in conclusion Bermuda must not allow itself to be left out of this potential source of natural wealth which may lay under Bermuda's waters whether that be in the search for minerals and other natural resources or a future return to deep sea fishing. This would be a far too great an economic loss for Bermuda just so the environmentalists with their so-called Blue Halo project may look good in the national geographic and history channels. ■

'Carwasheros' Sign Union Contracts

continued from page 11

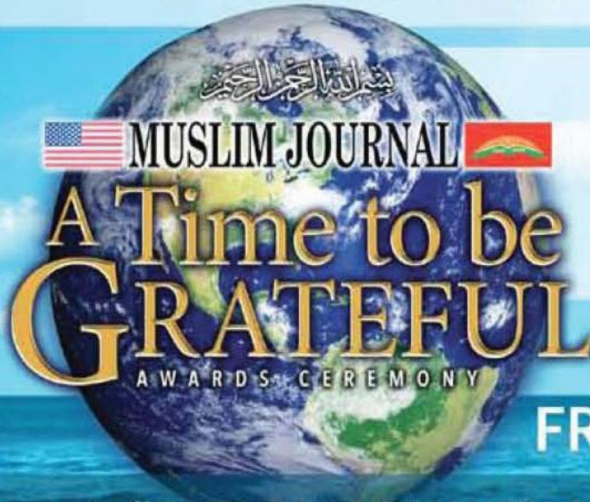
party arbitration.

Workers will have a schedule posted each week, with hours and overtime distributed fairly and equally among the workers.

Workers also will receive holiday bonuses for Christmas, Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, Easter and Labor Day. There are some 200 car washes in New York City, with an estimated 5,000

employees, mostly immigrants who are paid low wages and too often denied overtime, to which they are entitled by law. “This campaign has turned a major corner,” said Deb Axt, co-executive director of Make the Road New York. “These car washes are owned by two of the biggest players in the industry, and contracts at these car washes begin to set a new industry standard.” ■

MUSLIM JOURNAL'S 10TH ANNUAL
"A TIME TO BE GRATEFUL" AWARDS DINNER AND WEEKEND



THE FAIRMONT SOUTHAMPTON HOTEL
101 SOUTH SHORE RD.,
SOUTHAMPTON, BERMUDA SN02

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/muslimjournal>
 441-238-8000 or 800-441-1414

(ASK FOR "MUSLIM JOURNAL CONVENTION"/ATTBG) FOR HOTEL RATES, SEE ORDER FORM

DEC. 13 – 15, 2013
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY

A "FITNAH FREE" ZONE: INNER REFLECTION –
SPIRITUAL, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WHOLENESS



Diane Nash

"Imam W. Deen Mohamed Distinguished Citizen" Award and Keynote Speaker



D. Paul Montiero

"Public Servant" Award and Guest Speaker



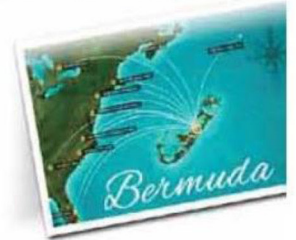
Imam Basim Muwwakkil

"Imam of the Year Award"



Cromwell Shakir

"Public Servant" Award



Judith Hall-Bean

"Civil Servant" Award



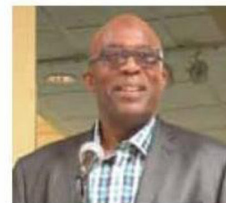
Ra'ees Jibri Tankard

"Progressive Young Adult" Award



Imam/Dr. Abdel J. Nuriddin, N.D., Ph.D.

"Monte I. Fateen Sr." Award



R. Rasool Malik

"Business Man of the Year" Award



Sister Clara Muhammad School of Bermuda

FRIDAY
DEC. 13

SATURDAY
DEC. 14

SUNDAY
DEC. 15

MOODS & EMOTIONS 1

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining 12 letters spell an additional word.

U	E	W	W	E	A	R	Y	R	E	S	I	M	A	D
N	D	V	O	A	N	G	U	I	S	H	B	L	U	E
E	G	E	O	L	Y	H	E	L	P	L	E	S	S	T
A	Y	S	S	L	L	Y	T	E	O	Y	C	L	A	A
S	G	O	E	A	N	E	A	N	H	I	S	A	F	I
Y	R	N	F	N	E	C	M	T	N	L	U	I	R	L
G	O	E	U	F	E	L	A	A	U	A	O	V	A	I
L	U	S	M	F	E	P	P	F	I	G	I	O	I	M
O	C	S	U	O	M	N	E	I	R	I	R	J	D	U
O	H	L	O	Y	R	P	D	D	K	T	U	S	O	H
M	Y	H	S	M	O	S	M	E	E	A	F	R	W	K
Y	T	R	U	H	B	M	E	D	D	T	N	E	N	R
N	O	I	T	A	L	E	R	A	D	E	R	O	B	A
N	C	H	E	E	R	Y	R	J	R	D	A	E	R	D
T	T	A	E	B	P	U	Y	Y	L	A	I	N	E	G

AFRAID
AGITATED
ANGUISH
BLUE
BORED
CHEERY
DARK
DOWN
DREAD
EDGY

ELATION
FURIOUS
GENIAL
GLOOMY
GROUCHY
HELPLESS
HOPEFUL
HUMILIATED
HURT
IRKED

JADED
JOVIAL
LONELY
LOVE
MELLOW
MERRY
MISERY
OFFENDED
ORNERY
PANIC

PEACEFUL
PLEASED
REMORSE
SOMBER
SUNNY
SYMPATHY
UNEASY
UPBEAT
WEARY