



# The Lighthouse

## Plans for 2015

As is customary, the **Official Board** of the **Berean Bible Church** held a **Planning Retreat** on **21st January 2015** (Errol Barrow Day) to finalize plans for the year. The venue was the facilities of the Dining Club in Newton, Christ Church.

It was a very intense planning session from 9.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Following prayers, there was a review of 2014 and a look ahead to 2015.

A considerable amount of time was spent on the Church's Strategic Development Plan, where goals completed, commenced or on-going were highlighted and those not yet tackled were brought to the fore. Coming out of the discussions, a number of important developmental plans were noted and the following are a few:



Berean Board members in intense planning discussions on Wednesday 21st January 2015

- ◆ **Coordinating Meeting With Leaders of Departments.** It is the aim of the board to set up a meeting with the Leaders of all departments (*and other persons who play roles within the church*) on **Saturday 7th February at 4.00 p.m.** at the church to ensure that they are briefed on plans discussed and can give feedback as to how they can assist in the process. This is all in aid of better communication between the Board and members of departments. These meetings which will be periodic are meant to improve administration overall.
- ◆ **Commencement of Cell Groups.** The Board aims to commence with Cell groups on the first Wednesday in February, **Wednesday 4th February**, with a general introduction at Church at 7.30 p.m. to get the concept started. Thereafter Cell Group meetings will be held **one Wednesday night per month.**
- ◆ **Theme.** A Theme for the year and a set of sub-themes was approved by the Board. There is more information on this theme on page 3.
- ◆ **Outreach.** Outreach/Open air meetings will intensify.
- ◆ **New Church Building Project.** The Church Building project will recommence shortly. An opportunity will be created for church members to see the progress first hand.

### BEREAN CHOIR CONCERT

The Berean Choir Concert is coming soon....more details will be given very soon. Please listen out for further details.

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◆ **Calendar of Events.** A Calendar of Events has been created with inputs from the various Departments. Each Department Head should request a calendar and care should be taken to avoid clashes in time tabling events.

**Youth Development.** One of the most fundamentally important decisions taken, however, was to aim to streamline the

(Continued from Page 1)

development of our Youth by tracing how we will handle them from very early childhood through to young adult. A committee is being formed to deal with this.

The Board is also making provision for Church members to assist in the Strategic Development process in any way they think they can help.

## BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

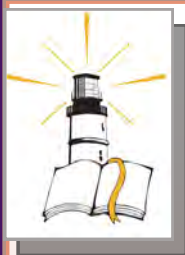
This is the beginning of a series of articles to keep you informed about the outcome of the Berean Strategic Planning Process. Each edition will feature information on planning. A lot of planning and coordination accompanies our prayers, as indeed the Lord has given us the talents and skills to do His work, for the sake of building His kingdom.

1. **How/When was it done?** Strategic Planning Sessions were held monthly at the Berean Bible Church between **Saturday 21 April 2012 monthly until September 2012**. A cross-section of members of the church participated and actively constructed this overall plan.
2. **What is a Berean?** The Bereans stand as examples to Christians today, not just for their acceptance of scripture but also for the fact that they thoroughly examined scripture to see that what they were being taught was correct: **Acts chap 17 Verses 10 - 12**

**10** And the brethren immediately sent away [Paul](#) and Silas by night unto [Berea](#): who coming *thither* went into the synagogue of the Jews.

**11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

**12** Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.



## The Lighthouse

The symbol of the Lighthouse has long been associated with the Berean Bible Church. It represents a guiding light against the perils of this world, preventing persons from "*running aground spiritually*". It is a Lighthouse at the corner of Passage Road and Baxters Road. Soon, it will be a Lighthouse near another corner. As the church looks forward to moving to a new location at Hothersal, the symbol of the lighthouse has been retained as an enduring principle. In addition to it being retained, an acrostic has been created by young Sis. Zoe Licorish from the word L\_I\_G\_H\_T\_H\_O\_U\_S-E, to capture the vital characteristics of our Church. They are as follows

<b>L</b>	-	<b>Love</b>	<b>H</b>	-	<b>Hope</b>
<b>I</b>	-	<b>Integrity</b>	<b>O</b>	-	<b>Obedience</b>
<b>G</b>	-	<b>Grace</b>	<b>U</b>	-	<b>Unity</b>
<b>H</b>	-	<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>S</b>	-	<b>Strength</b>
<b>T</b>	-	<b>Truth/Trust</b>	<b>E</b>	-	<b>Excellence</b>

(To be continued in next edition)

## Theme for 2015

### *Theme 2015—Thy Kingdom Come*



Bro. Tyrone Lowe

The theme which the Berean Church will make the center of its focus for 2015 is “*Thy Kingdom Come*”

The theme seeks to help Bereans to recognize that God’s Kingdom and the present world system are not the same. It is designed to ensure that Bereans have a clear understanding of God’s plans for humanity and give them a greater appreciation of their place in God’s overall plans. They would know what the expectations of the Kingdom are and then commit to following God’s Will with greater purpose. Bereans would become stronger spiritually and, in the growth, they would display love, kindness, joy and other spiritual fruits which attract the unsaved to God’s Kingdom.

The three words, “*Thy Kingdom Come*”, found in the opening sentences of the Lord’s Prayer are very profound but their significance can be easily underestimated. God created the world and placed it into the hands of His prized creation, Adam. This special being, man, was given the privilege to assign names to animals, to have dominion over his environment while enjoying harmonious relations with God his maker. All of this changed when Lucifer deceptively orchestrated Adam’s fall and proceeded to assert himself as ruler over the world. The deceiver, also called Satan and known for being evil, wicked and sly, established systems in commerce, entertainment, science and academics. He operates in the spiritual and the mystical and today has the world trapped in his empire of evil. He remains defiant to God Almighty and pursues an arrogant agenda of deception in the hope of destroying God’s Kingdom.

Each month, there will be a topic on an area of the theme that will provide the congregation with opportunities to delve deeper into living for the Kingdom. Some topics include ***Sowing and Reaping for the Kingdom, Reaching Out for the Kingdom, Breaking the ties with the present world system, Funding for the Kingdom and Enjoyment in the Kingdom.***

“Thy Kingdom Come” is the prayer of Jesus and it is not only about proclaiming God’s authority, it signals the end of the devil and his principalities.

May God help us to appreciate His kingdom and enable us to find our role in establishing it.

***Thy kingdom come.***

## “The Church That is Dead and Does Not Know it.”

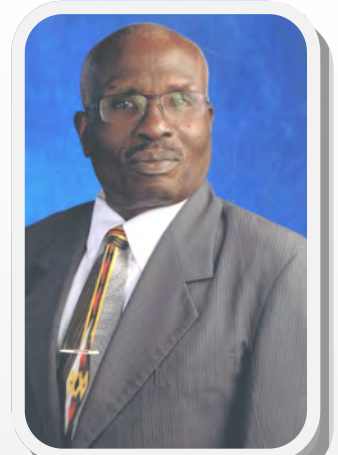
Pastor Ronald Trotman brought another powerful message from the Word of God on **Sunday 25th January 2015**. A visitor from the UK, who was visiting Barbados on a cruise liner, was touched and felt compelled to say that it was a very clear message and it was a blessing to him and his wife.

Pastor Trotman’s text was taken from Revelations 3: 1-6.:

**3 “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,**

**‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup> Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>3</sup> Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. <sup>4</sup> You<sup>[b]</sup> have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup> He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.**

**<sup>6</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the church.**



**Rev. Ronald Trotman**

Pastor Trotman began with a simple statement: “The Church that was dead and did not know it”. He drew reference to a statement made by a speaker at Keswick who once said: “The Word of God Lost in the house of the Lord”. He explained that the Kings of Israel forgot the Word of the Lord and that it is beginning to happen in our times. But he advised that you never fail until you stop trying and, secondly, that you should learn from your mistakes and those of others.

He explained that the loveliest thing is a Church which preaches the Word of God - not only some of it, but all of it. He noted that at the Berean, we preach the Word of God every time someone stands in the pulpit, but that we sometimes can get tired and we need to keep going. He reminded them of what is said about the Church in Revelation 3:15: “I know the works, that thou art neither cold nor hot. I would that thou wert cold or hot.”. He warned the congregation that God can take so much but there is a time that he will take the rod—take action. He therefore encouraged the congregation to learn a lot from the situation at the Church at Sardis. He advised that we are all members of the body and that the Church will never function correctly until each member is playing his part. He therefore urged the congregation to examine five aspects of the Church at Sardis:

**Condition.** He began first with a focus on its Condition. He stressed that this dealt with *reputation - the Church thinking that it is alive when in fact the church is dead but does not know*. He asked the congregation to notice who is the author of the letter “ And to the angel in the church of Sardis write...”. The people of Sardis know that it is the Word of God. He asked “ *Today is it a Word for you?*

***Today we have a reputation. It does not matter what the world thinks, but rather what God thinks about our Church."***

The Pastor asked another searching question: ***"Would you say our Church is alive and well"***. He cautioned the congregation that we needed to be careful that ***we are not living on past glories/memories***. He was quick to point out that these are good, but when it comes to serving the Lord they are not enough. He went on: "People say I was on fire for the Lord, but we cannot go on with past glory". He illustrated this by referring to when his car was new and he washed it four times a day, but eventually, as time passed, he hardly washed it. This was a reminder to the congregation that we all get tired and ***"get accustomed"***. He asked: ***"Are we getting accustomed to Church that we no longer have the strong desire to come to church. We must remember that God is looking on and, one day, He will come back"***.

***Counsel.*** With respect to counsel, Pastor Trotman noted that there is counsel in Verses 2 and 3 - be watchful, thoughtful and sorrowful. He said ***"Is God speaking to you? We need to do a serious introspection.***

Pastor Trotman advised the congregation to stop looking at the failings of our neighbours and brothers and look inwards at our own failings. He urged us to be watchful, thoughtful and sorrowful and not let sin or neglect enter our lives. With respect to sin, he reminded us that there are no big sins nor little sins, and also that sins of omission were just as serious as sins of commission in God's sight. He quoted James 4:17: ***"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."*** . As regards lost zeal, Pastor Trotman referred to Revelations 2:4 which says about the Church at Ephesus: ***"You have lost your first love"*** and stressed that it was necessary to get back this zeal. His advice was: ***"see where you have gone wrong. Do you know where you got off the road - where you lost your zeal ? "***.

***Consequences.*** Pastor Trotman noted: "God says ' I will come as a thief in the night'." He asked the congregation facetiously, ***"Does a thief call and say ' I am going to rob your home' ? God is saying to the people of the church at Sardis that he will come as a thief in the night. God is going to find us wanting... catch us unprepared. We shall give a strict account of what we have done—omission or commission—at the Judgment Seat."***

***Constancy.*** Pastor Trotman next focused on the part of the next which says: "you have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments". He explained that there are still some faithful Christians who were willing to serve with zeal. He asked : ***"Are you one of them?"***

***Compensation.*** Noting that those who follow Jesus will be "clothed in white garments"—a symbol of purity, Pastor Trotman concluded that ***"the Lord has a Word for us today. In Sardis, the faithful few are among the unfaithful. God never told the faithful to leave this church. Why? There is always the chance that the faithful will influence the others. If you are one of the faithful few, do not give up. Your life can be an encouragement to those who are falling by the wayside. Are we in that group that God can say I will confess your name before God?"***

He closed with words from the song "I Wonder Have I Done My Best For Jesus."

*Scripted by P A Skeete*

## Effective Parenting



**Sis. Marva Springer**

*Sis. Marva Springer, former Director of PAREDOS, and member of the Berean Bible Church presents the following series of articles aimed at enlightening parents, grand-parents and any persons who provide care for children about the various stages through which our Children are to be nurtured, protected and guided.*

### 1 to 3 years

#### Tired Picking up Toys

##### Help!

Many days I feel as though I have done nothing else other than pick up toys that my 20-month-old daughter has been playing with. Can you give me some suggestions about how to deal with the clutter and make the chore of cleaning up easier? **CC**

##### Dear CC,

You are not alone in your search for ways to deal with clutter made by an active toddler. Here are a few tips.

Designate a play area (for example, family room, veranda, child's room, etc.). At first, your daughter may continue to drag the toys throughout the house, but as you continue to reinforce the "toy" play area, she will change her behaviour and use the play area.

Place a bin or box in the corner of a room and show your daughter how to put away her toys when she has finished playing with them.

### Safety Alert

Whenever you leave your child alone with toys you should make sure that the environment is absolutely safe. There should be:

- No long strings or ribbons that the child could get tangled in.**
- No small holes that might trap a finger or tongue.**
- No dyes or inks that may run if your child puts the object into his/her mouth.**
- No sharp edges or instruments**
- No small pieces that your child can remove or tear off and swallow.**
- Check toys frequently to make sure they are not cracked, broken or torn.**

### Matthew 19: 14

But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

## Berean Men's Fellowship Developing

Our Men's Fellowship held a meeting on **Saturday 3rd January 2015** at the Berean Bible Church. Present were the main core of men who normally attend these sessions.

We are pleased at the moment that this group of men has shown a steady commitment and we expect more men to join us.

On Saturday 3rd January, after devotions and after each member had spoken about what he expects from being in a Men's fellowship, dates for business meetings were finalized to pass to the church Board's Secretary.



Some of our Berean men singing as a Male Voice Choir on Father's Day 2013

Then came a very exciting round of indoor games which engaged our attention for a considerable period of time. Only the hands of the clock pulled us away and made us realize that it was time to go to our various homes. The fellowship was wonderful.

When speaking to other men about it the following Sunday morning after Worship Service, one older gentleman reminded us: *"We were just letting you get some practice before we meet you all youngsters on the board (games)"* That is the spirit of camaraderie which can go a long way to building our Men's Fellowship.

The Men's fellowship can play a great role in mentoring our youths in the church, while at the same time providing meaningful activity for men to pursue jointly in their walk with God.

2015 can be the year in which this group becomes more firmly established, building on the reliable core of men who attend meetings.



Another Set of Berean men

**Berean Youth Department's Email Address: [bereanyd@gmail.com](mailto:bereanyd@gmail.com)**

## Defend the Faith

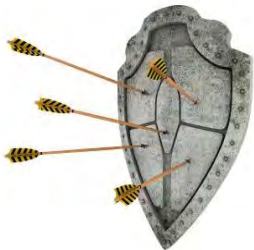
Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to His holy people. **Jude 1:3 NLT**



Sis. Deirdre Boyce

Christ calls for us to be united and work together in His church, the body of believers world-wide; persons we meet every day. Many opportunities exist to make links with our Christian brothers and sisters, be it at church events, concerts, in the workplace or the classroom. No matter the meeting place we know that a basic understanding of the idiosyncrasies of the various denominations in our island helps us to form comfortable relationships and obey Christ.

However, do we know whether the truth of God's word is being taught to our colleague, classmate or friend before we accept that invitation to the next men's seminar or youth fellowship?



Paul warns us in Acts 20:29-31 (NLT):

"I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. Watch out!"

Taking that warning to heart, we started our year by first examining Christian denominations at our youth fellowship sessions. Then at January's Youth Nite and continuing the following Sunday night, we viewed the video 'Marks of a Cult' in order to learn how to identify cults which, sad to say, are commonly found in our own neighbourhoods.

***If you viewed the video with us, you're ready to test your knowledge with this quiz:***

- 1) Why use the word 'cult'?
  - A. To judge and label others
  - B. To scare unsaved persons
  - C. To fulfill our holy obligation and not excuse false teachings (Jude 3)
  - D. To feel justified



## Berean Youth Department

2) What definition of the word cult is based on theology?

- A. A group which exerts control over the behaviors and thoughts of its followers.
- B. A group which claims the backing of Christ or the Bible but really distorts the central message of Christianity by an additional revelation or displacing a fundamental tenet of faith. [Dr. Gordon Lewis, Confronting the Cults pg.4]
- C. A group of people who worship the devil.
- D. A group that uses strange items in their worship.

3) Fill in the blanks. What are the four words used to determine if a group is a cult?

"Does the group \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and / or \_\_\_\_\_ God's word?"

- A. add, subtract, multiply, divide
- B. examine, preach, ingest, forget
- C. open, close, lift, hold
- D. obey, read, esteem, study

4) What is the major difference between a cult and a world religion?

- A. Cult members are friendlier .
- B. Religions have certain styles of dress.
- C. Cults have only one leader.
- D. Cults claim to be Christian.

5) All cults believe that the Bible is a **closed** canon of scripture. (see Rev. 22:18-19)

True

False

6) Some cults denounce Christ's deity by teaching that He was merely a man.

True

False

**Check your answers below.**



**Answers: 1)C. 2) B. 3) A. 4) D. 5) False 6) True**

Article from ASSIST News Service, PO Box 609, Lake Forest, California 92609, USA

## WHY?



**WHEN AIR ASIA FLIGHT 8501** crashed into the ocean in December hundreds of families and friends suffered dear losses - but none so acutely as Mawar Sharon Church (Rose of Sharon) in Surabaya, Indonesia. The congregation had 45 people - more than a quarter of the passengers - on the plane.

But for Pastor Philip Mantofa, the loss has catapulted his church into the spotlight. Now he is speaking out on how this tragedy has strengthened his faith and given him glimpses of heaven.

Mantofa: No words can describe the feeling of loss we have all experienced here, especially the passengers' families. Unnecessary comments haven't helped a bit, and we don't attempt to answer the big "WHY?" question. However, the Holy Spirit has been real in our church as the Comforter.

Faith is the only thing I've got. Though I can't quite make sense of it all, my faith in God has not been shaken. God is not evil, and surely this accident is not His fault. Could He not have prevented it? Of course, He could! But if He did not, He is greater than my thoughts.

God has not promised us a smooth life in this imperfect world, but He has promised to be with us through it all. Here in Indonesia, Jesus isn't only to live for; He is to die for! I will follow Him no matter what, and others will follow me as I follow Christ. Finally, as His love is unconditional to us, so our faith should be *unconditional* to Him. The Lord gives, the Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord! My faith in Jesus hasn't changed, for it is never circumstantial in the first place. Christ is my Lord in all the seasons of my life, whether joyous or sad. When my faith hits rock-bottom, then at the bottom is the Rock – and my faith gets even stronger than ever!

No one is exempt from suffering. That crash, it could have been me in it or anybody. Nobody is special, not even Christians or preachers—only Jesus is! But we are loved. The only thing that is certain in this life is our salvation. Blessed are they whose names have been written in the Book of Life! From the deep ocean, the souls of men and women dear to many and beloved by God ascended to heaven by the Way of the Cross. They marched into glory in white arrays.

Though all human lives are but like smoke which evaporates quickly, blessed are those whose names have been written in the Book of Life. The Lamb of God will wipe every remaining tear from their eyes, and they shall live as stars and diamonds in the sky, as angels on high, and as sons and daughters of the King of Heaven. So let go and let God!"

## Spiritual Leadership



**Pastor Hansen and wife  
depart Barbados**



**May 1962 - The Berean - a hive of activity in the city!**

In a previous edition of this newsletter, reference was made to Rev. Kermit Hansen's organizing ability for Crusades and other activities. Rev. Hansen was the first Pastor of the Berean Bible Church. He seemed to have the skill of reaching out wherever help was and securing it for the Berean Bible Church. Sis. Joy Banfield in her memoirs noted:

*"I believe Rev. Hansen was the Chaplain at the American Naval Base in St. Lucy. He came into contact with Christian young men who became part of our Church during their stay and indeed were very helpful around the Church building". She went on to add: "One of these men was Wayne Collier who later became a Pastor in the US and worked with the Bible School which operated out of this Church.. I attended many of these classes offered by the Barbados Bible Institute and learned much from the able Godly men who taught there. "As the Hansens left, we welcomed our dear Pastor Trotman. He came with us on the 1st May. The ordination service was conducted on the 24th August 1974 during Sunday evening service. Present to ask God's blessing upon him were Rev. Mc Caskey and Rev. Collier", she added.*



**The young Pastor Ronald  
Trotman Takes Charge**

On the departure of Rev. Hansen, it was felt by the Board that it was important to have a local fill the place as Pastor. Rev. Ronald Trotman has been in that post for 41 years and has built his rapport with the congregation. He is Pastor, friend, confidant, electrician,..... many things to many people, but he maintains a stern focus on preaching the Word as a priority in God's service.

**(to be continued in next edition)**