

February 2024

FINAL

2024

JAMAICA BAPTIST
WOMEN'S FEDERATION

DAY OF
PRAYER

Worship Guide

Redefining the Vision

Rekindling the passion

Reawakening to Purpose

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Worship Guide

JBWF DAY OF PRAYER

2b Washington Boulevard,
Kingston
www.jbwf.org.jmm
jbwfssecretary@gmail.com
@jbwff1922



President

Georgia Crossman Small

Art Direction

Candice Walker, Secretary

Chair of Spiritual Emphasis & Growth Committee

Hillary Morgan

Photographers

Shernette Powell, Kimberly
Campbell England, Hillary
Brown Manderson

Prayer Partners

Ann Marie Pryce Patman,
Annette Grant

Contributing Writers

Rev. Deonie Duncan
Sis. Dafflyn Campbell
Sis. Evelyn Gyles



LETTER *from the* PRESIDENT

My Sisters and also my brothers who may have joined us in this Annual Jamaica Baptist Women's Day of Prayer, 2024; once again, we give Jehovah God thanks for this opportunity to meet as a community of believers unified by the powerful communication channel of prayer, as by the power of the Holy Spirit, we seek to hear God's response to our collective offerings of adoration, intercession and thanksgiving.

We thank the members of the Spiritual Emphasis and Growth Committee, as well as our sisters who shared their reflections, for allowing the Holy Spirit's leading to allow for the creation of this liturgical movement to guide our worship.

May we all depart, with the three movements of the theme challenging us to recommit to:

1. Reach and identify persons in order to develop personal and caring relationships.

As we gather in corporate worship, under our the JBWF's theme for the period 2023-2025, "Redefining the Vision, Rekindling the Passion, Reawakening to Purpose," it is my prayer that our time together will be void of distractions and centered on the object of our worship, Jehovah God; reflective of the hearts of the peoples on whose behalf we intercede, while being extravagant in our praise, as we recognize the awesomeness of our King of Kings who has welcome us in the sanctified spaces and places wherein we gather.

2. Facilitate an encounter with Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world, to liberate and empower persons held captive in sinful situations.

3. Partner with God to intentionally bring transformation in the lives of people and communities that are destitute, marginalized and exploited, through acts of service.

Thus committing to the motto of the JBWF to Seek, Save, Serve.



Shalom

Georgia Crossman Small

CENTERING

A scenic view of a rocky coastline. In the foreground, a steep, rocky cliffside with sparse green vegetation slopes down towards the sea. The water is a deep blue, with a large, prominent sea stack in the middle ground. In the background, a large, flat-topped rock formation (a sea stack) rises from the water. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

On this our annual Day of Prayer, we gather in the presence of God to praise and give thanks, to lament and confess, and to listen and make commitments. It is time to become focused, not on our wants or complaints but on God:

In the silent places of our souls, we turn to God, for God alone is the source of the redefining, rekindling, and reawakening that we seek.

By Margarita Perez.
Photography by Francois Mercer

A serene sunset over a beach. The sky is a mix of teal and orange, with wispy clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the ocean and the dark sand of the beach. Palm trees are visible on the left side of the frame.

SONG: “There is a sweet anointing in the sanctuary”

There is a sweet anointing in this sanctuary
There is a stillness in the atmosphere;
Come and lay down the burdens you have carried
For in the sanctuary, God is here

God is here

God is here to break the yoke

And lift the heavy burden

God is here

God is here to heal the hopeless heart

And bless the broken

Oh come and lay down

The burdens you have carried

For in this sanctuary, God is here

Link to the Song: [“There is a Sweet Anointing in the Sanctuary”](#)

CALL TO WORSHIP



Leader:

We come together to worship the God of Hannah, Esther, Deborah.

Response:

We worship the one true God; creator of all.

Leader:

We meet in the presence of the God who sees and knows; the God who listens and speaks.

Response:

Living God, open our ears and our eyes to see your vision and our role in it.

Leader:

In our gathering, we offer our acts of singing, praying, proclaiming and fellowshiping to the glory of your name.

Response:

Lord be the focus of all that we are and all that we do, so we may rekindly our passion and be reawakened to our God-given purpose.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader:



Let us worship the Triune God!

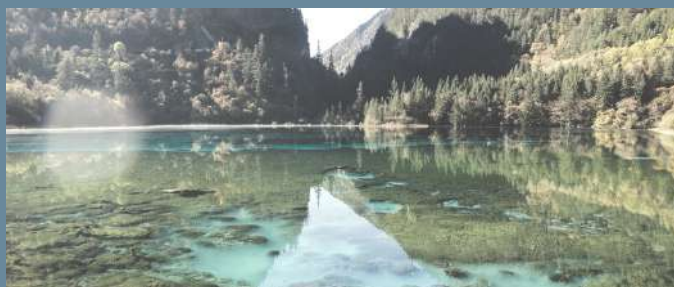
Response:

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen

Hymn: Let us sing to the God of Salvation

Let us sing to the God of salvation, let us sing to the Lord our rock; let us come to his house with thanksgiving, let us come before the Lord and sing!

*Praise our maker, praise our saviour, Praise the Lord our everlasting king: every throne must bow before him
God is Lord of everything!*



In his hand are the earth's deepest places, and the strength of the hills is His; all the sea is the Lord's, for He made it by his hand the solid rock was formed.

Let us worship the Lord our maker, let us kneel to the Lord our God; for we all are the sheep of his pasture He will guide us by his powerful hand.

Let today be the time when you hear him! May our hearts not be hard or cold, lest we stray from the Lord in rebellion as his people did in time of old.

PRAAYER *of* ADORATION & CONFESSION

(said extemporaneously)



SUNG RESPONSE “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

Link to the Song: [“Create in Me a Clean Heart”](#)

Create in me a clean heart, oh God and renew a right spirit within me. Create in me a clean heart, oh God. And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from Thy presence, oh Lord and take not Thy holy spirit from me. .Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation And renew a right spirit within me

MOVEMENT



One

REDEFINING THE VISION



SCRIPTURE READING:

Jeremiah 2:13

“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

Reflection



By Rev. Deonie Duncan

In Jeremiah’s time, a cistern was a technological innovation to collect and store surplus water during the rainy winter for use during the dry summer months. Such creativity was a reasonable effort to facilitate water security throughout the year. This familiar image from daily life provides the background for the prophet’s metaphors of “living water” and “broken cisterns” (2:13).

In our modern world, people who live with water security throughout the year, with potable water flowing from the pipes in their homes and coming in sterile plastic bottles, may take for granted the technologies behind such efforts.

Rev. Deonie Duncan is an alumnus of the UTCWI, University of the West Indies and the Yale Divinity school.

Reflection

By Rev. Deonie Duncan
continued

However, the others who live with regular water lock-offs or who never had running water in their homes, and, therefore, need to use innovative ways such as black tanks on their roofs, rainwater harvesting, or channeling water from springs and rivers to ensure water security may better appreciate the image of a cistern.

Nonetheless, we should not miss the point that within the context of the need for water security, Jeremiah uses a familiar image to make a crisp accusation against the people of God: “They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.” We may struggle to grasp that any effort to find appropriate technologies to improve the quality of life is being frowned upon.

Therefore, the accusation begs a relevant question: In what ways was God in and through Jeremiah using an ordinary everyday need for water security to say something fresh to God’s people?

Jeremiah was calling their attention to the sin of idolatry, which is trusting something other than God as if it were God. In this particular context, it was their ingenuity; their reliance on self rather than their dependence on God for their survival.

The tricky thing about idolatry is that when we are doing it, it does not seem as if we are worshipping false gods. In the eyes of the people, they were pursuing something necessary for their survival. On the surface, it seemed like they were a people of proactive vision. But the means to the end was problematic.

In their quest for water, the people were forsaking God, the “living source,” and creating “broken cisterns” unable to store water. They turned from the source of their being and trust in their own doing to provide technologies to collect and store water.

Today, as we engage in a Day of Prayer, let us listen to Jeremiah’s accusation and ask ourselves, “Is God saying something fresh to us?” Are we becoming empty and dry, or do we feel drained pursuing the vision we have crafted for the ongoing survival of the Women’s Federation? Are we distracted from the source of the living water, busily carving our own programmes to maintain spiritual relevance in a dry, parched world? So often, we trade off our calling “to seek, save, and serve” to go after things with no substance, no meaning, and no worth. We spend quality time pushing our own agendas, forming unholy alliances, unnecessarily reinventing the wheel, and ultimately undermining the mission.

Let us heed Jeremiah’s words lest we, too, become guilty of idolatry - forsaking the living water and digging a broken cistern that cannot hold water. Today is the right time, and we are in the right space to ask God to help us redefine our vision as we engage in ministry.



JBWF Enrollment in Saint Andrew, 2024

Link to the Song: ["Be Thou My Vision"](#)

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
 be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
 be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
 both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, be Thou my true Word;
 be Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord;
 be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son,
 be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
 be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
 be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
 O High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.



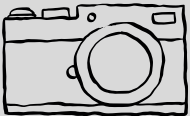
PRAYERS



WE PRAY.....



- **about the things that are distracting;**
- **clarity for vision for such a time as this;**
- **wisdom/vision for those in leadership (Women's Federation, Church, Nation, World)**
- **Dignity & Flourishing of all human beings**



Photography by Kimberly England

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

SONG: "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care, And bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known. In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief, And oft escaped the tempter's snare, By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! The joys I feel, the bliss I share, of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for thy return! With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows His face, and gladly take my station there, And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear to Him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless. And since He bids me seek His face, Believe His Word and trust His grace, I'll cast on Him my every care, And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! May I thy consolation share, till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height, I view my home and take my flight. This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise To seize the everlasting prize, And shout, while passing through the air, "Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!"

Link to the Song: ["Sweet Hour of Prayer"](#)



Movement **TWO** **REKINDLING THE PASSION**

SCRIPTURE READING:

Esther 4:15-16

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

Reflection



By Sis. Evelyn Gyles

The word 'Passion' has multiple meanings. It can mean suffering, as in the Passion of Christ, in reference to that period just before Jesus' death. It can also mean love, eager desire, zeal, fervor or devotion. In the narrative about Esther, found in the book of the same name, passion for God is intricately woven into the story although the name God does not appear in the book.

Esther, the Jewish girl who became Queen of Persia, found herself in an unusual place under unusual circumstances. She was chosen to replace the legitimate queen although her ethnicity precluded her from such a position. When faced with the decision to prevent the slaughter of her people, her courage and heroism proved that love for self is secondary to love for one's fellowman and woman.

God sent Esther into a unique situation to fulfil His purpose but He equipped her with passion to save her people. In fulfilment of the task, two important lessons emerge.

First, fasting and prayer are necessary when making profound decisions or faced with an awesome task.

As Esther realized the magnitude of the task she was being asked to undertake, it dawned on her that it was not something she could accomplish by herself. She needed the help of a higher power, so she called on her people to gather for fasting and prayer. Prayer is not explicitly stated in the story but it is implied. The call for fasting and prayer demonstrated the importance of seeking God's wisdom and guidance when the task is overwhelming. Prayer must be the Christian's first recourse before taking action. Jesus said: "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." (Matthew 21:22).

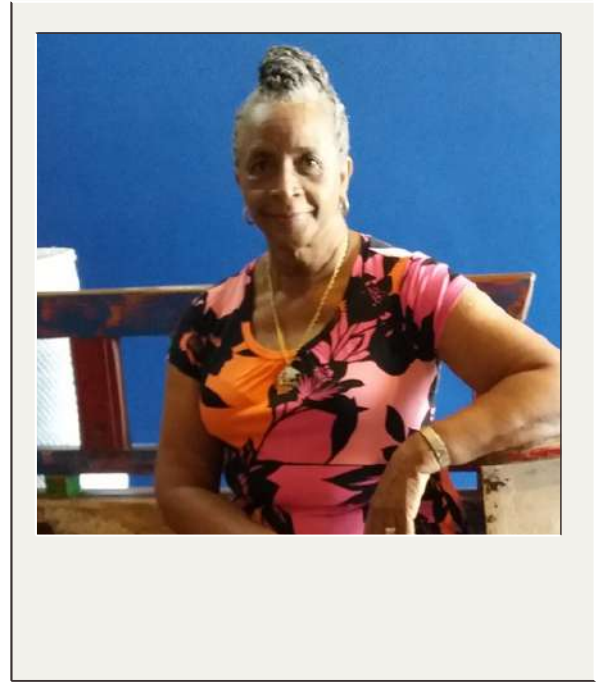
Prayer and fasting must be employed as we rekindle the passion and surrender our plans and ambition to God. There can be no presumption in action that is preceded by prayer and fasting.

The second lesson is disregarding rules and regulations in some situations may be the only option, regardless of the consequences. Esther faced a do or die situation. Approaching the king without a summons from him was against the law but the urgency of the situation propelled her to ignore the law. She knew she could have faced death or severe punishment, but necessity transcended custom and her love for her people was greater than her love for herself, hence her bold statement: "If I perish, I perish." If she did not risk her life, the Jewish people would have been annihilated.

Reflection

continued

By Sis. Evelyn Gyles



Christians must not be complacent in situations where spreading the gospel comes with challenges. God will carry out his plans through us, in spite of us. Many events occurring in the world today require Christian intervention. In some places it is dangerous to speak about or intervene in ungodly acts, but Jesus tells us that if we are not willing to lay down our lives for him, we cannot be his disciples. We must look upon our position as followers of Christ as a sacred honour.

Esther was willing to give up everything, including her life, for her people. In return God blessed her not only with her life but also the life of her people and rekindled hope among them. Similarly, when we lay everything on the line to do the will of God, the reward is priceless.

Rekindling passion in kingdom building requires boldness, heroism and sacrifice, similar to that displayed by Esther. We can take inspiration from her with confidence in the knowledge that God is with us every step of the way even when the road ahead seems uncertain.

Let us be energized by Paul's advice to Timothy which says: "For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control." (2 Timothy 1:7).

Sis. Evelyn Gyles is a deacon at the Bethel (Half- Way Tree) Baptist Church and is also an esteemed mentor and leader in the Women's Federation movement.

SONG: “Hear My Cry O Lord”

Link to the Song: [“Hear My Cry O Lord”](#)

Hear my cry oh Lord
Attend unto my prayer
From the end of the earth
Will I cry out to thee

*When my heart is overwhelmed
Lead me to the rock
That is higher than I
That is higher than I*

For thou has been
A shelter for me
And a strong tower
From the enemy

WE PRAY

- **the soul of our nation;**
- **victims and perpetrators of crime and violence;**
- **countries affected by war/refugees/prisoners and war;**
- **victims of gender-based or intimate partner violence;**

HYMN: "I am thine O Lord"

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard
Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of
faith
And be closer drawn to Thee.

*Draw me nearer, nearer blessed
Lord, To the cross where Thou
hast died; Draw me nearer,
nearer blessed Lord, To Thy
precious, bleeding side.*

Consecrate me now to Thy service,
Lord, By the pow'r of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a
steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine.

Oh the pure delight of a single
hour
That before Thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with
Thee, my God
I commune as friend with friend!

There are depths of love that I
cannot know
Till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I
may not reach
Till I rest in peace with Thee.

Link to the Song: "[Draw Me Nearer](#)"

OFFERTORY

As we continue in worship, we give to the Lord and to His work here on earth as part of our stewardship and for the joy of being a part of the kingdom of God.

Everything we do - the time, money and effort we give to serve is for a reason. Your contribution plays a part in transforming lives, reaching those in need of our love and support. Foremost in our consideration are the Garland Hall Home in St. James and the Safe Shelter Project which is nearing completion.

Partner with us by giving generously.

National Commercial Bank
Mandeville Branch
Chequing Account
Account Number:
501083488

Please send a note to our
Secretariat
(jbwfsecretary@gmail.com)
for the proper designation of
your contribution.

Photography by Hillary Brown Manderson

w l e

MOVEMENT



Three

REAWAKENING TO PURPOSE



SCRIPTURE READING:

St. Matthew 28:19-20

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Reflection



By Sis. Dafflyn Campbell

As we observe another Jamaica Baptist Women’s Federation Day of Prayer let us delve into the transformative power of redefining our vision and reawakening to 20 our God-given purpose as Christian Women.

Our guiding scripture is Matthew 28:19-20, where Jesus implores his disciples, saying, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” In these words, we find a timeless call to action, a commission that transcends time and space.

Yet, how often do we find ourselves caught in the routine of life, losing sight and focus of the grand vision Jesus entrusted us with? It is time for us to redefine our vision, to see beyond the ordinary and reawaken to the extraordinary purpose set before us.

Reflection

continued

By Sis. Dafflyn Campbell



To redefine our vision, we must first recognize the significance of the commission. We are not mere spectators in the unfolding drama of God's plan; rather, we are active participants. Each one of us has a role to play in the divine narrative. As we embark on this journey, we are not alone, for the Lord promises to be with us always.

Redefining our vision requires a shift in perspective. We must lift our gaze from the mundane and fix it on the eternal. Our purpose extends beyond our personal comfort, success and business as usual stuff that we do in our branches; it encompasses the salvation and transformation of lives of our women and children. Jesus did not call us to isolation but to the various communities in which we live and work, to be a part of the divine orchestra working towards the harmonious fulfillment of God's will.

Simultaneously, reawakening to purpose involves a deep introspection. Are we actively making disciples? Are we living our lives in a way that reflects the teachings of Christ? It is not enough to believe; we must embody the love and grace of Jesus in our words and deeds. Reawakening requires a revival of our commitment to live out the Gospel as we Seek Save Serve, even in the face of daily challenges and opposition.

In this redefining and reawakening, we find not only a challenge but a promise – the promise of Christ's presence. As we go forth to make disciples, let us do so with the assurance that the Lord is with us. Our vision is not a distant dream but a present reality, and our purpose is not a burden but a privilege to be embraced.

May this redefined vision and reawakened purpose guide us in all aspects of our lives, transforming not only our hearts but the world around.

Sis. Dafflyn Campbell is a past President of the Jamaica Baptist Women's Federation and is currently an active Executive Member of the JBWF.

CHORUS: “We need to hear from You”

We need to hear from you
We need a word from you
If we don't hear from you
What will we do
Wanting you more each day
Show us your perfect way
There is no other way
That we can live

Link to the Song: [“We need to hear from You”](#)

WE PRAY.....

- **For Faithful church workers - giving of self and gifts to the work of ministry**
- **For women and men to answer the call to pastoral ministry**
- **For the care of the environment and food security**
- **For good interpersonal relationships / repairing of broken families**
- **Discernment and openness to new and different approaches to discipleship and ministry**

grow in grace

HYMN: "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

Link to the Song: "[I, the Lord of Sea and Sky](#)"

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the
night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have born my peoples pain.
I have wept for love of them, They
turn away. I will break their hearts
of stone, Give them hearts for love
alone. I will speak My word to
them, Whom shall I send?

CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:

*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the
night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my
heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?

Suggestions

1. Participants name special requests.
Leader gathers requests and prays
extemporaneously.
2. Participants team with a partner and pray
for each other.

The Lord's Prayer (Sung or Said)

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day with our ears, may, through thy grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of redefined vision, rekindled passion, and reawakened purpose to the honor and praise of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen!

CLOSING SONG:

“I am praying Blessed Saviour”

I am praying, blessed Savior,
To be more and more like Thee;
I am praying that Thy Spirit
Like a dove may rest on me.

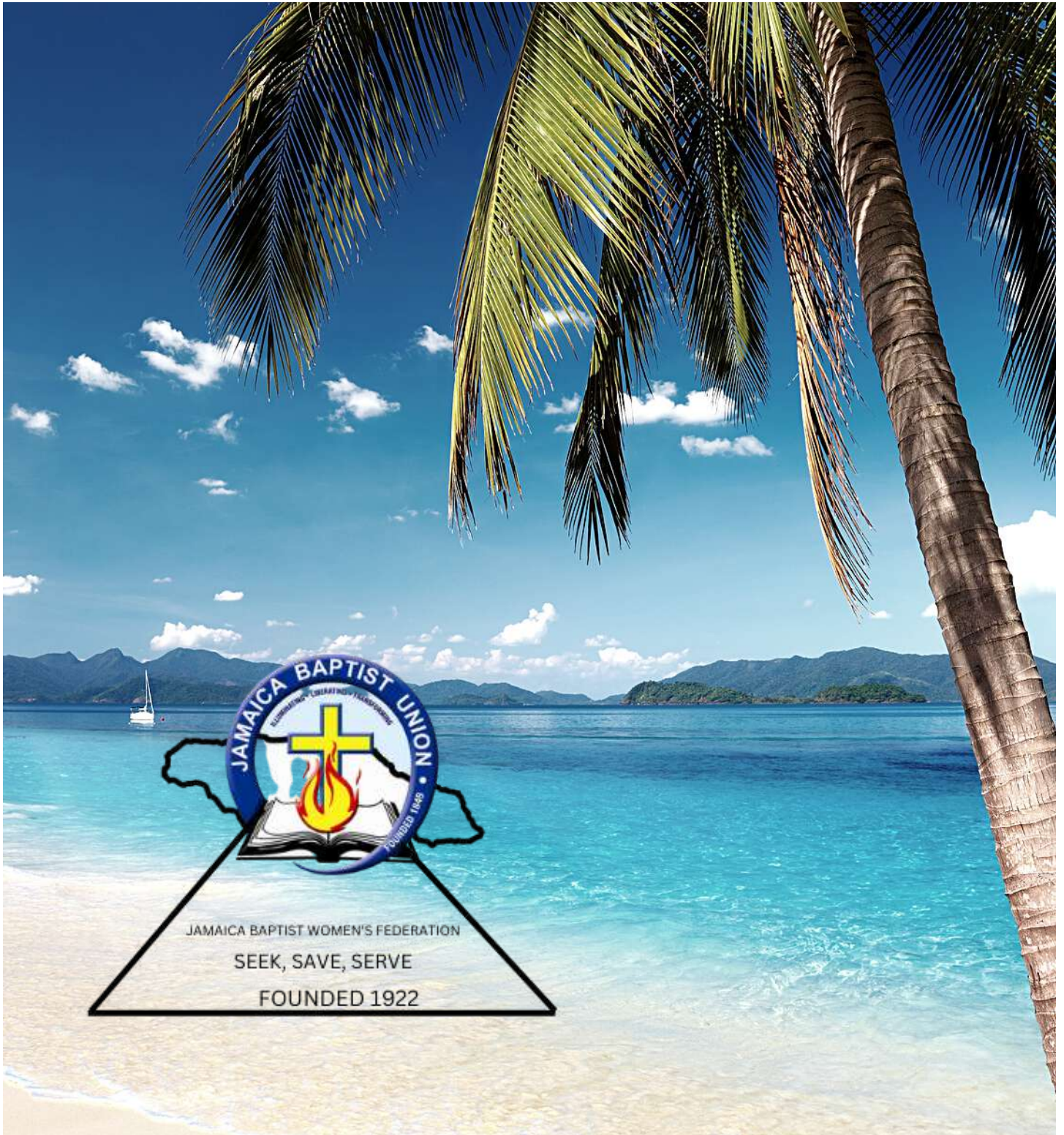
*Thou Who knowest all my
weakness, Thou Who knowest all
my care, While I plead each
precious promise, Hear oh hear
and answer prayer.*

I am praying, blessed Savior,
For a faith so clear and bright
That its eye will see Thy glory
Through the deepest, darkest night.

I am praying to be humbled
By the power of grace divine,
To be clothed upon with meekness,
And to have no will but Thine.

I am praying, blessed Savior,
And my constant prayer shall be
For a perfect consecration,
That shall make me more like
Thee.

Participants are invited to sit in prayerful
silence and leave whenever they are ready to
do so.





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February 2024
JBWIF Day of Prayer

*Worship
Guide*
JBWIF DAY
OF PRAYER

