Our lives, our stories!!

Southern Highway -

January 31, 2010

A traffic accident on the Southern Highway between Miles 36-37 has claimed the life of 29-year-old CHADDIE VALERIO of Georgetown Village. Two other persons, also of Georgetown Village, were injured. The two have been identified as 32-year-old Celio Ogaldez, the driver of the vehicle, who received abrasions to his body and arm and Raheem Castillo, also 32 years of age, who received a cut wound to the back of the head and abrasions to the face and arms. CHADDIE VALERIO who received a wound to the head was taken to Southern Regional Hospital for treatment. Later, MR. VALERIO was transported to the Karl Huesner Memorial Hospital in Belize City where he succumbed to his injuries.

When police arrived at the scene of the accident they observed a white 2 door Toyota pick up truck L/P SC-C8841 on the left hand side of the road. The police investigation revealed that the driver of the vehicle lost control and overturned several times. Reference fatal road traffic accident that occurred on January 31, 2010 on the Southern Highway, on February 02, 2010 a post mortem examination was conducted on the body of CHADDIE VALERIO, 29year-old, of Georgetown Village where at the conclusion Dr. ESTRADABRAN certified the cause of death to be Acute brain and head trauma, due to the road traffic accident.

Police have arrested and charged a Honduran farmer of Cowpen Village with incest after his 16 year old granddaughter reported to police that her grandfather had sexual intercourse with her. Police are also seeking the minor’s boyfriend after the 16 year old told police that she also had sex with her boyfriend during the summer of 2008.

Mass of the Resurrection
Sacred Heart Church
Dangriga
Monday, February 1st, 2010
At 2:00 p.m.

Celebrants:
Fr. Gerry,
Bishop O.P. Martin
&
Deacon Lambey

Celebrating the life of a loving
Husband, Father, Brother, Uncle, Grandfather & Friend
Hon. Augustine Flores Sr. J.P.

Deliverman Robbed in Benguche Area

Dangriga - February 1, 2010

James WITTY, a bread delivery driver was robbed of $1500 and a cell phone valued at $125 as he delivered bread in the Benguche Area of Dangriga. MR. WITTY 32yrs, of Sawai Street, Dangriga reported to police that on February 1st, he was in front of Amigo’s Fast Food situated at 1051 Benguche Area delivering bread, when he was approached by a short dark male person who placed a black object resembling a firearm to the right side of Mr. Witty’s head. The robber who had a rag covering his face robbed Mr. Witty of a black waist bag which contained $1500 and a cell phone valued at $125. Police are investigating.

By Orlando Augustine
scartino59@yahoo.com

Over the years, international oil companies have drilled numerous oil wells around the country of Belize to explore for oil. Although, the explorers discovered high grade sweet crude oil, the quantity recorded during the early times which was about four barrels a day, was not of commercial amount to maintain an industry neither to stop Belize reliance on exported oil nor help to alleviate the high cost on fuel that continues to grow.

In late 2005, Belize Natural Energy (BNE), a company supported by investors in Ireland and the United States hit the jackpot. The company discovered oil in Belize in commercial amount producing (Turn to pg. 6)
A Dumb thing to say

The Minister of Education needs to make an apology to the people of Belize for insulting remarks he made on January 28, 2010, during his press conference at the ITVET in Belize City to announce changes to the education system.

The offensive remarks were made as Minister of Education, Patrick Faber addressed the large gathering of educators and stakeholders in education present at the conference. Speaking on the state of government funded scholarships for tertiary level institutions Minister Faber vented his ire on some delinquent, undisqualified recipients of scholarships who had abused the scholarship system and squandered taxpayers’ money: “1,222 students” said Mr. Faber, “who some of them have taken a two year scholarship and stretched it to five years; some of them not making the grade, some of them doing all kind of hocus pocus, Jankunu dancing at UB.”

Clearly, the Minister has an obligation to weed out slackers and abusers of the education scholarship system, but how he managed to equate Wanaragua (Jankunu) with such negativity cannot be understood nor accepted. Why didn’t the Minister, as an example of slothful, disorganized, ridiculous behavior, use the hoghead or deer dance or the juk and fall back or ballet? I mean these are also expressions of Belize’s multiculturalism. Furthermore, why didn’t the educators and education stakeholders present express disapproval of the Minister’s boorish, insensitive behavior?

Let us hope that the reaction or lack of one by the educators and education stakeholders in attendance, is not a portent of the education policy that the press conference was called to promote. Further more we hope that the new policy incorporates the realities of Belize’s vaunted multiculturalism with fairness and respect.

The Minister of Education’s unfortunate and insensitive choice of words used during his January 28, 2010 press conference in Belize City was not the first attack on Garinagu culture in recent memory although it did take place on a bigger stage with a wider audience, and a more powerful actor in the presence of Minister Faber. In fact, a similarly distasteful scenario had already been played out 105 miles away in Dangriga. At the height of the 2009 Christmas celebrations, a top ranking law enforcement officer threatened to drive his vehicle through a group of Wanaragua dancers and singers and to ban the Wanaragua from the streets of Dangriga.

Fortunately for the citizens and lovers of Wanaragua nothing much came of this threat, except the residual disgust that it left in its wake. Nevertheless these two attacks in quick succession on Garifuna culture by authority figures are worrying. Such displays of ignorance by officials in high as well as low places must cease.

Dance is an integral part of Garifuna culture and the Wanaragua has tremendous grace, and beauty as well as being of historical significance to the Garinagu and others who appreciate cultural expressions of high creativity and artistry.

Perhaps it should be required that all public servants, especially those with a great deal of power, such as a Minister of Education, attend cultural sensitivity (Turn to pg. 9)
From the time I was a child growing up in Belize it was always the National Independence Party (NIP) that was fighting for Belizean nationalism under the leadership of their highly respected leader the late Philip Goldson. While the People’s United Party under the leadership of their leader George Cadle Price, was accused by the British Government of selling Belize lock, stock and barrel to the Guatemalans. I remember attending several “No Guatemala: demonstrations organized by the NIP with my mother the late Josephine Sampson in Dangriga Town.

Over the years the name of the National Independence Party was changed to the United Democratic Party (UDP) but their political philosophy was unchanged. I remember most of the families that attended those demonstrations in Belize City and the Elrington family members were at the heart of them. Recently, our Foreign Minister Wilfred Elrington who came from that family made a remark about Belize’s border and some members of the People’s United Party are asking for him to step down as Foreign Minister. The argument is over the word “artificial” when he referred to the borders of Belize.

I do not know in what context he was using this word but all borders under European Colonization are in fact man made borders. Prior to the Spanish and British coming to Belize and Guatemala, the Maya people owned the area where Belize and Guatemala is and they roamed from one place to another without worrying about Immigration Officers and Checkpoints. Even up to today, the Maya are still going in and out of Belize and to visit their relatives across these two countries borders with no respect for the law enforcement agencies in both countries. Some members of the People’s United Party have said that the Foreign Minister’s statement will strengthen Guatemala’s arguments to justify their claim for our territory but I tend to disagree. Belize can argue that prior to the Spanish landing in Central America, a Maya Civilization existed in the country of Belize that had it’s own unique monarchial government separate from the government that strengthen Guatemala’s borders. Prior to the Spanish arrived, they then slaughtered the native Indians, created political upheaval and destroyed their governmental structures. As the Foreign Minister of Belize, Honorable Wilfred Elrington’s job is to do whatever he can as our chief diplomatic representative to defend Belize’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. I have known the Foreign Minister for over thirty years now and I also know many members of his family and they will all be willing to fight and die for their beloved country Belize. For anybody to imply or suggest that this Minister is disloyal and cannot be trusted in negotiating on our country’s behalf is far from the truth.

Our Prime Minister Dean Barrow has said that he will not ask the Foreign Minister to resign or step down. When George Price was suspected of dealing secretly with Guatemala to sell out Belize to them, it was the parents of some of these same UDP’s who were saying “Contact or No Contact Que Viva George Price, George Price All the Way”. They even lifted him hill when di shit hit di fan but wi still di survive fi se weh all di goh to the end.

Then somehow “Jetty Pier” where our very same people used to make a little pay check from when the ships came was issued to Mr. Espat, “Wi still di survive”. Now we have the “Marie Sharp Pepper Company”, where the Grigalizeans are employed there along with South Stann Creek Banana Industry and “Wi still di survive”, Thank God. Again, back in the days, “S.C.T.B.” (Stann Creek Town Board) employed family members to clean the Burial Ground with Hoes and Rakers, used Mule & Cart to bury our dead and to clean the whole Town. “P.W.D” (Public Works Department) was responsible for maintaining government buildings, maintain and build our roads with Pick Axe, shovel & spade. We used to build our cement roads with Pick Axe, shovel & spade. We as a people still have to do everything on our own.

Dear Editor,

According to report commissioned by the Government, which was led by Mr. Joe Wood, Leading Consultant, Belize CPA, the poverty level has increased throughout the country over the past eight years. Mr. Joe Wood continued to say that there has been an increase in poverty in every district except one where it could have gotten worse but still remains the poorest district in the country. Mr. Wood continued by saying that, “The poor population has increased, but most of the people are still not poor”.

My God, they finally figure this thing out. I would like to know what Planet they’ve been all this time. I will speak for the “Forgotten South” because it wasn’t for The Almighty Father to Bless our Ancestors & Elders with the knowledge to survive through hard work and Bartering, where we all be today. During the Colonial time they had to use every thing and not complain. The only difference since then is that we still have to comply but can complain even if we’re not being heard.

I am a true born Grigalizean, so I will have to start from there because the opportunities that the other districts had/hae, both Griga and Toledo District has never had/hae. Back in the days, the only industries in Griga were “C.C.B.H and Salada “. Our poor people had to sell the Orange/Grapefruit Trees and reap for 10 cents a Box. The Small Farmers barely made it and our people that had to do all that hard work for meager earnings had no choice but to satisfy with what was dished out to them.

Today, some members of the family (HAVES) that headed these Industries are at war among themselves, accusing Canton for orchestrating the sell-off of the C.G.A (Citrus Growers Association) $12 Million Shares to the Barbados Group for $4.00Bz, among other things. Shit role down very hard work. Help her not only because she’s your cousin but because she is making a difference in our community. She and her husband are true Grigalizean citizens don’t worry about what anybody have to say because she is your cousin. I wish back, yoh wah di do di right thing and people will talk.”

Grigalizean’s, the lesson here to be learnt is that we all have to look, listen, and ask about anything/everything regarding the way our country is being run, especially our Beloved Griga. We are too laid back and we accept everything both good and bad that is being dished out to us, maybe because we have gotten immune to all the negativities and have survived through it for so long. It is time for us the “Forgotten Southerners” to wake up, join hands together and demand honesty and accountability from our Area Representatives and Government and for them to give us the respect that we so much deserve.

Thanks and Praises to Our Lord Jesus Christ, keep your heads up high and LOVE one another along with the Almighty GOD is standing by. He will never leave us or forsake us. Ayo nunamadu, darime simana le lubei lida liri Wabureme, itara la.

Love Ya Griga,

Terrence O. Martinez.

IS THE PEOPLE’S UNITED PARTY CHANGING OR JUST PLAYING GAMES?

By: Wellington C. Ramos

GIMMIE THANK YOH: What dah di catch. Crude Oil, Tilapia, or What else?

(Cont’d from pg. 2)

KNOCK ON WOOD GRIGA: (DA GUILTY CANSHANS OR WHAT)

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Love Ya Griga,
Americans charged for illegally taking Haitian children

Children eat a meal distributed by Bolivian UN peacekeepers in Cité Soleil, Haiti.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, F e b r u a r y 1, 2010

Ten US Baptists will appear in court in Haiti today for illegal trafficking of 33 children, after being stopped at the border with the Dominican Republic yesterday.

But the Americans have insisted their arrests are a big mistake. The five men and five women, from Idaho-based charity New Life Children's Refuge, said they were taking the children affected by the January 12th earthquake to an orphanage in neighboring Dominican Republic.

They were in a bus with the children, aged two months to 2 years, when they were stopped.

“Our understanding was that we were told by a number of people, including Dominican authorities, that we would be able to bring the children across,” the group’s leader, Laura Silsby, said. “We don’t know what made is that we didn’t understand there was additional paperwork required.”

Silsby insisted that the group was “just trying to do the right thing” for the children.

But Haitian authorities said none of the children had documentation or proof that they were actually orphans.

In fact, Patricia Vargas, regional director of the SOS Children’s Village where the children are being cared for, said that most of the children taken by the group have family that survived the earthquake.

Charity spokesman George Willett revealed that one of the girls insisted her parents were alive and said thought she was being taken to a boarding school or summer camp.

Willett also said many of the children taken in were in poor health, hungry and very thirsty and one baby was so dehydrated she had to be taken to hospital.

Haiti imposed new controls on the movement of children following the earthquake that killed up to 200,000 people, as officials feared orphans would be particularly vulnerable to being abducted and sold for adoption.

Meantime, the US said it will resume emergency evacuation flights for critically injured Haitian quake victims today.

Airlifts stopped last Wednesday after Florida’s governor said his state’s healthcare system was being swamped, but doctors later said the people would die unless flights resumed.

Buju’s lawyers claim singer tricked into drug deal

Buju, whose real name is Mark Myrie, has been in prison since being arrested on December 10th.

FLORIDA, United States, J a n u a r y 2 7, 2010

Defence attorneys preparing for a March start of the drug case against reggae star Buju Banton are trying to get the court to reveal the identity of a man whom they claim was a paid government informant used to convince the singer to buy cocaine.

The efforts are part of an entrapment defence which the team of lawyers is putting together.

Buju, whose real name is Mark Myrie, has been in prison since being arrested on December 10th. He is accused of conspiring to distribute five kilogrammes of cocaine and aiding and abetting his co-defendants in possessing a firearm during the course of the cocaine distribution.

In court documents filed yesterday, one of the lawyers, David Markus, asks for the criminal record of the confidential source (CS) and how much he was paid for helping in the case.

He said in the court filing that Buju did not know the man before he sat next to him on a flight from Spain to Miami in July 2009. During that plane ride, Markus said, “after softening up Mr Myrie with small talk”, the CS turned the conversation to the topic of cocaine.

“Throughout the flight, the CS tried to interest Mr Myrie in buying cocaine. Mr Myrie, however, was not interested,” Markus wrote in court documents.

“We want to know who this person was and why he was bringing this up with our client. We want to know everything there is to know.”

He added that over the course of the months leading to his client’s arrest, the CS repeatedly called Buju and they actually met for lunch on July 27th. After that, the source made other calls to Buju, some of which Markus claimed his client dodged.

The attorney said the man kept pressuring the singer to sell cocaine.

“Finally, on December 8th, 2009, the CS was successful in convincing Mr Myrie to meet with him,” Markus said in the documents, noting that they later met at a warehouse.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) claims to have video footage of Buju snorting the drugs at that location.

It’s alleged that Buju’s associates brokered a deal over the following two days and they were arrested while attempting to finalize it on December 10th. The singer himself was held by law enforcement officials later that same day at his house in Florida.

Based on the findings of the study, teenage pregnancy appeared to cost CARICOM governments on average US$2,000 per year for every young pregnant mother.

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, J a n u a r y 2 2, 2010

A study on the situation of Caribbean youth has revealed that their “risky” behaviours, including involvement in crime and violence and unsafe sexual activity, are costing the Caribbean big and are essentially wreaking serious havoc on the economies of the region.

The study was conducted by former World Bank Economist Jad Chaaban as part of the research done by the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development (CCYD). It’s in keeping with its mandate from CARICOM Heads of Government to analyse the situation of Caribbean youth and recommend policy interventions to empower them and improve their well-being.

According to the document, maternal rates in the Caribbean – at 30 per 100,000 annually – were higher than any other region of the world and youth were the primary perpetrators as well as the victims of crime and violence.

The study revealed that the economic costs of youth crime had two components – the direct financial costs related to public expenditure on security, policing, arrest, judicial processing and incarceration; and indirect costs, linked to the foregone earnings of criminals while they are in prison and the losses in tourism revenues related to youth crimes.

“Lost tourist revenues as a result of crime had reached in excess of US$200 million per year for the CARICOM region and overall youth crime was costing at least seven percent of the region’s Gross Domestic product (GDP),” it said.

Based on the findings of the study, teenage pregnancy appeared to cost CARICOM governments on average US$2,000 per year for every young pregnant mother.

These mothers were also losing potential earnings they could have achieved, if they had been able to delay their motherhood and continue to higher educational levels, it added.

With regard to HIV/AIDS, the study illustrated that CARICOM countries were spending US$177 million per year on HIV treatment, with an average cost of antiretroviral therapy estimated at US$641 per person.

But that’s not the only cost as officials with both HIV/AIDS, According to the Study, every young man or woman with untreated HIV faced a risk of death and society.
Once upon a time there was a little Prince and he wanted to give a valentine to a little Princess who lived in a neighboring kingdom. She was a very beautiful little Princess indeed, for her smile was as bright as her golden hair and her love for her subjects was as deep as the blue of her eyes.

"What kind of a valentine shall I get for the Princess?" the Prince asked.

"A heart, your Highness; nothing but a heart will do!" said the Court Wise Man.

"A beautiful heart, your Highness; nothing but a beautiful heart will do!" said the Court Ladies.

"A price less heart, your Highness; nothing but a price less heart will do!" said the Court Chancellor.

So the Prince started out to get a heart valentine for the little Princess that would be both beautiful and beyond price, and he did not know where to find it.

Before long, though, he came to a jeweller's shop that was full of pretty, costly things to wear. There were pins, and bracelets and necklaces made of silver and gold, and set with rubies and sapphires, and emeralds and diamonds.

"This is the place to find a valentine for the little Princess," thought the Prince, and he selected a diamond heart hung on a gold chain as thin as a thread for the little Princess to wear about her neck.

The Prince gave the jeweller his bag of gold and started out of the shop with the diamond heart in his hand. But he stopped at the door, looking at the heart. It was dull, and no longer shining. What was the matter with it, he wondered. Then he remembered. It was not the right valentine for the little Princess because it had been bought with his bag of gold. So the Prince gave the diamond heart back to the jeweller, and went on again.

After the Prince had gone quite a distance he came to a pastry shop. It was full of delicious things to eat, jam tarts and little strawberry pies, thickly frosted cakes, and plum buns. In the window of the pastry shop was a huge cake baked in the shape of a heart. It was rich with sugar and spices and the icing on the top was almost as thick as the cake itself.

"This is the place to find the valentine for the little Princess!" thought the Prince and he pointed to the great heart cake in the window. "How much must I pay for that cake?"

he asked of the pastry cook.

"Oh, you could not buy that cake!" the pastry cook replied. "I made it as a decoration for the shop for Valentine's Day. But I will give it to you, your Highness."

So the Prince thanked the pastry cook, and started out of the shop with the great cake in his arms.

"This must surely be the valentine for the little Princess, because I could not buy it," he thought.

Then the Prince almost dropped the cake. It had suddenly grown too heavy for him to carry. What was the matter with the rich, huge cake, he wondered. Then he remembered. It was not the right valentine for the little Princess because something rich to eat is not beautiful. So the Prince gave the cake back to the pastry cook and went on again.

Now he went a long, long way, and he came to a bird seller beside the road. He had little gold birds and bright-colored ones in green basket cages. They were all singing as if their throats would burst but the Prince could hear one soft note above the others, because it was so clear and sweet. It was the cooing of a little dove who sat in her cage apart from the others. The Prince thought he had never seen such a beautiful little dove, as white as snow, and with rose red feet.

"Why does she sing so much more sweetly than the others?" the Prince asked, pointing to the little white dove.

The bird seller smiled.

"She sings because of her heart," he said. "The other birds sing in the sunshine, but look—she held up the dove's cage and the Prince saw that the little white dove had closed, blind eyes.

"She sings in the dark because of her happy heart," the bird seller said.

"May I buy her," the Prince asked, "to give as a valentine to a little Princess?"

"Oh, I will give her to you," the bird seller said. "Very few people want to take care of a blind bird."

But the little Princess did. She liked the white dove better than any of her other valentines. She hung her cage in a pink rose tree in the sunniest part of the garden, and she often invited the Prince to sit with her under the tree and listen to the dove's sweet song.
The topic for today’s article sounds a bit weird when looked at on face value. However, I hope to demonstrate to you my readers that it is not so. In one of my articles entitled “when we will end all this madness?” I reflected on the crime situation in Belize and the impact that it could have on individuals and families. In that article, I pointed out that peace cannot be given a chance and that all the senseless killings were unnecessary. Yes friends I will repeat it “unnecessary.” For fact, the urban warfare occurring in the city is doing nothing else but to give the urban warfare occurring in the city a bit weird when looked at on face value.

The revenue belongs to the people of Belize. It is nice to give speeches but make it sure that the speech is not just all talk but it has to be action. In June 2006, government of Belize announced that it decided to tax Belize Natural Energy at 40 percent of the company’s profit. But to date, nothing is heard if the plan was implemented or not. What the columnist is aware of is that the chairperson of the company responded that a tax rate of 40 percent would constrain further exploration and will discourage other industry to invest in Belize. The following month operations were suspended because the company and the government were in disagreement. During that time, the company threatened to leave the country if the tax rate was raised. For the best interest of the people of Belize, the government of the day should have capitalized on the threat and take over the company.

Although, daily shipment of crude oil is visible on the Humming Bird and Southern Highways, the effect of the revenue collected is not felt in the Stann Creek District. Just to mention few Infrastructure concerns: the highway and roads leading to our communities are in deplorable state; the two bridges that connect Stann Creek District with the other part of the country are not yet replaced. As tax payers and the electorate, government needs to release a weekly publication to inform the people how much revenue is collected from our oil and how the funds are distributed. It is obvious that both major political parties are playing games with disclosing information to the people on the revenue received from our black gold.

There are concerns that the successful exploration would mean that peace be given a chance and that the discovery would boost up the industry is on its feet. In June 2006, government of Belize announced that it decided to tax Belize Natural Energy at 40 percent of the company’s profit. But to date, nothing is heard if the plan was implemented or not. What the columnist is aware of is that the chairperson of the company responded that a tax rate of 40 percent would constrain further exploration and will discourage other industry to invest in Belize. The following month operations were suspended because the company and the government were in disagreement. During that time, the company threatened to leave the country if the tax rate was raised. For the best interest of the people of Belize, the government of the day should have capitalized on the threat and take over the company.

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The police on the other hand must be true to their profession and not be involved in a bunch of undertakings. They must improve their intelligence gathering capabilities and put serious individuals who can do the job in place. A witness protection program must be put in place and lastly, politicians must provide the officers with the resources to do their job.

I strongly urge them to try and reunite their party and get ready for the next General Election in Belize. They can discuss the present and the future as much as they want but they cannot run away from their records. Belizeans will never forget what Belize was like under the ten years of the Said Musa regime.
SHUSH!!!! SHUSH!!!!
1. The Havana Bridge is now closed to vehicular traffic. Safety is good but passage way is better. When will the construction on the new bridge begin? Not another Kendall Bridge situation.

2. Is our mayor snubbing our area rep for the in-law minister? Hope the town is to benefit.

3. When will the culverts be placed in the roads where trenches are dug? Hopefully before the walls cave in. Waiting for the 5 big ones.

4. FFB does not want cash prize in amateur football. Then FFB should organize the games in the meanwhile off the cuff organization has no obligation to the FFB. Form the S/C District Association that votes for the President of FFB.

5. Village council elections in April 10? Not a PUP vs. UDP election but a good indication of where the dye is cast.

6. UDP leadership convention is coming. Is the PM healthy enough to seek reelection or is it between education and land ministers?

7. Primary school buildings erecting in the Wagierale Area. New school or an old school being relocated?

8. Bread truck held in front of Amigo's in Benguche Area. Time is not only hard but ruff.

9. Crazy Glue law office on Oak St. Help is on the way.

10. Victim in the accused councilor case seeking an attorney? Boy are they coming at u.

#1034 BENGUCHE AREA
DANGRIGA TOWN

SiahNet Cyber Café

SITUATED AT
Online Internet Services
We offer
$3.00 an hour
$2.00 1/2 hr.

Opening Hours:
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

For His Glory,
Pastor Rick
Calvary Community Church

February 1, 2010
From Pride to Humility
This is the title of a booklet from Stuart Scott, professor of Biblical Counseling at Southern Seminary. Dr. Scott was my professor at The Master’s Seminary and has been very influential in my life. The list below come from a blog post (9Marks) by Ryan Townsend:

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

In his booklet From Pride to Humility, Stuart Scott has compiled an insightful list of 30 biblical indicators as to whether pride is resident in our hearts. Read these slowly and prayerfully.

February 2, 2010
I came across this reminder of the wrong and right reasons we should love the church as I was doing some reading today. So do we love the church and why?

From Josh Harris:

- Don’t love the church because of a certain group of friends because friendships change and people move.
- Love the church because of who shed his blood to obtain the church. Love the church because of who the church belongs to. Love the church because of who the church worships. Love the church because you love Jesus Christ and his glory. Love the church because Jesus is worthy and faithful and true. Love the church because Jesus loves the church.

Here is the link: http://www.joshharris.com/2010/01/wrong_reasons_to_love_the_church.php
Mr. Wellington C. Ramos

When I grew up beside Logan Field on the north side of Dangriga Town there were two vibrant Garifuna associations working on behalf of our people namely; CAC and CDS about two blocks away from my house. The purpose of these associations were to use their buildings as gathering places for the Garinagu people to provide back assistance for all the problems they encountered. When hurricane Hattie came it destroyed these two buildings and Mr. Bill Flores opened up a Grocery store downstairs of CDS. While, Mr. Matthew Miguel opened his Grocery store downstairs of CAC. Mr. Flores was there until he finally decided to depart for the United States and Mr. Matthew Miguel remained at his site until he passed away. Many years after, the National Garifuna Council (NGC) acquired title to the CDS property and built a small headquarters there and named it the Pablo Lambey building. In the year 2005 I went to live in Dangriga for six months and this building was dormant and remained closed everyday like a Ghost House with nothing happening inside. One day when I passed there, I received information that a group of Garifuna women were making sandwiches to take to a PUP trip in the Cayo District. This was the time when the People’s United Party and the United Democratic Party were boycotting the Municipal Elections that were scheduled for March of 2006. I was very angry to discover that as a Garifuna, my association was engaged in partisan political activities on behalf of one political party just to benefit a few individuals in the association self-interest. When I brought this to the attention of my friends and relative in Dangriga Town, they told me that the National Garifuna Council was infested with many supporters of the People’s United Party. They said it was so bad that it was hard to tell the differences between PUP and the National Garifuna Council (NGC). Our Garifuna elders have always warned us about using our associations to engage in partisan politics, for fear that the negative publicity it would bring to our people and the divisions it would create in our families. I was made to understand that this situation remains the same up to this day. On November the 25th, 2009, an article appeared in the Editorial section of the Amandala Newspaper under Letters to the Editor titled Stop using “National Garifuna” written by a highly respectable Garifuna Political Activist and Politician by the name of Luke Palacio voicing his concerns over the activities of the National Garifuna Council. I have known Mr. Luke Palacio from childhood and he is a person that will speak out against all forms of injustice that occurs in front of his house. There are many among the Mundo Deep people who are afraid of the National Garifuna Council because whenever they are criticized they go after the individuals who criticize them. Yet it is only through constructive criticisms that we can better our associations to serve our people.

I agree with the idea of having a National Garifuna Council (NGC) but I am in complete disagreement with the strategies and methods used by most of the individuals who have run this association over the years and have not accomplished many things of major significance for our people. I think the National Garifuna Council would do better as an Advocacy association with on-going proactive funding programs to provide for the social, political, cultural and economic development of our people and especially our disadvantaged and displaced youths. When we look at the Garinagu people’s living conditions today, it is worst than when most of us were growing up in our respective communities in the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts. We had our own family

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 cuatro from pg. 2 ---

A Dumb thing to say

By: Wellington C. Ramos

I am writing because in the Reporter newspaper this past weekend, I noticed two articles that talked about the statements made by the Honorable Foreign Minister. Both articles stated that those of us who raised concerns about the statements are making “much ado about nothing.” Let me tell you why I believe that the issue of our country’s border is not “much ado about nothing.” Perhaps I feel this way because I live in the South and everyday I see the implications of living in an area you love and yet have limited or close-to-zero protection. In my opinion, when you make these statements as the Foreign Minister, you speak for me and for all Belizans. And if we treat our border as artificial, then I believe that Matthew Mos is no stopping the Guatemalans from moving into our area, because the Foreign Minister deems our borders artificial. I take this statement about our artificial border very personally, because every day I see a conscious occupation of our Belize, our home, our birthplace. I believe that it is statements like these and the lack of the political will by the Government of Belize to effectively man their border with the Guatemalans are here and occupying regions south of Benque. Our ancestors must be dreaming. Our ancestors must be turning in their graves to see this! And we expect nothing less than an apology.

When Minister Faber used the Wanaragua, or as he called it the Jankunu dance, to disparage some UB students he exposed his ignorance of Garifuna culture. He was out of place! And we expect nothing less than an apology.

Realistic Minister, for a person charged with the responsibility of guiding and shaping the nation’s education policy - that was a dumb thing to say.
Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that FRANCISCO ESPINOZA is applying for a MONEY LENDING LICENSE for the year 2010 to operate CASA DE ENPEÑO at Bella Vista Village, in the Stann Creek District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that PAULINO VILLALOBO is applying for the renewal of a BOLIVIAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2010 to operate VILLALOBO BAR located at Cowpen Village, in the Stann Creek District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that DAVON GONGORA is applying for a MONEY LENDING LICENSE for the year 2010 to operate SOUTHERN QUICK LOAN at Hopkins Village, in the Stann Creek District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that DAVON GONGORA is applying for a MONEY LENDING LICENSE for the year 2010 to operate SOUTHERN QUICK LOAN at Placencia Village, in the S/C District.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 260 of the laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that MELVIN HOLNESS is applying for the renewal of a PUBLIC SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2010 to operate BLACK & LYON INTERNATIONAL CAFE located at Hopkins Village, in the Stann Creek District.
**HOROSCOPE**

**February 05, 2010**

**ARIES** (March 21 - April 19) The procrastination must end -- take a deep breath and finish what you started.

An uncomfortable situation is brewing throughout the day and there's not much you can do but endure it. That's a good lesson, actually, though you may wish you could have learned it in a different way.

**TAURUS** (April 20 - May 20) Take time to toss ideas back and forth -- the obvious choice isn't always the best.

You have a jealous streak and at times like this it's far better to acknowledge it than to pretend you're totally okay with everything. Let your sweetie or friend know how you're feeling.

**GEMINI** (May 21 - June 20) It's a great day for laughter and chitchat -- call up an old friend to reconnect.

You're feeling a bit sassier than usual and you are likely to say 'no' even when you don't really care all that much deep down. Your need for confrontation isn't high-powered but you should pay attention to it.

**CANCER** (June 21 - July 22) Extra kindness and attention will fill your day. People are taking notice of you.

Try hard not to say 'yes' as much as you want to today -- your good energy may make things seem more positive than they really are. Check in with your gut to make sure you're on the right path.

**LEO** (July 23 - August 22) Slow down your emotions today -- sometimes new experiences take time to sink in.

You need to show off your intuitive side a bit today -- let someone know you're feeling their pain or joy, or just throw around a few knowing looks until the right people start to catch on.

**VIRGO** (August 23 - Sept 22) Your kindness won't turn you into a doormat -- they respect you too much for that.

You may run into an unforeseen obstacle -- but don't just try to bull your way through it. You may need to revisit a goal in order to realign yourself with the way things are in the real world.

**LIBRA** (Sept 23 - Oct 22) Partnerships in your life take center stage -- are they balanced? Make adjustments.

You need to deal with a financial issue that feels like a speed bump -- but could actually become a major obstacle! Once you see the depth of it, you should know exactly what to do. It takes time, though.

**SCORPIO** (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Start a new health routine with a buddy -- you two will keep each other focused.

Your power is back in full today -- it may feel like it's sudden but the odds are that you just haven't noticed it growing until just now. It's the perfect time to put your plans into action.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 22 - Dec 21) You're feeling torn between two worlds and the time has come for you to choose.

You can see your life laid out inside your mind but that doesn't mean that you're in the mood to share it -- or even do anything about it. Today is all about reflection, so find the time to take stock.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22 - Jan 19) Your mind is on business but your emotions still matter. Let your feelings show.

You need to step up and make that big decision -- but it's easier than you would have thought! You're sure to find that your friends and colleagues agree, for the most part, so don't hesitate.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan 20 - Feb 18) To make a good impression, be open and share your feelings -- especially on a date.

You are feeling rather odd about something that's important to you -- maybe your career, maybe your family. You can see where you've headed but you're not sure exactly how to get there.

**PISCES** (Feb 19 - March 20) Making a major purchase with someone else could cause some waves. Take it slow.

You've got some serious business to take care of today and that means there's going to be some upheaval -- maybe far out in the future! Your good energy ensures that it stays on the positive side, though.

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It's okay to Quit

Motivational Speaker
Veraunda Jackson

1. Quit arguing with people about the same old foolishness! Respect their position and keep it moving!

2. Quit telling people your secrets when you know they are not going to keep them! And if you keep telling them, then quit getting mad when they tell your secrets!

3. Quit trying to pull people on your journey who don't want to travel with you. Either they believe in you and value you...or they don't!

4. Quit complaining about things you can't and won't change!

5. Quit gossiping about other people! Minding our own business should be a full time job!

6. Quit blaming each other for things that in the big picture aren't going to matter three weeks from now! Talk solutions...and then implement them!

7. Quit eating things you know are not good for you! If you can't quit...eat smaller portions!

8. Quit buying things when we know we can't afford them! If you don't have self control, then quit going to the stores! Quit charging things, especially when you don't NEED them!

9. Quit staying in unhealthy relationships! It is not okay for people to verbally or physically abuse you! So quit longing to yourself! It is not okay to stay in the marriage for the children! Ask them and they will tell you that they really would prefer to see you happy and that the misery you and your spouse/partner are living with is affecting them!

10. Quit letting family members rope you into the drama! Start telling them you don't want to hear it! Quit spreading the drama! Quit calling other relatives and telling them about your cousin or aunt! Go back to #5 minding your own business should be enough to keep you busy!

11. Quit trying to change people! IT DOESN'T WORK! Quit cussing people out when you know that they are just being the miserable and jealous people that they are!

12. Quit the job you hate! Start pursuing your passion. Find the job that fuels your passion BEFORE you quit!

13. Quit voluntering for things that you aren't getting any personal fulfillment from anymore! Quit volunteering for things and then failing to follow through with your commitment!

14. Quit listening to the naysayers! Quit watching the depressing news if you are going to live in the doom and gloom of it all!

15. Quit making excuses about why you are where you are or why you can't do what you want to do!

16. Quit waiting on others to give you the answers...and start finding the answers for yourself! If what you are doing isn't working for you...then quit it!

17. Quit settling and start making your dreams a reality! Quit being afraid and START LIVING YOUR LIFE! CREATE THE LIFE YOU WANT! If you want something different than what you have had in the past...you must quit doing what you have done before and DO something different! JUST QUIT IT ...... and START DOING something to create the experience you want!
Orange Bread

**Ingredients**

- The grounded peel of 2 oranges
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/3 cup orange juice
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons shortening
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 egg

**Method**

Pre heat oven to 350°

Grind the peel of 2 oranges. Place in a saucepan and add just enough cold water to cover peel. Bring to a boil, remove from heat and drain off the water.

Repeat this procedure twice more. Add to drained peel 2/3 cup sugar. Place over low heat until sugar melts. Set aside.

Cream 2 tablespoon shortening and ¼ sugar. Add 1 egg beat thoroughly.

Blend or sift together 2 cups all purpose flour 3 teaspoons baking powder ½ teaspoon salt. Add to creamed mixture alternately with 1/3 cup milk and 1/3 cup orange juice. Mix only until blended.

Fold in peel mixture. Turn into a greased 9 x 5 loaf pan. Let stand for 20 minutes.

Bake in pre-heated oven for 50 to 60 minutes.
PRESS RELEASE
3/02/2010
The Belize Premier Football League (BPFL) Championship Cup Tournament will start its closing season on the weekend of February 13/14, 2010. The Clubs participating are:

Corozal Shanaiah Corozal
Belize City Belize Defence Force
Belize City F.C. Belize
San Pedro San Pedro F.C.
Belmopan BRC Blaze
Cayo Hankook Verdes
Stann Creek Georgetown Ibayani
Punta Gorda Paradise/Freedom Fighters

RESULTS

City Stars vs. Plaza
1 2
Anthony Michael 1 Errol Wade 2
Ebony Lake vs. Northside
1 1
Arthur Flowers 1 Kevin Rowland 1

Sunday Games:
4:00PM Kulture vs. Ebony Lake
6:00PM Northside vs. Plaza

Standings Belize City Over 35

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HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY
**TO ONE AND ALL**