



National Service of Praise and Thanksgiving

on the occasion of

*The 50th Anniversary of
Jamaica's Independence*



Saturday 21st July 2012 at 11:00am

Methodist Central Hall

Storey's Gate, Westminster London SW1H 9NH

MESSAGES ON THE OCCASION OF THE SERVICE OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING IN COMMEMORATION OF JAMAICA'S 50th ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE



MESSAGE THE MOST HON. PORTIA SIMPSON MILLER PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA

I warmly greet the congregation participating in this special thanksgiving service making Jamaica's 50th year as an independent sovereign nation.

This celebration of Jamaica's Independence calls us all to reflect on the past fifty years, and to visionary contemplation of the years ahead. For our Diaspora community in the United Kingdom, it is inevitably coloured by an appreciation of the long connection between Jamaica, land of our birth or country of descent, and the United Kingdom which has become home to so many.

Out of our small island, thousands of Jamaicans and their descendants have played an outstanding role in the development of the British society and economy, often under conditions of severe hardship and discomfort.

What is particularly worthy of recalling with pride is the fact that Jamaica has remained embedded within your heart and your soul, and you have continued to support the homeland with a generous spirit, strongly committed to our country's development.

You have risen above divisiveness and have always sought to put Jamaica first. I am sure that your sense of national unity will be even more evident during the 2012 Olympic Games in London as our athletes seek, once again, to impress the world.

There are many challenges facing us at this time, but we are confronting them with the courage, determination and the discipline necessary to regain the confidence and achieve the level of development desired for the peace and prosperity of the nation. I sense a greater feeling of hope among our people and a willingness to invest in the future - especially for the advancement of the younger generations. We will continue to need your prayers, your involvement and your active support.

May the courage, patriotism and the vision of our National Heroes and National Heroine inspire us to greater levels of achievement as we pursue our mission to make Jamaica the country of choice to live, work, raise families, do business and retire. As you join us in the celebration of this fiftieth year of nationhood, I pray God's blessings on us all and on Jamaica land we love



MESSAGE FROM H.E. ALOUN NDOMBET-ASSAMBA HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR JAMAICA

This is a very special time in our Nation's history as we celebrate our Golden Jubilee of being an Independent Country. I would like to, on our behalf, thank the Lord for His guidance and protection of us as a People over the last 50 years.

We have much to celebrate, and much to reflect on, as to how well we have progressed over the past years.

As a Nation, we "punch way above our weight class" and have made our mark in many spheres of life internationally.

We were in the forefront of fighting the issue of apartheid generally and specifically, in sports, resulting in the General Assembly adopting the International Declaration against Apartheid in Sports in 1977 and a decade later in the 1987 Convention.

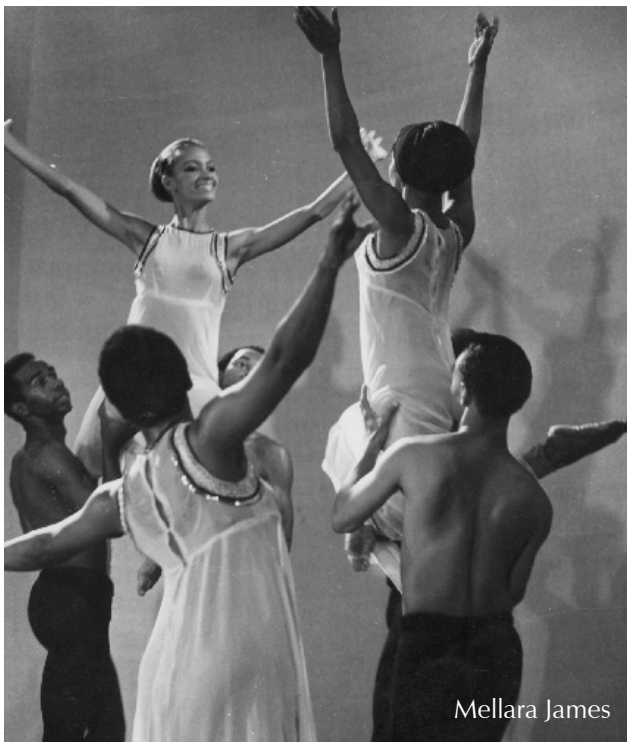
Barely a year after becoming independent we proposed that 1968 be designated the International Year for Human Rights at the 1963 United Nations General Assembly and this was accepted. Jamaica has served on the United Nations Security Council twice and held the Presidency in July 2000 and November 2001.

With respect to our democratic system of Government, we have a proud record. The Reform of the Electoral Process is one of our signal achievements. The measures developed in Jamaica have been adopted in several countries and our expertise in this area is continually being sought by our Caribbean neighbours and other countries. We are well known for our music and culture as well as our sporting prowess. Our athletes have done us proud in the past, in the international sporting arenas, and this year at the Thirtieth Olympiad being held in London we are hopeful that they will emulate and even surpass the performance in Beijing.

Our citizens continue to excel in Science, Medicine, Academics and other areas. We have produced many firsts in a plethora of areas that have served to give Brand Jamaica the recognition that it deserves. You, our citizens in the UK Diaspora have consistently contributed to this country by your hard work and dedication to your various communities here and back home in Jamaica. You have used your self confidence, creativity and determination to make a home for yourselves here, while not turning your backs on those you left behind in Jamaica.

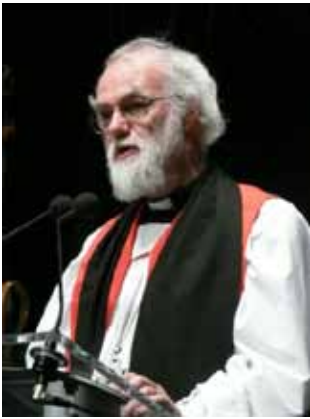
So although we have not escaped the economic challenges facing countries around the world and some may say we might not have reached where we want to be in terms of development of the country at this time, we have achieved much as a nation, both at home and abroad. In spite of the challenges we face, we need to understand, as has been said by our Governor General on his recent visit to London "that there is nothing wrong with Jamaica that cannot be fixed by what is right with Jamaica".

On behalf of the High Commission, may I wish for all of us Jamaicans, and those who love our country and support us, a happy anniversary and ask that we continue to hold our flag high and promote that which is the best of Jamaica as we go forth into the future.



Mellara James





**MESSAGE FROM
THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
+ ROWAN CANTUAR**

I am delighted to send my warm greetings to you as you gather together at a service of thanksgiving marking the 50th anniversary of Jamaica's Independence.

I remember with great affection my visit to Kingston in 2009 for the 14th Meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council, not least for the warmth of the welcome and the generous hospitality offered by the Anglican Church, and also by the Governor-General of Jamaica at a reception which he graciously hosted. It was wonderful to have an opportunity to see something of the ministry of the Church in Jamaica whilst I was there, and to find out more about its work and its place in Jamaican society today, as well as learning much about the richness of Jamaica's history and culture.

This service of thanksgiving for Jamaica's Golden Jubilee presents a wonderful opportunity for you all to reflect on all the achievements of this small island state, and to celebrate how it continues to impact the world in so many different areas of life.

May God bless you all in this Jubilee year.



**MESSAGE FROM
THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK
+ SENTAMU EBOR**

2012 marks one of the most important years in Jamaica's history, the 50th anniversary of her Independence. This year, I visited many churches, schools, social action projects and sites of historical and cultural interest from Montego Bay to Ocho Rios. So much colour, vitality, spice, beautiful flowers and friendly people. I see Christ in these wonderful people of Jamaica and find in them my sisters, my brothers. It is a privilege to share in these celebrations.

The Jamaica National Anthem puts it so well:

Teach us true respect for all

Stir response to duty's call,

Strengthen us the weak to cherish

Give us vision lest we perish...

Jamaica the land we love...



**MESSAGE FROM
THE NATIONAL OVERSEER
CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY UK
BISHOP WILTON POWELL OBE**

The Church of God of Prophecy in the United Kingdom joins the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of the nation of Jamaica. We are commonly bound by the motto of "Out of Many One People." We in the Diaspora strive to live out the ideal of making the oneness of humanity transcendent in our world.

We acknowledge the Governor General His Excellency Sir Patrick Allen and Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller and her government as they stand at the helm to direct Jamaica into the 21st century. We will as an organisation be committed to praying for the nation of Jamaica and her government for spiritual guidance to lead with wisdom and true justice, but in addition we will be actively engaged in the agenda for nation building. So as we celebrate let us be mindful of the challenges ahead, the unmet needs of the poor and most vulnerable citizens of our country and our resolve to work together in the design and implementation of strategies to achieve the ideals to which our nation aspires and are well able to achieve.

Let us commit to training, developing and engaging all our naturally talented people to make their contribution to Jamaica becoming a fully developed nation. God bless Jamaica and the people of Jamaican heritage in this country and throughout the world!



**MESSAGE FROM
THE ADMINISTRATIVE BISHOP
NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD
IN ENGLAND & WALES
DR. ERIC A. BROWN FRSA**

On behalf of the national leadership of the New Testament Church of God in England and Wales, we wish to send greetings and congratulations to our fellow Jamaicans on this 50th Anniversary of Jamaica's Independence.

Our founding parents dreamt of an independent Jamaica in which the rule of law and order would prevail; a land in which liberty, justice and truth would reign and freedom, enterprise and opportunity for all would be governing principles.

Since that eventful day in August 1962 successive governments have worked tirelessly in pursuit of the dream, and it cannot be denied that through their efforts and those of other institutions, great progress have been made for which we must be thankful. The dream, however, is still a work in progress and it is incumbent upon this and succeeding generations to stand shoulder to shoulder in the pursuit of the noble ideals and whilst doing so, not failing to make our own unique contribution that we may leave a lasting legacy for Jamaica, Land We Love!



**MESSAGE FROM
THE BISHOP OF LONDON
THE RT REVD & RT HON RICHARD CHARTRES KCVO DD FSA**

As the 132nd Bishop of London I greet you right warmly as you celebrate your 50th Anniversary of Independence. It was my predecessor, the 106th Bishop of London, Gilbert Sheldon, who despatched clergy to Jamaica in the 1660s and the next twelve Bishops of London maintained oversight of the growing church there until the appointment of the first Bishop of Jamaica in 1824.

So a part of your history is very much woven into the history of the Diocese of London and all our histories are seen to be part of the unfolding purposes of God in his world. May the liberating Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ continue to guide you and strengthen the bonds of affection between us.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel.



**MESSAGE FROM
THE SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER OF THE
METHODIST CENTRAL HALL WESTMINSTER
REV MARTIN TURNER**

It is my great honour and privilege as the Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Central Hall Westminster to welcome you here for the service celebrating 50 years of Jamaican independence – congratulations!

Out of the tribulation of colonialism has risen a vibrant nation forging her own path for fifty years. World renown for food, music, culture and sporting achievement there has been so much progress made. I am sure that there are still many challenges to be faced, but the resolution is there to meet those challenges. This celebration will extend across the world to the many countries where Jamaicans have made their home. Here in the UK it is said that the Jamaican British community nears 800,000. What an immense contribution that community makes. Historically especially in the NHS and transport industry, but now in every area of society and geographically right across our nation. Within the life of the British Christian community the vibrancy, spiritually and faith of both Jamaicans and the wider Caribbean community has brought joy and renewal, for which we thank God. May God bless you as to move into your next 50 years!



**MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL SECRETARY JAMAICA BAPTIST UNION
KARL B. JOHNSON**

This is a good time to be alive! Fifty years ago one of God's prized places on earth – Jamaica - took a decisive step toward self-discovery and self-affirmation by taking the path of self rule through political independence. That journey has a few more rivers to cross before completion and I salute, encourage and invite others to join those of us who are determined to reach the destination, and hopefully in the not too distant future.

One thing that a milestone such as this summons us to do is to recognize with gratitude the countless number of our citizens who have helped Jamaica to occupy an envious place among the nations of the world. In that light we owe a debt of gratitude to our entire diaspora and in particular those in the United Kingdom. There can be no praise too great for the ways in which you not only adjusted to a new place by demonstrating resilience, imagination, industry and determination, but in so doing have flown Jamaica's flag high.

Today, because of you, the history of this nation cannot be written without special mention of Jamaica, not as a colonial victim of exploitation, but as a vital partner, from whose well-spring have come so many who continue to make invaluable contributions to the quality of life in the UK today!

Let us all vow to play our part in making Jamaica an even more formidable nation as we look towards the next fifty years.

Officiating Clergy

Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin

Chaplain to Her Majesty The Queen

Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons

Vicar, Holy Trinity Church, Dalston & All Saints Church, Haggerston

Reverend Dr. Joel Edwards

International Director, Micah Challenge

The Reverend Prebendary Carl Ramsay

Rector, Pelsall, West Midlands

Overseer Charles Wright

Assemblies of the First Born, Battersea

Choirs

London Adventist Chorale

Nexus

Organist

Mr. Carl Jackson MVO MA ARAM FRCO

Soloist

Mr Robert Anderson

Bass (Opera Singer)

Saxophonist

YolanDa

Trumpeter

Peter Wright

Flag Bearer

Corporal Paul Johnson, Jamaica Defence Force

The Royal Military School of Music

Ushers

Staff & Friends of the Jamaican High Commission

Children

Indya Akinrinola, Mali Akinrinola, Tori Akinrinola, Chloe Allen, Carlyle Bailey, Lewis Bailey, Andre Brown, Aaliyah Brown, Karace Brown, Chante Brown, Maya Bernard-Borrell, Khairah Browne, Brittney Campbell, Rio Coleman, Lauren Croft, Holly Christian, Rochanne Davis, Danielle Decoteau, Princess Dean, Abbygale Dixon, Jowayne Elliott, Roshanne Elliott Gerone Folkes, Shaniel Foster, Kayla Francis, Amari Gutzmore, Randee Hall, Portia Harrison, Antoine Jordine, Daisy Skye Kremer, Kylon Latty, Zachary Lopez, Daniella Martin, Kerriann Martin, Kriss Ann Minnies, Alexi Morgan, AJ Sincere Neavin-Wynter, Harlem Nguyen, Radley O'Connor, Savoy O'Connor, Jackson Purkiss, Jaida Richards, Makada Robinson, Keene Sydial, Jahmal Taylor, Monay Thompson, Kayla Tucker, Michael Venna, Stefan White, Stefanie White

Order of Service

The NEXUS Choir will perform prior to the start of the Service

Audio Visual of Jamaica's Journey Towards Independence

Congregation stands

Processional Music

Procession of the Clergy

Presentation of the National Flag of Jamaica

Congregation sits

Welcome.....Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin

Congregation stands

Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not,
as Thou hast been Thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness;
morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided –
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Refrain

Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessing all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

Congregation sits

Opening Prayer.....Reverend Carl Ramsay

Special Item and National Pledge

Fifty (50) children representing the Jamaican Community across the UK

Performance.....London Adventist Chorale

Remarks.....High Commissioner H.E. Aloun Ndombet-Assamba

Congregation stands

Hymn: Now Thank We All our God

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hand and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.
All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one Eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Congregation sits

1st Lesson.....Deuteronomy 30:11-15; 19-20
Read by Councillor Angela Harvey,
The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Westminster

Dance of Praise, Choreographed by Mr. Jackie Guy, MBE

Danielle Allen, Bradley Applewhite, Yolanda Burke, Donna Himes, Mellara James
Cassandra Lee, Sharna Moore, Arron Morgan, Kirk Patterson

Independence Poems.....Read by Ms Doña Croll
Home Thoughts.....Claude McKay
Dear Cousin Min.....The Hon. Louise Bennett-Coverley, OM

Performance.....London Adventist Chorale

2nd Lesson.....Philippians 3:12-17
Read by Mrs Yolande Whitely, Chevening Scholar

Solo: I Saw My Land in The morning.....Mr. Robert Anderson

Sermon.....Reverend Dr Joel Edwards

Congregation stands

Hymn: To God Be The Glory

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son.
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus his Son;
and give him the glory, great things he has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God!
And every offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

Congregation sits

The National Prayers of Thanksgiving

Led by Mr Norman Mullings, Mrs Carmelita Duncan, Miss Tara-Jane Kerpens-Lee,
Master Tristan Taylor, Mrs Elizabeth Johnson

Let us pray

For our island country of Jamaica, the mountains and valleys, the warm sunshine and the welcoming sea; the beautiful birds and flowers. For all who work in the farming industry providing food for the nation. May we recognise your hand in creation and our responsibility to be stewards of all that you have given to us.

We give God thanks and praise.

‘Out of many one people’ – for the rich heritage of our diverse peoples who have lived harmoniously together for the last fifty years; For our National Heroes who gave unselfishly so that we could live in freedom; For our pledge to serve one another, to be our brother’s keeper. For the poets, artists and thinkers, and all who create in us the vision of a new and better people.

We give God thanks and praise.

Thank you for our parents, teachers, religious and business leaders and all those who in every walk of life help to prepare us for responsible citizenship, and all those who give voluntary service in the public interest. We thank you for all that we have learnt from the generation before us; for the dreams they had and the sacrifices they made so that we could become a great nation.

We give God thanks and praise.

In this Olympic year, we thank God for our great sportsmen and women throughout the years who have set international standards for the rest of the world to attain; for their self discipline and focus, which has enabled them to keep striving to become the best in their chosen disciplines.

We give God thanks and praise

We pray for the Commonwealth of nations of which we are a part: for the Queen in this her jubilee year; For Patrick our Governor General; for Portia our Prime Minister; for Andrew Leader of the Opposition, Members of our Parliament and all persons serving local government, that they may serve wisely and justly. We pray that as we mark 50 years of independence, that they may rededicate their lives in service.

We give God thanks and praise

Performance.....YolanDa
"Amazing Grace"

Performance.....London Adventist Chorale
"I want Jesus to walk with me"

Congregation stands **An act of dedication**

The congregation will say together

God our Father, we thank you that you have watched over us during the last 50 years. We re-commit ourselves to you and to one another both in Jamaica and in the diaspora, to work together in building a better Jamaica for all its peoples. May we do nothing apart that we can do together. For the next fifty years, give us vision, give us courage to serve you and one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

Offertory Hymn.....The Right Hand of God
Offering taken in aid of West Haven Home for Children with disabilities in Hanover & St Monica's Children's Home in Clarendon

The right hand of God is writing in our land,
writing with power and with love,
our conflicts and our fears, our triumphs and our tears
are recorded by the right hand of God.

The right hand of God is pointing in our land
pointing the way we must go.
So clouded is the way, so easily we stray,
but we're guided by the right hand of God.

The right hand of God is striking in our land,
striking out at envy, hate, and greed.
Our selfishness and lust, our pride and deeds unjust
are destroyed by the right hand of God.

The right hand of God is healing in our land,
Healing broken bodies, minds, and souls.
So wondrous is its touch with love that means so much,
When we're healed by the right hand of God.

The right hand of God is planting in our land,
Planting seeds of freedom, hope and love.
In these Caribbean lands, let his people all join hands,
and be one with the right hand of God.

Congregation sits

Performance.....Nexus Choir
"Creation" (Peter Tosh)

Presentation & Blessing of the Offering.....Overseer Charles Wright

Congregation stands

National Anthem.....led by Mr Robert Anderson

Eternal Father bless our land
Guard us with Thy Mighty Hand
Keep us free from evil powers
Be our light through countless hours
To our Leaders, Great Defender,
Grant true wisdom from above.
Justice, Truth be ours forever,
Jamaica, Land we love.
Jamaica, Jamaica, Jamaica land we love.

Teach us true respect for all,
Stir response to duty's call,
Strengthen us the weak to cherish,
Give us vision lest we perish.
Knowledge send us Heavenly Father,
Grant true wisdom from above.
Justice, Truth be ours forever,
Jamaica, Land we love.
Jamaica, Jamaica, Jamaica land we love.

The Blessing.....Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin

Congregation remains standing

Recessional Music

March Out – of the National Flag of Jamaica

Recession of the Clergy & Official Party

(The congregation is kindly asked to remain in your places until the Official Party has departed and you are directed by the stewards to leave)

Timeline: 1962 - 2012

1962 April 10 - A general election is held. The Jamaica Labour Party wins 26 seats, while the People's National Party wins the remaining 19 seats and Sir Alexander Bustamante becomes the first Prime Minister.

1962 August 6 – At midnight in the National Stadium, the Union Jack is lowered and in its place, the Jamaican flag is raised for the very first time signifying that Jamaica had become an independent nation.

1962 December 1 - Jamaica's first native Governor-General, Sir Clifford Campbell, G.C.M.G., takes up office.

1963 November 10 - Marcus Garvey's body is returned to Jamaica. The following day he is declared the first National Hero. He is buried in the Marcus Garvey Memorial in King George VI Memorial Park, (now Heroes Park) Kingston, Jamaica.

1965 June 21 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is presented with the Keys of the City of Kingston at a civil reception at the National Stadium.

1965 October 11 - The 100th anniversary of the Morant Bay Rebellion is celebrated and it is announced that in honour of Bogle, a son of St. Thomas, the town of Morant Bay would be raised to mayoral status.

1965 October 24 - A monument honouring Paul Bogle and George William Gordon is dedicated at the King George VI Memorial Park.

1966 April 21-24 - His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, arrives in Jamaica for a three-day state visit. H.I.M. Haile Selassie addresses members of both houses of the Jamaican Parliament and at a special ceremony at the University of the West Indies, receives the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

1966 August 4-13 - Jamaica hosts the 8th British Empire and Commonwealth Games.

1967 February 23 - Following the retirement of Sir Alexander Bustamante, The Hon. Donald Sangster is sworn in as the second Prime Minister of Jamaica by then Governor-General Sir Clifford Campbell.

1967 April 11 - The Hon Donald Sangster dies in Canada. Her Majesty the Queen dubs him Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. The Hon Hugh Lawson Shearer is sworn in as the third Prime Minister of Jamaica.

1969 February - Norman Washington Manley resigns as Leader of the Opposition and from the House of Representatives. His son, Michael, is elected leader of the People's National Party (PNP). September 2, - Norman Washington Manley dies. Five days later.

1970 May 24 - The statue of the Right Excellent Sir Alexander Bustamante, Jamaica's only living National Hero, is unveiled by Lady Bustamante during a ceremony at Victoria Park.

1971 October 18 - National Heroes' Day is celebrated with a military parade and the first investiture of purely Jamaican awards at Up Park Camp. The Right Excellent Sir Alexander Bustamante receives his Order of National Hero. 1972 March 2, - Michael Manley is sworn in, as Jamaica's fourth Prime Minister by the Governor-General, Sir Clifford Campbell, at King's House.

1972 April 9 - The Centenary celebrations of Kingston as the capital of Jamaica opens with a Divine Service at Kingston Parish Church.

1973 June 27 - The Hon. Florizel A. Glasspole, C.D., is sworn in as Governor-General of Jamaica in a colourful ceremony at King's House.

1973 May - The Government announces free education - No tuition fees are to be paid for Government secondary schools. There is to be free tuition for all Jamaicans admitted to the University of the West Indies.

1974 - Several important pieces of legislation are enacted, including the Equal Rights For Equal Pay Act, Status of Children Act, Maternity Leave With Pay Act, Minimum Wage Act, Termination and Redundancy Pay Act, Holiday With Pay Act.

1975 October - Nanny of the Maroons and Samuel Sharpe were declared National Heroes bringing the number of Jamaican National Heroes to seven. Charles Square in Montego Bay was re-named Sam Sharpe Square in honour of the National hero.

1975 May - The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is held in Kingston, Jamaica.

1977 August 6 - Jamaica's last surviving National Hero, Sir Alexander Bustamante, dies at the age of 93.

1979 January - Jamaica is elected to serve on the United Nations Security Council for the first time.

1980 October - Edward Seaga becomes Jamaica's 5th Prime Minister.

1981 April 17 - Robert Nesta Marley, the Reggae Superstar is invested with the Order of Merit (O.M.).

1981 May 1 - Montego Bay is elevated to city status.

1981 May 11 - Robert Nesta Marley dies in Miami after a long illness.

1981 August 21 - Jamaica is chosen as the Headquarters of the International Seabed Authority.

1984 - The Gleaner celebrates 150 years of publication.

1983 February 13 - Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh pay a state visit to Jamaica.

1983 February 15 - Her Majesty officially opens the Interim Headquarters of the International Seabed Authority in Kingston.

1984 August - The centenary of the birth of National Hero the Rt. Excellent Alexander Bustamante is celebrated. (He was born in 1884)

1985 February - Legendary reggae band, Black Uhuru is the first recipient of the Grammy award for Reggae.

1985 - Canasol, a new drug developed from cannabis (or ganja), is introduced by Professor Manley West and Dr. Albert Lockhart for the treatment of glaucoma. Both were awarded the Order of Merit in 1987.

1986 - The College of Arts, Science and Technology now University of Technology, Jamaica (UTECH) awards its first bachelors degrees in education, home economics and engineering.

1987 August 6 - Jamaica celebrates 'Jamaica 25', the 25th Anniversary of Jamaican Independence.

1987 August - The Centenary of the birth of National Hero the Rt. Excellent Marcus Garvey is celebrated at several functions. His son, Dr. Julius Garvey, and widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Coretta Scott King, visit and share in the celebrations.

1988 August 1 - A \$50 note with the portrait of National Hero the Rt. Excellent Sam Sharpe is issued for the first time.

1988 September 12 - Hurricane Gilbert, the most powerful hurricane of the 20th Century pummels Jamaica, causing billions of dollars of damage.

1990 August - Sir Florizel Glasspole, Governor General since 1973, retires and is succeeded by Sir Howard Cooke.

1991 July 24 - Nelson Mandela visits Jamaica with his wife, Winnie. The welcome they receive is perhaps the most tumultuous since the visit of Emperor Haile Selassie in 1966. Mr. Mandela is awarded an honorary degree by the University of the West Indies.

1992 March - The Rt. Hon. Michael Manley, PNP Leader and Prime Minister, resigns in March for reasons of health. The Rt. Hon. PJ Patterson becomes the new Prime Minister.

1993 August 9, - Pope John Paul II pays an official visit to Jamaica.

1993 - Tourism becomes the top foreign exchange earner, bringing US\$953 million into the economy.

1998 - Jamaica's national football team, the Reggae Boyz, qualifies for the World Cup in France.

2002 February 18-20 - Jamaica is one of three Commonwealth countries visited by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in celebration of her Golden Jubilee.

2002 March 18 - Jamaica serves as the third leg of Jubilee Baton Relay for the July 25- August 4 Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

2002 August 6 - Jamaica celebrates 40 years of Independence.

2002 October - Prime Minister PJ Patterson's People's National Party wins general elections, ushering in fourth successive term in office for party and third term for incumbent premier.

2004 September - Hurricane Ivan - described as the biggest in living memory - pounds the island, destroying thousands of homes.

2006 February - Local Government Minister Portia Simpson Miller is elected as head of the ruling People's National Party. She succeeds PJ Patterson to become Jamaica's first female Prime Minister in March.

2007 September - Jamaica Labour Party wins general elections, Bruce Golding becomes Prime Minister.

2008 - Jamaica has its best ever Olympic performance at the Summer Games in Beijing, winning 6 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals. 21-year-old Usain Bolt emerges as the star of the games, winning gold in the 100m, 200m and 4 x 100m relay, breaking the world record on each occasion.

2011 September - On 25 September, Prime Minister Bruce Golding advised the JLP's Central Executive of his intention not to seek re-election as Leader of the Jamaica Labour Party at the party's conference in November. He said that upon the election of a new party leader, He would step down as Prime Minister of Jamaica.

2011 October - Andrew Michael Holness becomes the youngest person to become Prime Minister in Jamaica's history, as well as the country's ninth Prime Minister overall. He is also the second shortest serving Prime Minister in Jamaica (Sir Donald Sangster being the shortest) as well as the Caribbean.

2011 December - The People National Party wins the December 29 general elections with 42 of the 63 constituency seats. The Governor General asked Opposition leader Portia Simpson-Miller to form a new government.

2012 January - People National Party President Portia Simpson Miller is Sworn in for a second non-consecutive term as Jamaica's Prime Minister. She will be the second individual to have served non-consecutive terms, the first having been Michael Manley.



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