



## CHILDREN BROCHURE

### MORAVIAN CHURCH – BARBADOS CONFERENCE Provincial Theme: Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T.

**S. – Seek & Submit**  
**H. – Hear & Heed**  
**I. – Imagine & Insight**  
**F. – Focus & Function**  
**T. – Totally Transformed**

## S.H.I.F.T.

**Age: 13 yrs. & Over**

December 5

Sing with me:

*O Jesus I have promised*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svgHDdzP5xY>

Memory Verse: Ecclesiastes 7:1 (NIV)

1A good name is better than fine perfume,  
and the day of death better than the day of birth.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 7:1 – 6 (NIV)

Read with me

1A good name is better than fine perfume,  
and the day of death better than the day of birth.

2 It is better to go to a house of mourning  
than to go to a house of feasting,  
for death is the destiny of everyone;  
the living should take this to heart.

3 Frustration is better than laughter,  
because a sad face is good for the heart.

4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,  
but the heart of fools is in the house of pleasure.

5 It is better to heed the rebuke of a wise person  
than to listen to the song of fools.

6 Like the crackling of thorns under the pot,  
so is the laughter of fools.  
This too is meaningless.

### **Let us talk about it.**

During the last few weeks in Barbados, leading up to November 30, the focus was on the island's 55th year of Independence and the shift to the island becoming a Republic. Radio stations and the lone TV station carried many local programmes including a daily dose of Bajan sayings and proverbs. Before we look at some of the wise sayings of Solomon, our wisdom writer, let us take a brief look at a few of our Bajan proverbs. More of these will be in our activity page.

These are randomly selected, and are not in any order of priority.

1. If you didn't at de christening, yuh shouldn't be at the wedding.  
- Do not get involved in something if you do not know how it started.
2. Coward dog keep whole bone.  
- Avoiding confrontation can keep you out of trouble.
3. Crave all, get none at all.  
- A warning against covetousness.
4. De tongue dat does buy yuh does sell yuh.  
- The same person who talks nicely to you, will betray you later.
5. De dog dat bring a bone will kaah one.  
- The very person who gossips with you about other persons may also gossip with them about you.

In verse 1 of Solomon's writing, he compares a good name to having fine perfume. Have you ever been into a room and a person's perfume was so strong that it made you sick? But what does it have to do with a good name? A good name may be considered the same as a good reputation. A person's reputation is of great value, more so than expensive perfume. Do you remember the story when the woman washed Jesus' feet with expensive oils? St Luke 7:36 50

36 Now one of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. 37 Then when a woman of that town, who was a sinner, learned that Jesus was dining at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfumed oil 38 As she stood behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. She wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the perfumed oil. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner."

In this story, the Pharisee was not interested in the fact that he did not offer Jesus any water to wash his hands or feet, neither was he concerned with the woman who might have spent all her money on the expensive alabaster jar of oil. He was only interested in the woman as a sinner. He figured Jesus should know not to have communication with her. The woman had fine perfume, but a poor reputation.

So then consider what will give you a bad reputation. A colleague has been really annoying you recently. The person would do bad things and then say “sorry”, or “it was a mistake”. There would always be some excuse. Eventually, everyone in the class gets fed up and starts to sideline the person. No one wants to be a friend to the person. It so happens that the person’s parents can afford to sponsor parties and buy gifts for friends in the class. Despite this, no one in the class likes the person. Even when the person tries to make friends with other persons, because of the bad reputation which has been developed, it is very difficult for the person to make new friends. This is what Solomon was warning about. The message to you is to be nice to everyone, pause and look at your reputation. If others can see it, so can you.

Your football team lost every match in the last season. Wow! What a reputation? This team is now known as “the losers”. Does not sound like such a good name does it?

When you apply for a job, your prospective employer will ask you to submit names of referees. A referee is a person who is willing to highly recommend you for the job, based solely on your reputation. Do you know that despite all your academic qualifications, if the referees cannot give a good report about you, you still will not get the job? Some people have difficulty finding references, simply because their reputation is not good. Yes, you dress well, maybe, you speak well, but your behaviour is not what is needed in the office.

Solomon, in his wisdom, issues a warning, it is better to have a good name, than all the finest perfumes. Now promise that your commitment to follow Jesus will help you to heed to Solomon’s warning and make for yourself a good name.

### **Let us Pray**

O God, I pray that I will understand the importance of a good reputation. I ask you, dear father, to control my thoughts, my speech and my actions, so I will become the good citizen my land requires. And my life will be patterned after the one described by my Saviour, Jesus Christ. Also my reputation will be one of admiration and desire. I promise dear Father to serve in such a way that will show my good name. Amen.

## ACTIVITY

Complete the following by choosing the correct meaning on the right which correctly interprets the *bajan* saying on the left.

	Bajan saying	answer		meaning
1	As yuh land, yuh come ashore”-		A	People with nothing to do, get themselves into mischief
2	“Cat luck en' dog luck”-		B	You should avoid situations which can be harmful to you.
3	“De devil does find work fuh idle hands to do”-		C	You have an answer for everything.
4	Every bush is a man”-		D	Your patience in a situation will be rewarded.
5	Egg ain't got no right ay rock-stone dance” -		E	Mind your own business
6	De higher de monkey climb, de more 'e show 'e tail”-		F	To wear something as soon as you get it or buy it
7	Wait til yuh trough put an' bubble in it” -.		G	Utilize whatever resources you have available.
8	Yuh got plaster fuh evah sore”-		H	The more you show off, the more your faults are brought to the open.
9	When yuh en' got horse, ride cow”-		I	Be careful how you talk about people because you never know who might be eavesdropping.
10	“If greedy wait, hot will cool” -		J	What one person may get away with, may cause problems for another.

Pair each of the statements on the left with its comparative ending on the right.  
Ecclesiastes 7:1 – 6 (NIV)

	Proverb	Answer		Ending
1	A good name is better than		A	going to a house of feasting
2	The day of death is better than		B	to listen to the song of fools
3	Going to a house of mourning is better than		C	laughter
4	Frustration is better than		D	fine perfume
5	To head the rebuke of a wise person is better than		E	the day of birth

*Today is the second Sunday in Advent. Copy the Moravian Advent Star, paste it onto a piece of card and hang it at your window, or at your door.*



*Have a great week. Use your time wisely.*