

## Prime Minister Gaston Browne And Minister Charles Fernandez of Antigua and Barbuda Visit The Medical Pavilion Bahamas



The Medical Pavilion Bahamas, TMPB, the Flagship Centre for Partnered Care, and Home to The Heart, Chest, Cancer, Imaging, Breast, Dialysis, Stem Cell and Research Centres at 72-74 Collins Avenue.

The Rt. Hon. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, along with his Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Charles Fernandez, toured the facilities of The Medical Pavilion Bahamas, TMPB, located at 72-74 Collins Ave., Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

The Medical Pavilion Bahamas is a 40,000 SF facility, founded and developed by Dr. Conville Brown in 1990, and serves as Home to The Heart, Chest, Cancer, Imaging, Breast, Dialysis, Stem Cell and Research Centres, amongst other medical practices and services. It has captured

the attention of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, who are significant shareholders in the development of a similar 17,000 SF state-of-the-art Cardiac, Cancer and Imaging Facility in Antigua, led by Dr. Brown, that will be known as The Medical Pavilion Antigua, TMPA.

### The Medical Pavilion Antigua will serve as Home to The Cancer Centre Eastern Caribbean, The Heart Centre Antigua and The Imaging Centre Antigua.



The Medical Pavilion Antigua sits complementarily at the foot of Mt. St. John's Medical Centre The Government of Antigua and Barbuda's Main Hospital Facility.

PM. Browne noted that "My Government is totally committed to the establishment of The Cancer Centre Eastern Caribbean (TCCEC) in Antigua even though the services will be more extensive than just offering cancer treatment.

It will be a facility that services the OECS Region (The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States), fundamentally, nine small islands in the Caribbean region. It will bring to this region a service(s) that does not exist at this time. It will significantly contribute to the level of

medical care and will also help to reduce the cost of several advanced medical services."

Like all of the Centres of TMPB, TCCEC has been developed on Dr. Conville Brown's Partnered Care Model. The model thrives on a tripartite partnership between the Government, Private and Public Sectors to see that all people have access to life saving medical technologies and treatments, and by controlling the cost of quality healthcare while providing affordable access to ALL. This is Dr. Conville

Brown's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of practising Partnered Care in the delivery of advanced healthcare services to ALL.

Foreign Affairs Minister Fernandez noted that with cancer touching the lives of so many people in Antigua, including his own, TCCEC is timely. "Cancer is becoming a real issue and when you have an opportunity where people in the Caribbean, a third world region, can get access to first world quality medical services, it is really very special".



Lt. to Rt.- Hon. Charles Fernandez, Minister Of Foreign Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda; Rt. Hon. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, and Dr. Conville Brown, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of The Cancer Centre Eastern Caribbean, The Cancer Centre Bahamas, and The Medical Pavilions of both Antigua and Bahamas.

Both Prime Minister Browne and Minister Fernandez complimented Dr. Conville Brown and the team of The Medical Pavilion Bahamas on assisting the Antiguan Government on achieving a major goal of providing affordable quality health care to the region.

Dr. Brown is particularly pleased, honoured and

flattered to be able to assist an entire region of countries, outside of The Bahamas, with the delivery of advanced Cardiac, Cancer and Imaging Services via his Partnered Care Model. The Cancer Centre Eastern Caribbean is due to be completed by June of this year, which will still be during PM. Perry G.

Christie's tenure as Chair of The CARICOM Heads of Government.

Dr. Brown is hoping to share this great historical moment, not only with the People of Antigua and Barbuda and The Organization Of Eastern Caribbean States, but also with our Prime Minister Christie of The Bahamas as CARICOM Chair.

## RELIGION

# 'Lord Give Us Johnny Cake' promises to be fun, light and a family-friendly read book

Bahamian author Ghandi Thompson is preparing to launch her first book, "Lord, Give Us Johnny Cake", a book that promises to be fun, light and a family-friendly read. It's a book she promises will make you smile, entertain and motivate all at the same time.

"My book is a daily devotional, similar to the daily breads our parents read when I was growing up," said Thompson. "So rather than call the book a daily bread, I decided to put a spin on it and replace the word "bread" with Johnny cake.

Contributing to Thompson's book were Ghalysa Swann, Adam Johnson, Keiran Roker, Joulle Dawkins, Don and Madison Collie, Katherine Beneby II, Brian and Audra Bain, Latoya Hanna and Melissa Butler.

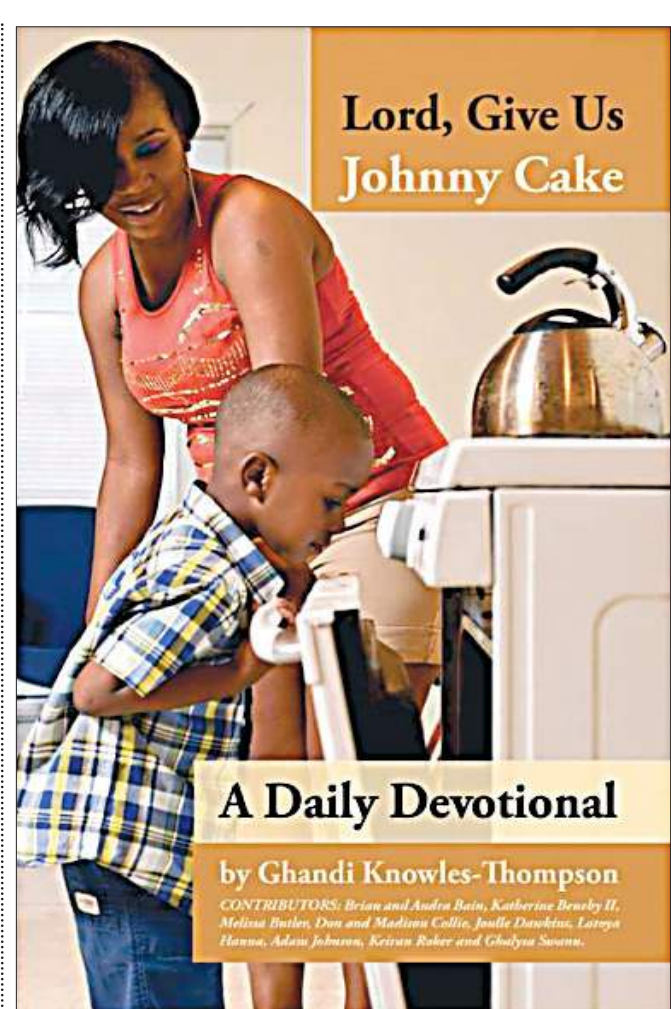
Thompson is particularly fond of the book's introduction, which she says is very transparent. Second to the introduction, she said she is excited about the writing of 17-year-old Ghalysa.

Thompson's book launch will take place on Saturday, March 7 at 11 a.m. at Chapter One Bookstore, Thompson Boulevard.

Initially, when Thompson started to write the book, her vision was to write a book for seniors. However, many of the topics that came to her were geared toward teens and young adults. She altered her plans and decided to pen a book that would appeal to any member of the family including children.

"To be honest it has been a very smooth ride," Thompson said. "Initially, I challenged myself because I wanted the book to be out by the end of 2014. I was a little disappointed after I realized that I wouldn't make the initial deadline. I regrouped and prepared for a second deadline. The second deadline was unsuccessful as well. I remained positive, prayed and trusted God. If it was him who inspired me to write the book, then it would be released in the fullness of time."

Thompson never imag-



The cover of author Ghandi Thompson's book "Lord, Give Us Johnny Cake", a daily devotional. PHOTOS: GHANDI THOMPSON



Ghandi Thompson.

ined becoming an author. "I saw myself as a commercial pilot and a few other things, but an author didn't make my initial list of aspirations," she said. "Only recently was I inspired to write. I wanted to write about marriage and somehow while writing that book this one came to me."

The books that have influenced her most are the "Holy Bible", "Ordering Your Pri-

ivate World" by Gordon MacDonald, "Instinct" by T.D. Jakes, "Who Moved My Cheese" by Spencer Johnson, "Leadership Gold" by John Maxwell and "Spiritual Leadership" by J. Oswald Sanders.

With the release of her first book days away, Thompson is already writing another two books, one of which will be published later this year.

"I meet people every day that have stories that should be shared," she said. "I always think what would the world be like if everyone was afraid or opted not to write. We would have very little history, inventions, movies, no formal way to test people and the list goes on," she said.

Thompson urges Bahamians to write. Doing so she said is important to preserve information, share experiences and inspire others through stories.

## From playing at pastor to God's messenger



Reverend Wilton McKenzie, left, superintendent of the Bahamas Baptist Union, encourages Ebenezer Union Baptist Church Pastor Stephen Smith to run the race and to look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of his faith, during his ordination.

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It was 33 years ago that Stephen Smith accepted the Lord as his personal savior during a crusade, but it took another 10 years for him to recognize the call of God on his life. Today, he is the new pastor at Ebenezer Union Baptist Church in Farmer's Hill, Exuma.

Smith stepped up to the pulpit of the 122-year-old church upon the retirement of his mentor Reverend Dr. Irvin Clarke Sr. who had led the Ebenezer family for 45 years. He vowed that he would do his best to lead with prayer, preach with purpose, counsel with wisdom from God and rebuke in love at the church where he was born and raised. It's his cornerstone church.

As he took up his leadership role, Ebenezer's newest pastor promised that he would lead with wisdom and knowledge from God, that he would be honest and full of integrity and be a man of

good character.

During his ordination, Reverend Wilton McKenzie, superintendent of the Bahamas Baptist Union encouraged Smith to run the race and to look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of his faith.

Smith was born to the late Deacon Evans Smith and Deaconess Elsiemae Lloyd Smith, is the second child of eight children. His mother says her son's life was spared during a vehicle accident in which she and her driver received minor injuries, but Smith was untouched. She said God spared her son's life, and whenever there was a play or drama production at church, his mother said Smith would always act as the preacher. She says it's a drama that has become reality.

In fact the new preacher escaped another near death experience in 1999 when 7,200 volts of electricity passed through his body. He had to have more than 12 operations, due to being burnt over 35 percent of his body. His life lesson from that incident was "God's got

a way of getting your attention."

It was at that point that he told God if he survived that he would serve him for the rest of his life.

Smith was ordained a minister in October 2003.

The new preacher's road to the pulpit has been one filled with many jobs — he served as vice president of the youth department; president of the men's fellowship and member of the evangelism committee of the Exuma District Convention. He also served and continues to serve as the executive chairman of Ebenezer's Church Board.

In his quest to fulfill his call to the work of the Lord, Smith attended Boyce Bible College and Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky from 2000 to 2002. Prior to leading his flock, Smith became a certified carpenter/joiner, he owned a furniture-building store, a licensed pilot, he owns his own six-seat airplane.

He is married to Krivoy Odessa Knowles-Smith.