

## EDITORIAL

### Teachers Union's issue captivates GB educators

See Page 4



Belinda Wilson  
Minister Jeff Lloyd

Sponsored by: The Freeport News

### YOUR WEATHER



**77°F**  
Mostly sunny; nice

SUNRISE: 7:04 a.m.  
SUNSET: 5:38 p.m.  
HIGH TIDE: 8:34 a.m. - 8:44 p.m.  
LOW TIDE: 2:06 a.m. - 2:52 p.m.  
WINDS: ENE at 10 mph

See Page 18 for full round-up

## The Freeport News BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS & SERVICE GUIDE

Whatever you're looking for, these local businesses ask you to consider them first.

PAGES 14 & 15

# GB tourism office, taxi drivers in controversy

JUELANDA THOMPSON  
FN Reporter  
Juelanda@nasguard.com

A controversy is brewing between the Ministry of Tourism in Grand Bahama and allegedly, members of the island's taxi drivers fraternity.

The issue stems from the transporting of visiting tourists to the New Year's Junkanoo downtown, Freeport on January 1.

Taxi driver for 27 years, Anthony Fox made a complaint to *The Freeport News*. He disclosed the challenges he allegedly experienced regarding the GB Ministry of Tourism providing free transportation for tourists.

Fox charged that Tourism representatives chose certain bus drivers to transport tourists from their hotel(s) to the 2019 New Year's Junkanoo parade.

"Taxi Drivers who work around the hotels do not make a good living because the country has been depressed.

"Christmas came around, bringing a few guests in the hotel, and here comes the Ministry of Tourism, all of a sudden providing the guests with free transportation to Junkanoo.

"Taxi Drivers were piled up around the hotel, explained Fox "hoping to get fares to go to Junkanoo and we got really disappointed."

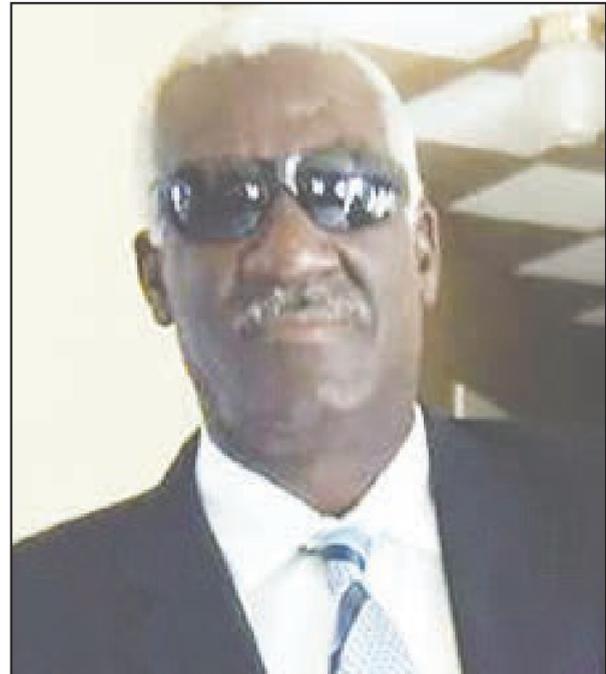
"Each of the sixty seater buses was so full they had to make two

**"Christmas came around, bringing a few guests in the hotel, and here comes the Ministry of Tourism, all of a sudden providing the guests with free transportation to Junkanoo."**

~Anthony Fox



KAREN SEYMOUR  
Director of Ministry of Tourism, GB



ANTHONY FOX  
Taxi Driver

### 'Healing Ministry' schedules event March 8-9 in GB

ABRIA COOPER  
FN Reporter  
abria@nasguard.com

Pastor Sean "Ricky" Pinder aims to bring healing to Grand Bahama through his traveling ministry.

The cleric spoke to this daily about his spiritual initiative, an event to be staged later this year, during a special luncheon being held for pastors on the island on Friday (January 4) at Ruby Swiss Restaurant.

Pinder told this daily that although he is a native Grand Bahamian, his ministry, Sean Pinder Ministries, is out of the Miracle Healing Center Church based in Dallas Texas.

"We focus on our media ministry. We reach over 19 million people," he said.

Pinder informed that he returned home to share his vision of a Miracle Crusade with local pastors.

"Coming into a territory you have to show respect and honor to pastors because their people will be helping you accomplish God's work by inviting their friends, their families," he said.

The event is to take place at the Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) Hall on March 8-9 and all pastors in the Grand Bahama community are being called upon to unite.

"We need all hands on deck. This isn't about one church. This isn't about a ministry. We're here to promote Jesus Christ. Jesus is the answer for the world today and forever.

"My ministry has gone to countries all over the world, including the United States, India, and Uganda, to host Miracle Crusades, pastors' conferences and conduct small and large meetings.

"In our meetings, through (Continued on Page 3)

trips. So if you calculate five dollars per person, you can only imagine the amount of money they have deprived us of.

"We are struggling, so why take our money, when all these taxi drivers could go and make a substantial living for that one day, to start off their New Year.

"This is a brand New Year, and this is how they start it off with a bunch of crazy things.

"I pay tax, but this is not what I want the government to do with my money. I do not want them to take from me, when I could've had an opportunity on the first day to make some income.

"I am concerned about a lot of the things that affect the taxi business in terms of regulations, and I don't think the people that regulate taxis, realize it is regulated by the law.

"The executives only look out for themselves, and they don't look out for nobody else, because they have a lot of positions that are not paid positions. With that being said, they pay themselves on the expense of taxi drivers, and the Road Traffic Officers shut their eyes, it seems," he said.

Fox accused the various government sectors that deal with the taxi union of not being disciplined.

"It seems as though everybody wants to do what they want to do, and there is no discipline. "You have an organization that is called the union, that is not even a legalize union.

"But when you have people who work and own these private charter and tour companies, these departments chose to keep those persons happy, while the average Bahamian suffers.

"It is like they develop a mentality, of the ones who are black and poor, let's keep them black people poor.

"The tax payers have to pay (Continued on Page 3)

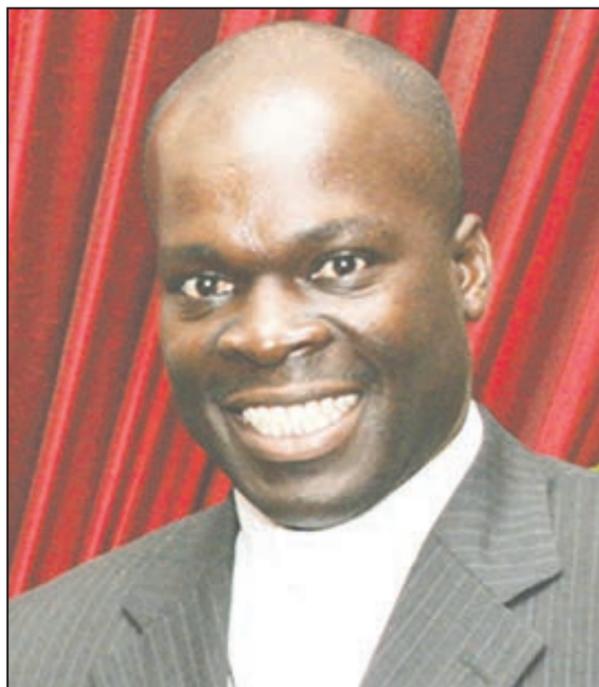
# Methodist Conference set for Jan. 14-20 in Nassau

Methodists from throughout the Bahamas, and the Turks and Caicos Islands Conference of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA), will meet in Nassau from January 14th to 20th, for their 207th Annual Session of Conference, at Wesley Methodist Church, Malcolm Road.

This Conference, which represents the highest decision-making court of the Church, brings together about (75) seventy-five ministerial and lay delegates from the (6) six circuits, namely, North Turks and Caicos Islands, South Turks and Caicos Islands, Andros, South Eleuthera, Grand Bahama and Nassau. Also, there will be representation from the Connexional Conference Office in Antigua, as the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands is one of the eight District Conferences in the Connexion.

The Conference is being convened under the theme: "Constrained By The Love Of Christ: Reclaiming Our Heritage." Rev. Theophilus Nathan Rolle is the presiding Bishop.

Each year, the Conference provides delegates with the opportunity to report on the work and witness within their various Circuits under four broad areas: a) Resources and Development (Finance and Property Matters); b) Mission, Evangelism, and Church Growth (Outreach, Worship, Membership, Preachers Affairs, Christian Stewardship and Christian Social Witness); c) Christian Education (Work Among Children, Youth, Women, Men, Choirs, and Ushers and Greeters); d) General Education (Methodist Day Schools). Additionally, the Annual Session will



REV. THEOPHILUS NATHAN ROLLE

seek to explore innovative strategies to advance the mission of the Church, and review and ratify important decisions.

Among the key issues to be addressed is the reclaiming of the fundamental mission of the Church. Who are we? Why are we? Where are we? Against this backdrop, significant emphasis will be placed on strategic planning, with particular focus on the education and empowerment of our children and young people.

At this Conference elections will also be held for a Secretary, Vice-President and President. In the case of the secretary, Rev. Claire Robinson, who has served in this office for the

of the Church, the names of two ministers serving other Conferences in the MCCA are also put forth for the post.

While the sessions of Conference will mainly comprise internal, closed sessions, the public is invited and encouraged to participate in a number of open sessions. These include: a) The Conference Opening Service and Presentation of Flags will be held on Tuesday, January 15th, at 7:30pm at Wesley Methodist Church, Malcolm Road. At this service Bishop Theophilus Rolle will deliver his Charge to the Conference and the territories of the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos.

b) Presentation on Church Marketing and Fundraising - Wednesday, January 16th, at 7:00pm

c) Church Growth Youth Forum - Thursday, January 17th, at 7:00pm

d) Conference Memorial and Communion Service - Friday, January 18th, at 7:00am. During this service the names of members who have died over the past year will be remembered.

e) Conference Sports & Games - Saturday, January 19th, at 3:30pm

f) Conference Closing Service - Sunday, January 20th, at 9:00am. Bishop Rolle will deliver the sermon.

Prior to the Opening Session of the Conference the ministers will meet for their Annual Ministerial Session, where the emphasis will be placed on Church Growth Strategies.

The Conference will also address the deployment of ministers to new stations or the confirmation of ministers to remain in their existing stations.