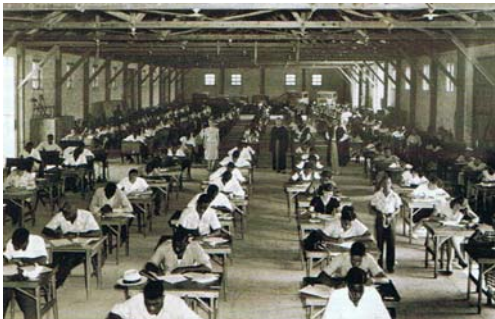


### Motivation and Education

Hats off to Min. Carl Bethel and the Ministry of Education for their laptop and scholarship initiative aimed at students sitting the Bahamas Junior Certificate Examination. If students pass 5 or more BJC's with grade C and above they will become eligible to receive a new laptop computer and \$500 worth of school supplies provided they remain in the public school system after completing their BJC's. The computer is motivation to the child and the money is motivation to the parent. It baffles me as to why children do not take advantage of the free education being offered to them by the Government of the Bahamas. Below is a picture taken in 1948 of Bahamian students from all over the islands of the Bahamas sitting their Cambridge examinations in Nassau, probably at what is now the CC Sweeting High School. The motivation in those days was the big trip to Nassau and the opportunity to take part in examinations with their peers at such a high level. I am told that if you only received the Cambridge certificate if you passed all of your exams. For example if you sat 8 subjects and only passed 7 there would be no certificate for you. If you look closely there are black and white students sitting side by side all valuing the importance of education. What baffles me today is that academically capable students would rather leave high school with nothing rather than attempting a few BGCSE's. Why offer exams if those who can, choose not to and those who 'can't' aren't allowed to?



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### Fishing in Andros



In an article entitled "A Holiday Trip in the Diocese of Nassau" by H. T. S. Cassell found in Mission Life, Vol I (first series) (December 1, 1866), pages 499-509, Mr. Cassell speaks of the wonderful time he had fishing on the island of Andros in December 1865. He and Bishop Venables (the second Bishop of the Diocese) make a trip to Andros stopping in Fresh Creek and Nicholl's Town. In the month of May the little Indian settlement of Red Bays comes alive with its annual Red Bays Snapper Tournament. The tournament is the brainchild of my warden and treasurer Mr. Alphonso Smith. From all indications this year looks to be one of the best ever. Legend

has it that the 'colourful man' Mr. Frank Hanna will be here even if he has to bring his doctor with him. Bankers, CEO's and people from all walks of life will challenge the elusive snappers of the west side of Andros to see who will emerge victorious as champion this year.

David Dilks in a superb biography of Neville Chamberlain writes on page 71 of Neville Chamberlain: Volume 1 (1869-1929) 'Awaiting this letter, (from his father to shut down their sisal plantation)... He set off with Father Matthews (the Anglican priest) for the Western parts of Andros (Red Bays is on the West Side). They travelled by sailing boat around the coast and with a flat bottomed rowing boat explored shallow creeks and bays. So it would appear that fishing on the West Side of Andros is the thing to do and place to be.

### Seek, Serve & Follow Christ – Girls Brigade



In early fall, the Lord willing, St. Margaret and St. Mary Magdalene will induct the first members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Andros Company of the Girl's Brigade at St. Mary Magdalene Mastic Point. According to Wikipeda, the free encyclopaedia, The Girls' Brigade is an international and interdenominational Christian youth organization. It was founded in 1893 in Dublin, Ireland. The modern organization was formed as the result of the amalgamation of three like-minded and similarly structured organizations in 1964. These organizations were the Girls' Brigade of Ireland (1893), the Girls' Guildry of Scotland (1900), and the Girls' Life Brigade

of England (1902). The International Headquarters are currently based in Glasgow.

The organization operates in over 60 countries worldwide and is divided into five Fellowships: African, Asian, Caribbean and Americas, European, and Pacific. The Queen Mother and Princess Alice were Girls' Brigade's patrons until their deaths in 2002 and 2004 respectively. There are, at the moment, no living patrons.

#### Girls' Brigade programme

The GB programme follows four themes: Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Service. These words spell SPES which is Latin for Hope. It was said that each girl in Girls' Brigade was a hope for the future. Also the girls are encouraged to participate in activities other than just badge work. These include leadership courses for 14-21 year old, and most companies or districts arrange camps or holidays, usually one per year. Moreover, GB helps its members with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

Our award ceremony and luncheon is dedicated to and named after Catechist Mildred Munnings, one of the matriarchs of Mastic Point and an ardent supporter of all youth activities especially those involving young ladies. The officers are Candice Turnquest, Joan McKinney, Coral Martin and Michelle Bowleg.