



## **The New Testament Assembly a Leading Black Majority Church celebrates 50 years of active Service to its community!**

In the spring of 1961 a vibrant, spirit-filled visionary stepped on the shores of England. Taking in a fresh breath of air, Melvin made a promise to God and himself to pursue the ministry God had placed heavily in his heart in this strange and new land that was to become his home.

Half a century later the vision lives on and the New Testament Assembly (NTA), planted a few months after his arrival in 1961, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary having become one of the leading Black Majority Churches in England.



The Church planted with seven immigrants from Jamaica, including the late Bishop Melvin Powell and the late Bishop Ethwall Bernard today boasts branches in Ghana, South Africa, India, Malaysia, Canada, the USA, and Singapore; and in 1994 took oversight of the sister NTA churches in Jamaica which were established in 1954.

Reverend Nezlin J Sterling says the theme for the jubilee year is "Fresh Wind". She adds *"Our prayer is that the "Wind of God", the Holy Spirit will refresh and revitalise us for the next leg of the journey. "*

To celebrate the year of Jubilee – a time of freedom, liberty and restoration many activities have been planned. These include Youth and Children Conferences and Seminars, an International Conference, a Reception at the House of Lords hosted by Lord Carey of Clifton, a Jubilee concert and an honouring Service for our senior members and ministers.

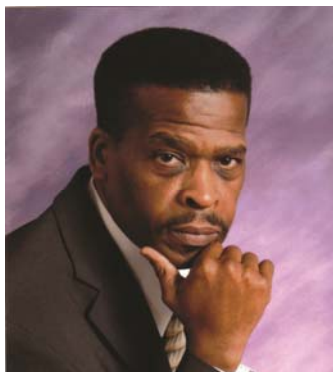
The NTA has become an integral part of British life, forging strong relations in the areas of education, politics, community, religion and race relations.

So much so, that the NTA is affiliated to Churches Together in Britain & Ireland (CTBI) Churches together in England (CTE), the Evangelical Alliance (EA) the Free Churches Group within CTE, the Africa & Caribbean Evangelical Alliance

(ACEA), the Minority Ethnic Christian Affairs (MECA) group within CTE and has close association with the Church of England. In the recent past a member of the NTA Trustees served on the General Synod (1999 to 2011) representing the Black Majority Churches and in this capacity influenced decisions and impacted discussions.

Former Archbishop of the Church of England Lord Carey of Clifton had this to say of NTA *"I have the highest regard for the New Testament Assembly whose development and engagement with the Ecumenical movement I have followed through the years. I am happy to host the Celebration Reception at the House of Lord"*

In 1979 NTA established its Theological Institute in partnership with the University of Wales, offered Certificate and Diploma courses at Higher Education. The Institute of Theology and Christian Counselling now works collaboratively with the University of Winchester offering Applied Theology, Church Management & Leadership and Pastoral Care & Christian Counselling programmes at Higher Education at Certificate and Diploma Levels.



Bishop David Greaves, Presiding Bishop, adds *"It is exciting times for the New Testament Assembly. God has favoured us with many gifts and talents and above all with men and women of integrity and spiritual stamina. We look forward to the future with great expectation"*

Celebrate we must! But honouring God for the journey is our highest goal throughout this Year of Jubilee.

To know more about this august organisation, properties purchased, community projects, the constituencies abroad, NTA's strategy for the next 5 years please contact the General Secretary.

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**For further information please contact:**

**Revd Nezlin J Sterling, General & Company Secretary**

**Tel 020 8579 3841; 07970547 528**