

Descendants of  
Solomon and Elizabeth Hibbert

## Getting Stronger



### Inside this issue:

Reunion Energy	1
Getting Stronger	2
The Venue Selection Process	2-3
Building our Foundation	3-4
New Website	4
Summer BBQ's—A Huge Success	5
Saying Goodbye to a Generation	5-6
Sources for History	6
What's Going on in the Family?	7
What's in a Logo?	7
Family Prayer	8

## Reunion Energy

A lot has transpired since our last family reunion. As God would have it, we have had to say goodbye to a few family members. But as we have been stricken with the grief of losing our loved ones, we have also been blessed to say welcome to several new arrivals that will carry on our traditions. In 2007, Imani Baker, Andrew Neunie and Jade Edwards were born. In 2008, Simeon Neunie, Nathaniel Drysdale and Noah Neunie were born. And in 2009, Sydni Neunie was born.

As we highlight a few of our newest arrivals, we think it is important to be reminded that much of which we do is in the name of paving the way for our future generations. Although many of the benefits of our organization may not be fully witnessed by current generations. We should take notice to what we are doing and continue to do the positive things that help to set the foundation.

We are strengthening our bond by educating family members about our common ancestry. We are sustaining that bond by creating a central point of communication to bridge the distance gap that has been placed between many of us due to migration. We are also attempt-

ing to provide an advanced comprehension of our name-sake with the goal that we will give each family member more than just the ability to say that we are from Jamaica, but give



Family members enjoying the cool waters of Dunn's River during the 2007 reunion.

us the ability to explain the dynamics of our rich history. These things plant the seeds to set our family up to become empowered as we are putting ourselves in a position to harnessing our talents for mutual benefit. Since we began our reunions four years ago, our family has increased our overall awareness and camaraderie. We love the fact that we have sparked family bonds that now cross family lines and even continents. We understand that you all have been communicating with each other through

email, Skype and social networks such as Facebook in ways that we had never envisioned. You all have met for parties, picnics, vacations and although you are family, you have become friends. That is something that only God could have envisioned. You have carried the light of this family across the globe and the world has noticed. We have met many new people who share our family gene and the vision of what we have created. This too can be attributed to the phone calls you have made, the emails you have sent, the tweets you have shared and the cards & letters you have exchanged. Our vision is being realized.

While the committee is planning our 3<sup>rd</sup> celebration, we should not take what we have accomplished for granted. It's expected that we all enter 2010's reunion with the same excitement and energy that was displayed during our first two celebrations. The reunion committee is working diligently and promises a new and most importantly an educational experience for our wonderful family and friends. Please save the date July 27 - August 1, 2010.

*There's nothing that can't be done if we raise our voices as one.*

— Michael Jackson



Jonah certainly thanks his cousin because now he will have his shirt!

*“The color mustard represents our roots, strength in numbers as we are gathering for the third time **Getting Stronger**”*

## Getting Stronger

The theme of a reunion sets the tone and creates a manifesto, per say in which to operate. 2005’s theme “*Know Your Roots*” placed importance on giving the family an overview of our family lines. 2007’s theme “*Strength in Numbers*” made the statement that as we come together, we will continue to empower ourselves.

We had several people send in suggestions for the theme of the next reunion but ultimately, we chose one that captured the essence of where we came from and where we are going. Anita Jean Sang, eldest daughter of Veronica Neunie submitted an essay describing her choice.

### GETTING STRONGER

*Submitted by Anita Jean Sang*

We know our roots! We are the family that puts strength in our numbers by keeping our family one unified breath with each other. We are of different environments, ca-

reers, and ethnic feature. We are all good at different things, and not so good at some things, so we listen and learn from each other as we gather for our third family reunion and Getting Stronger.

We are getting stronger, as we reunite together for the third time in the year two thousand and ten. We appreciate each other’s perspective as we expand our comfort zone learning about our culture, life stories and beliefs. These are just a few of the ways that works in a diverse family environment. We can grow both personally and professionally according to our family values while sharing our thoughts.

Mark 4:31-32 “The Parable of the Mustard Seeds”:

*Jesus said, it is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that are in the earth. But when it is sown, it groweth up, and*

*becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches: so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.”*

Our families are like the mustard tree which spreads its branches as it grows. My preference for the third reunion theme will be “*Getting Stronger*” and the color of the T-Shirts mustard. The color mustard represents our roots, strength in numbers as we are gathering for the third time **Getting Stronger**. ~~~

We thank Jean for her beautiful essay and Jonah certainly thanks his cousin because now he will have his shirt.

In closing, “Getting Stronger” is such a simple yet appropriate theme as we have all become closer and have developed stronger relationships. As we move to put all of our ideas in motion to propel our family, we have all certainly gotten stronger.



One of the many pools at the All Inclusive resort, Sunset Jamaica Grande.

## The Venue Selection Process

Our reunions are a destination event which involves a sizable family expense. Because of this, it only makes sense that the family would have a vested interest in our resort choice. It also makes sense that with the size of our family, we would have a variety of wants, needs and opinions.

The purpose of this communication is to take the family through the basics of our resort choice process, to manage expectations of what choices are possible and ultimately gain support for our final decision. For family members who may base their decision to attend the reunion solely on the venue choice, we ask that you don’t lose

sight of the purpose of the reunion.

The venue search begins 18 months prior to the date of the reunion. The search is condensed to a few choices which must fit the following criteria. Price, Location, Accommodations, All Inclusive, Child Friendly, Appropriate Meeting Room Facilities,

## The Venue Selection Process continued

Menu, Amenities, Flexibility, Concessions & Consistent positive resort reviews. Our search for the upcoming reunion was condensed to the following resorts. Riu Montego Bay ~ Rose Hall Resort and Spa ~ Holiday Inn Sunspree ~ Sunset Beach Resort & Spa ~ Sunset Jamaica Grande and Sandals Beaches Resort & Spa – Negril.

After reviewing the proposals for all of the resorts, we have compiled an average cost based on a 5 night double occupancy stay for a family consisting of 2 adults and 2 children under the age of 12.

Holiday Inn - \$895  
 Sunset Resort & Spa - \$1650  
 Sunset Jamaica Grande - \$1750  
 Sandals Beaches Resort & Spa - \$2200  
 Rose Hall - \$2625  
 Riu Montego Bay - \$2895

The Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort was a front runner in the selection process due to the enormous savings. However, after showing these rates to the Jamaica Grande, a higher rated resort, they agreed to drop their rates closer to the rates quoted by the Holiday Inn, children under 12 will stay on property for free, all rooms were upgraded to ocean front and the rates will be extended two

weeks before & after. The revised rates from the Jamaica Grande based on a 5 night double occupancy stay for a family consisting of 2 adults and 2 children under the age of 12 would be approximately \$990.

We are extremely pleased we have a venue that is willing to offer our family such generous concessions as our final choice is obviously the Jamaica Grande. The Committee is ecstatic about the biggest reunion yet and we are working diligently to make certain that your reunion experience will offer you something new, educational and unforgettable.



Kids enjoying the slide at the Sunset Jamaica Grande.

---

*“We are extremely pleased we have a venue that is willing to offer our family such generous concessions.”*

---

## Building our Foundation

Since 2007 we have talked about the concept of empowering our family by raising funds and forming a family foundation. Since then we have been building a business plan and we now would like to present a clear structure to the family.

The funds that come in from family contributions, fundraising efforts and other sources will flow through to The Hibbert Family *Fund* and/or The Hibbert Family *Foundation*.

The Hibbert Family Fund’s function has the distinct purpose of assisting with planning family events and sup-

porting other family endeavors. We will use these funds to defray the costs of planning family functions, assist with our genealogy search or more broadly, begin family projects of mutual family benefit.

The Hibbert Family Foundation’s function is to provide achievement incentives such as scholarships. The Foundation will also support our families humanitarian and goodwill efforts. This arm may provide a tax deductibility incentive.

How will we build our funds?

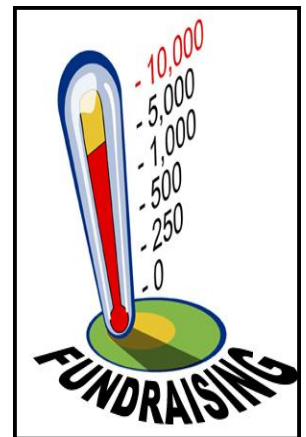
### Reunion Registration

**(Fund):** We will set our reunion business plan in such a manner that we defray all costs for the planning while building in a surplus.

**Family Dues/Voluntary Contributions (Fund):** Each family will make a voluntary contribution of \$25 per year. (stay tuned, we will tell you how...)

**Fundraising (Fund/Foundation):** Fundraising ideas include family BBQ’s, bus trips, selling lineage books, etc.

**Donations (Foundation):** Donations will be accepted on behalf of our Family



Our fundraising efforts are beginning to pay off and the family will start seeing the benefits shortly.



Dr. Kevin Hibbert speaking to the young men at the Boys retreat during the 2007 Reunion.



Jonah Hibbert is looking forward to a day when he benefit from the Hibbert Family Foundation.

*"We understand that security is a huge concern so we will equip our website with password protection so that random surfers will not be able to access our information."*



## Building our Foundation continued

Foundation which will become a 501(c)(3) under the preface that we are a charitable organization.

**Flow Through (Foundation):** Our collection efforts that fund the Hibbert Family Fund will ultimately flow through to the Foundation. For example, we may have a fundraising BBQ and state that 10% of the funds raised will go to the Foundation. ~~

Once we register our business entity, we will adopt a board of directors. Even though we

have yet to establish our business entity, the reunion committee has been operating like a business since 2005. Because of this we are pleased to say that we are now entering the 2010 reunion with a surplus. This is mainly due to the fact that we ended the 2007 reunion with a small surplus. Since then, we have collected family dues and raised money with our BBQ's in Florida and New York. Our goal was to raise \$5000 but our projections have us doubling that total by the end of 2010. Our Fund and Foundation will be up and running

before the 2010 reunion and we are well on our way to realizing our dreams. Out of the several ways that we will raise money, the most effective way that you can make an individual impact is to pay family dues. We have identified 250 households, but received only 17 contributions in 2008 and 2 this year. Once our new website is up and running we will once again begin encouraging all of you, who can make this voluntary contribution, to do so. Investing now will have great returns in the future.

## New Website...www.hibbertfamily.com

As you know we own the domain name hibbertfamily.com. We also own the domains hibbertfamily.org, hibbertfamily.net, & hibbertfamilyfoundation.org. The internet has become a focal point of our genealogy search while providing an efficient way of communicating. Because of the success of our website and the growing need for security needs and other functions, we have decided to invest in upgrading our website. Our upgraded website will be unveiled by October 2009 which is just in time for it to become a big part of our reunion preparations.

We are working hard on making your new website as user friendly and functional as possible. Currently we are working on the design and content. When it is complete,

it will have all of the information that is currently on our site. The difference is that we will add features that will make it more interactive. We understand that security is a huge concern so we will equip our website with password protection so that random surfers will not be able to access our information. The website will have:

- an events calendar to easily help us populate it with family events and birthdates
- a guest book so that visitors can leave messages
- photos and video integration
- a section devoted to the Hibbert Family Foundation.
- the capability to collect funds and donations.
- a section of the website devoted to genealogy to help individuals who are trying to piece their family history together.

We will also be able to use our site to our site to generate funds via sponsorship and ad revenue.

We are truly excited about unveiling the new website. We believe that this is one of the first benefits we will be able to unveil that will prove that our fundraising efforts are worthwhile.



www.hibbertfamily.com

## Summer BBQ's - A Huge Success

When we talked about holding BBQ's during our committee meetings, I must say that I was a bit skeptical at first. I thought that having reunions and BBQ's in between the reunions would be somewhat of an overkill. I was never more wrong. In fact the BBQ's not only help promote our reunions and raises money. It gives family members that are unable to make the reunions an opportunity to reunite on a smaller scale. Thanks to Junior Edwards and his crew in Florida and Kevin Hibbert and his

crew in New York, last year we raised over \$2000 for the Family Fund. Well, they are at it again!

New York hosted their BBQ on Saturday, August 8th at Eisenhower Park in Long Island New York. It was well attended and a great time was had by all.

The Florida BBQ will take place on Sunday, September 6th (Labor Day weekend) at C.B. Smith Park (Pavilion # 11).

Please come out and support our fellowship and fundraising efforts. We continue to position the BBQ's as a collaborative efforts so we will all chip in by assisting in the preparation of the food and other needs. Along with that, we also ask for a small donation of \$5 or \$10. The more the merrier so please invite your friends and be sure to bring your board games, dominoes, frisbees, etc.

For more information on the BBQ's please visit [www.hibbertfamily.com](http://www.hibbertfamily.com) or see the Facebook Group, Descendants of Solomon and Elizabeth Hibbert of St. Catherine Jamaica.

Don't forget your appetite!

*If you would like to hold a fundraising BBQ in your area, please contact us at [hibbertg@bellsouth.net](mailto:hibbertg@bellsouth.net)*

Group photo '08 NYBBQ - Eisenhower Park, Long Island New York .



Last year, Aunt Sally made this beautiful cake in the spirit of our country for the New York BBQ....mm mm good!



Charlene and Adrian Lyles at the Florida BBQ in 2008.

## Saying Goodbye to a Generation

Ambrozone Finella Hibbert, (fondly called Nell, Aunt Nellie, Mother and Grandmother) was born to Cornelia White Ross and Frederick Ross on Friday, September 26, 1913, the last of six children.

After leaving Stony Hill Elementary School, she did many domestic chores. It was during that time she met the

love of her life, Joslyn Hibbert. They were married on December 31, 1952 and shared 42 years of life and love together. On marrying Joslyn, she gained two sons Lester (Boysie) and Ronald (Perker).

She was a baker, seamstress and homemaker and taught many young women to be perfect brides and wives. She

loved to bake so much that school children would walk past her gate hoping to get a snack before heading home from school.

She also loved church and everything about it, from the music, robes, communion, the leather on the bibles, the organ, the



Family saying goodbye to Aunt Nelly who was buried at Dovecot.

## Saying Goodbye to a Generation continued from page 5



Kevin Hibbert, Edward Hibbert,  
Dudley Hibbert and Lester Hibbert

praise and worship; she loved the Lord. Everyone around her, whether you lived in her house or not, had to learn the ways of her Lord. She was 96 when she passed away on June 5th. She had seen it all.

She witnessed the birth of Jamaica and the death of colonization from the British. She saw her children and grandchildren and even great grandchildren grow and had an amazing life and was loved by all. We will

miss her and continue to honor her name and memory by our work and our deeds. As we say goodbye to Aunt Nelly, we are also saying goodbye to the last of Generation One.

## Sources for History



*“The basics of any search begins with what you know about your family. But at some point our research will take us beyond our immediate family and we will need to visit archives and libraries.”*



*at Aunt Nelly's funeral. The entry to the Island Record Office of Jamaica is on the right. The entry to the Registrar General's Department is on the left. There are more blue tents which cannot be seen in this photograph. They would be in the foreground. They provide waiting or processing areas for those wanting birth certificates etc.*

Anyone who takes on the task of tracing their heritage will find themselves dedicating a significant amount of time and resources. African Americans will have a daunting task. West Indians, however may have one of the most complicated tasks of all. West Indians are of a diverse population comprising of African, British, Dutch, Spanish, French, Portuguese, German, Chinese and East Indian migrants. This in itself gives each island its own cultural identity. With such diversity, it can not be assumed that your ancestors came directly from Africa to the West Indies. Here is an extreme example provided to us by Guy Grannum, author of *Tracing Your West Indian Ancestors*.

An African Family from Trinidad could have been descended from a slave who moved with his owner from Barbados to Jamaica and who later ran away and joined the maroons. A descendant was captured during the Maroon War in 1796 and transported to Nova Scotia and was one of the Black settlers to Sierra Leone in the early 1800's. A son enlisted in the West Indian Regiment, was discharged and then settled in

Jamaica. This is a picture of an improbable but not impossible heritage to trace. The basics of any search begins with what you know about your family. But at some point our research will take us beyond our immediate family and we will need to visit archives and libraries.

Here are a few excellent sources of information in Jamaica.

**Jamaica Archives and Records Department:** The Department consists of the Office Government Archivist, responsible for the general administration of the Department and common services

**Jamaica National Heritage Trust:** Ironically, this institution was once called Hibbert House. One primary functions of the Jamaica National Heritage Trust is to promote the preservation of national monuments and anything designated as protected national heritage for the benefit of the Island.

**Registrar General:** Civil Records.

**Island Records Office (IRO):** Non genealogy records. i.e. Slave return regis-

tries & Manumissions, Deeds, Wills etc.

In our case, we are extremely fortunate to have such a broad framework. Not only have we been able to put a comprehensive family tree together that traces over six generation, we also have at our disposal, slave returns, deeds, wills and diaries of the settlers of which we inherited our name. Our relationship will be clear once we find the preceding two generations from Solomon who was born in 1873, two generation after the end of slavery. Remembering from the last article, we could be related to the Hibbert settlers was by adopting the name, or by blood.

We have kept in contact with a historian/direct descendant of these Hibbert settlers and after he looked at a picture of Solomon, he said... *“As I look at the photo of your ancestor, I can well believe that he is a blood line Hibbert, I have a number of Hibbert portraits and photos, (I will line them up), there is an uncanny resemblance in the structure of the face.”* If this is true, it could very well mean that we more than just adopted the name after slavery. Stay tuned.....

## What's Going On In the Family?

**Kyle Young** just passed his driving test.

**Valerie Young** just graduated from her University. **Fabian Young** and his wife became parents for the first time to a healthy baby boy.

**Tiana Harriott** graduated from Elementary School in June 2009. **Romerro Harriott** finished his first year in high school with an 86%.

**Kwame Livingston** graduated Junior High School in June 2009. **Tamika McGowan** and Maurice Robertson got engaged on 6/6/09.

**Natalie McGowan**, also got engaged in July of this year. After four plus years at Discovery Communications working on television programming & production issues,

**Roneith Hibbert** now works as an attorney for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in New York on a wide range of subjects primarily digital media & other entertainment matters for the U.S. based wing of the corporation.

**Richard Neunie** graduated from South Broward High School and will attend Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. Richard plans to pursue a degree in environmental law. Before he starts in the fall, he will be interning at the local YMCA & will participate in a youth leadership in Washington, D.C. both courtesy of Bank of America.

**Donna Marie Reid** published a children's book called "Children's Basic Sight Words".

**Barbara James** published a book called "The Engorged Breasts".

**Taneka Miller** will be attending Howard University's School of Law. **Carol Hibbert** continues to make a wonderful and healthy recovery. She thanks all who prayed for her.

**Marlon Moncrieffe** retired from active military service after 26 year. **Karen L. Hibbert** is currently a Vice President of Philanthropic Management at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. She primarily oversees the administration for the Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund (a donor advice fund), but also manages private foundations and perpetual charitable trusts.

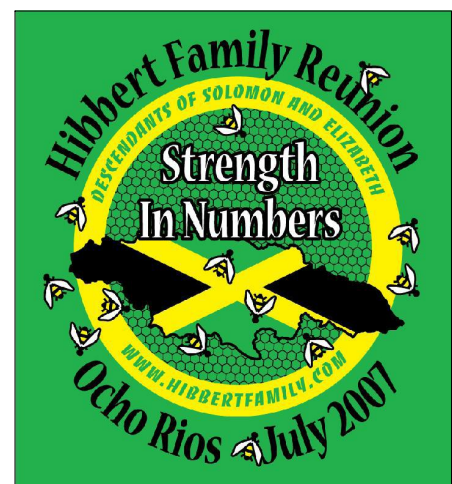


*Marlon Moncrieffe (descendant order: Arthur Moncrieffe, Hanna Moncrieffe, nee Hibbert, Solomon Hibbert) pictured here in his Naval Uniform. Marlon resides in Maryland.*

*Left: Tamika McGowan, daughter of Paula McGowan, nee Hibbert and her fiancé, Maurice enjoying their vacation in Daytona Beach.*

## What's in a Logo?

In coming up with the t-shirt logo, we had a very simple concept. We wanted to integrate the Jamaican flag while paying homage to our oldest forefather, Solomon Hibbert. After throwing around several sketches and finally, we decided on this. The honey combs and the bees represents the fact that Solomon was a beekeeper. Originally, we wanted to have the number of bees match with the number of children but we decided on using more to fill up the space. We love the look of the logo so much we decided to use it over for 2007. We may also use this logo to be represented on our 2010 shirts.





Family photo taken by Ruddy Hibbert - "Strength in Numbers" 2007

## Family Prayer

God made us a family.  
We need one another.  
We love one another.  
We forgive one another.  
We work together.  
We play together.  
We worship together.  
Together we use God's word.  
Together we grow in Christ.  
Together we love all people.  
Together we serve our God.  
Together we hope for heaven.  
These are our hopes and ideals.  
Help us to attain them,  
O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

