



Solomon Hibbert

Reunion Recap

Thank you for making the inaugural Reunion a big success

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The 2005 Reunion Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the inaugural Hibbert Family reunion. Many people felt since our family is so large and dynamic, accomplishing a reunion would be impossible. Through the togetherness and love you displayed, not only did we make it happen, but it was a huge success. We may not truly understand the importance of our attendance, but years from now, let it be known that we pioneered a family tradition that will last long after we are gone. The family is eternally grateful for your initiative. Bravo!

We also would like to thank everyone who filled out and returned the surveys. Here are some of the statistics compiled. Absolutely no one responded that they didn't enjoy the reunion.

The most popular reason why it was enjoyable was "It was good to see everyone". Most of you stated that the length of the reunion "was just right". The excursion to Dunn's River Falls came in as favorite activity with the family banquet a close second. The beach Olympics and Memorial received honorable mention. Most of us agreed the "all inclusive" way was the way to go and suggested hosting future reunions in the "summertime" or "July". Even though the hotel was still under major renovations and some of the staff was a little inexperienced, we still made the amenities work for us. Many of the surveys mentioned "making the reunion more affordable" as the one thing we need to change. Some suggested that we con-



The Sunset Jamaica Grande

duct more activities, add more education and maybe a talent show. Everyone voted to have the next reunion in 2 years. Although, Miami, New York and London received several votes as the place to host the next reunion, the number one choice was.....JAMAICA, JAMAICA!

Quote:

"That we can come together in this way is a testament to the competence and capacity of the clan...Clan Hibbert."

- Barbara James

Introducing the 2007 Reunion Committee

Plans for the 2007 reunion are well underway! The committees have been set and we are looking forward to another successful reunion. Many thanks to the individuals who have stepped up to help with the planning.

Your 2007 committee members are as follows:

Gregory Hibbert, Camille Adalumo, Angeliqe Hibbert, Denise Hibbert, Jacqui Hibbert Kevin Hibbert, Lorna Hibbert, Nathalie Hibbert, Mylinda Kerr, Taneka Miller, Nicole

Neunie, Preston Neunie, Wayne Neunie and Jean Sang.

Please feel free to contact anyone on the committee with questions relating to the upcoming reunion.

Reunion Highlights

The goal for the 2005 reunion was to get the family acquainted, educate the kids and keep everyone busy.

The Meet & Greet gave everyone a chance to mingle. It was nice to see everyone's eyes light up as they began to notice faces that they haven't seen in years. My favorite part was seeing family meet for the first time. It was amazing to see Taneka's face light up when she met Uncle Ruddy for the first time and noticed a striking resemblance. "Oh my goodness, he looks just like me!" she said as she ran to get her camera. Many stayed up late that night talking, playing cards and just having fun.

Kudos to the Sunset Jamaica Grande for morning breakfast. Just the other day Noah reminded me that he wants to go back to Jamaica for morning breakfast. However, the next reunion, I will remind myself to diet before we go. I gained a whopping 10 pounds on that trip.

What would a trip to Ocho Rios be without visiting the famous Dunn's River Falls? As we

boarded the buses, we really did look like a swarm of bees in our bright yellow "Hibbert Family Reunion" T-shirts. Did anyone observe Kevin with everyone's camera around his neck? What a good sport! Since he did everyone a favor by carrying their cameras, I won't complain about the crooked pictures he took with mine. The trip up the falls seemed longer than when I climbed it previously. I guess it must have something to do with age. Overall, the trip was a huge success.

Nights at the hotel were great. Who could forget Deane singing Bob Marley tunes during karaoke night? Who knew he was such a showman. Good Job!

The Olympics were quite hilarious. Who knew the senior members of the family could still keep up with the younger set. The relays were very funny; I think I rewound Conrad falling in the sand over one hundred times. Yes, it has been immortalized on DVD. Who could forget "Buju Andre" during the cheering competition? It went something like this, "I am

Andre, a born again Rasta..., we are the Hibbert's, you are imposters..." Can't wait for the rematch in 2007.

My number one highlight was certainly Aunt Barbara's account of our family history during the banquet. She did a wonderful job. The unveiling of the Hibbert Heritage award was humbling. We were glad to be able to present this award to the family of Ferdie Madden. Who could forget the emotion and energy of Uncle Manley?

When Hurricane Ivan came, we didn't let it dampen our spirits. As a matter of fact, since we were pretty much confined to indoors for the day, the family had a chance to bond even more by playing dominoes, cards and other games.

Dressed in white for the memorial service, we paid respect to family members who passed away. Aunt D's message of propelling our youth was perfect. We thank everyone who participated.



Uncle Ruddy and Taneka meet for the first time.



Uncle Mikey and Aunt Gloria in the hotel lobby.



Some of the family gather to take a photo at Dunn's River Falls



Goals

The committee has put a lot of thought into building on the success of the first reunion. Our common goal each year will be to improve on all aspects of past reunions. The reunions will be held every two years. After each reunion year, we will change chairman and committee members by vote. Here are some of our goals for 2007.

Our goal for 2005 was to have attendance reach 150. *We exceeded our goal with 172 in attendance.* For 2007, our goal is to have 200 in attendance.

We would like to make the reunion more affordable. To do

this, we need to raise more funds during the off year.

Our History Committee would like to continue our quest on uniting family members who otherwise are not aware that they belong. Our first goal was to simply put together a tree. Now our goal is to enhance it. The tree's size is currently 511 family members and it dates back to Solomon's birth -1873.

We would like to teach our family (especially the kids) more about Jamaica and focus more on family history. Once again, our History Committee is dedicated to search out our

roots, with a focus on the past. We would like to know where the Hibbert name came from.

A main goal of ours is to get the elder family members more involved. We can use their wisdom and guidance. Some of our long term goals include developing a family business network. (we have touched on this with the "Family Business" section of our website.) Eventually we would like to develop a mentorship program in which family professionals can guide our youth into their future careers. By working together, we can achieve all of our goals.



Charlene and Uncle Manley take in the night life.

Fundraising

To offset certain costs associated with planning a reunion it is necessary to collect a reunion fee. However, if we are able to raise a substantial amount of funds on the off reunion year, we would have the ability to reduce some of the family's costs. Here are some fundraising ideas that we have come up with.

Reunion Photo Album

A 20 page 8 3/4" x 11 1/2" hard-cover book with 125 of the very best reunion photos complete with captions. A great effort was made to have everyone that attended the reunion represented in the book. *The fundraiser price is \$45.*

2006 Family Calendar

A 12 month calendar containing 24 family pictures and individuals birthdates. *The fundraiser price is \$25.*

Family Lineage Book

This is the family "Bible". Our family book has over 150 pages of lineage including a table of

contents, index and a kinship report. *The fundraiser price is \$10.*

Photo Album on CD

For family members that are computer savvy and can print photos from CD's, you have the option of owning all the pictures that are in the photo album and more. We have created a CD with 350 of the best reunion photos. *The fundraiser price is \$15.*

Reunion DVD

We have great footage from the reunion including Dunn's River falls, Family Olympics, the Memorial Service and other priceless moments. *The fundraiser price is \$15.*

All items will be available by e-mailing, writing, calling or placing an order in our Online Family Store. We have also enclosed an order form included in this mailing. Your orders will go a long way in helping us reach our goals. Again, funds collected will be used to offset the committees

expenses. Surpluses will be maintained in the Hibbert Family Account. Please feel free to view basic financial information as we will be posting it on the website under the fundraising link.

The family store is now under construction. We will notify



everyone once it becomes available. You do not have to be on

the reunion committee to participate in fundraising activities. So if you have an idea on how to raise money in your region, please let us know. Some ideas may include music CD's, BBQ's, Raffles, and Bus Trips etc.



"You do not have to be on the reunion committee to participate in fundraising activities."



Camille picks up her reunion t-shirt.



KNOW YOUR ROOTS

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Interested in joining the Newsletter Committee?

Contact hibbertg@bellsouth.net

We're on the Web at
www.hibbertfamily.com

Closing

Once again, we would like to thank our beautiful family for your presence. Your participation will go a long way in enriching the lives of our children.

For family members who couldn't make it, we missed you very much and hope that you can make the 2007 reunion.

Special thanks to the following non committee members for stepping in where we needed:

Aunt Barbara, for your lovely speech. **Uncle Ruddy**, for risking hurricane Ivan to take our pictures and capturing the essence of the reunion. **Sola Neunie** for being the MC of the banquet. **Frederick "Toots"**

Hibbert, for making a connection.

Please help the connection stay strong by forwarding any change in addresses and sending addresses for family members that are not on our mailing list.

Stay tuned.



Peace and love,
2007 Committee

2005 Reunion Committee



"Your participation will go a long way in enriching the lives of our children."



Left to Right (top row): Natalie Hibbert, Wayne Neunie, Denise Hibbert, Aunt D, Kevin Hibbert, Lorna Hibbert and Greg Hibbert. Left to Right (bottom row): Dawn Hibbert, Mylinda Kerr, Nicole Neunie, Jean Sang and Nathalie Hibbert.