

Blog:

Restoration Reaches Across the Seas: 2nd Annual Back-to-School Drive in Bridgetown, Barbados

Empowering Children, Strengthening Communities, and Extending the Embrace of Christ.

August 2025

A Global Mission of Love

Restoration A.M.E. Zion Church continues to reach beyond borders, carrying the message of faith, love, and community across the seas. Under the leadership of Rev. Donna M. Richardson, a native of *The Pine, St. Michael, Barbados*, Restoration has remained deeply committed to maintaining strong ties with our Caribbean family.

This connection has flourished through an active partnership with our sister church, Hoggard A.M.E. Zion Church, under the leadership of Pastor Deborah Grant. With the blessing of Presiding Elder Rev. Scot C. Moore and support from the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District, where Bishop Brian R. Thompson and Missionary Supervisor Rev. Felica R. Thompson serve as Episcopal leadership, Restoration continues to embody its mission, *to extend the embrace of Christ to all*.

A Blessing for Bridgetown's Students

This summer marked the 2nd Annual Back-to-School Drive in Bridgetown, Barbados, a powerful outreach that brought hope, joy, and provision to hundreds of children preparing for a new school year.

Through the generous contributions of churches, missionaries, and members from across the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District, more than 600 bookbags filled with school supplies were donated and distributed to children throughout the community.

“We are grateful for the overwhelming generosity that poured out from our episcopal area,” said Pastor Richardson. “Together, we not only met the needs of the children, we reminded them that they are seen, supported, and loved.”

A United Effort: Living the Kingdom Mindset

The 2025 Back-to-School Drive also represented a growing ecumenical spirit, a reminder that the work of Christ extends far beyond denominational walls.

Restoration, Hoggard A.M.E. Zion, and our partners came together in unity, placing a kingdom mindset above any single church identity. By joining hands across ministries, the outreach expanded its reach and deepened its impact.

Partnerships included:

- The Church of the Nazarene, Collymore Rock, led by Pastor Holder
- Sealy A.M.E., led by Pastor Sobers
- St. George Secondary School, whose students also benefited from the drive

This ecumenical collaboration reflected the heart of Christ's mission, building bridges, not barriers, and demonstrating that when we work together, the Kingdom of God is revealed in action and love.

Looking Ahead with Gratitude and Purpose

The 2nd Annual Back-to-School Drive stands as a testament to what can be achieved when faith, generosity, and unity come together. Restoration remains committed to strengthening this bridge of compassion between Baltimore and Barbados, and to continuing the work of empowerment, education, and love that this mission inspires.

"From Baltimore to Barbados, God's embrace knows no boundaries."

Join the Mission!

If you would like to support Restoration's global outreach efforts, including next year's Back-to-School Drive, we invite you to partner with us in prayer, giving, or service. To contribute, please visit the Ways to Give section on our website and include "Barbados Mission 2026" in the memo line.