

NCLF Newsletter

NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS FORUM | A BLACK CHRISTIAN VOICE

SEED FAITH



Rev Nims Obunge
MBE DL

About four years ago, I recall driving home and hearing on the radio that children were going to school without breakfast because they had no food at home. I wondered how it was possible that children would be able to concentrate with empty stomachs, and this bothered me.

Upon hearing this I went to the church and asked whether we would consider reaching out to local schools and make donations for these children. As we began to progress on this new journey of provision and support for vulnerable children and families in our community, it was clear this was certainly different from our work of actively responding to the tensions of violent crime amongst young people.

We felt we had to respond to the core issues around basic survival. How on earth could families exist without food in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Save the Date

BLACK CHURCH POLITICAL MOBILISATION A Manifesto for Action

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the mission of the NCLF. We are pleased to invite you to the launch of the updated second edition of the Manifesto, which builds on the success of the 2015 edition.



There is a limited number of exhibitor spaces available. Please email us at info.nclf@gmail.com for details.

Please share this event in your church magazines, websites, WhatsApp groups, etc. Formal invitations will be shared shortly.



THURSDAY 23 MARCH | 7-9pm

The second special service to commemorate the National Day of Reflection is to support and uplift Black communities affected by COVID-19, and ALL are welcome. Hosted by Bishop Paul McCalla, with a variety of music and activities, this is an intergenerational evening of coming together as a community and as a nation. Free, in-person tickets are available at Eventbrite. The service will also be livestreamed at the YouTube channel Wesleyan Church UK.



NCLF Newsletter

NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS FORUM | A BLACK CHRISTIAN VOICE

DOES THE CENSUS 2021 SIGNAL THE DEMISE OF THE BLACK BRITISH CHURCH?

Except by divine revelation, no one can know what the future holds. However, divine revelation is how Christians believe the battle is already won. If the battle is already won, and Christianity and the Black British Church are dwindling, what does the Census reveal about the future of Black British churches in England and Wales?

Have Black British churches already left the earthly battlefield and are now only to be found fighting in heavenly places and on streets that are paved with gold?

This Census summary offers an intriguing insight into the presence and future of Black British churches in England and Wales. It asks whether another week of revival is really the answer to the exam question of how and why they spread the good news, and queries the mission of the Black Church in England and Wales.

High-level results:

- All faiths except Christianity saw a rise in adherents.
- Fewer than half of the participating population identifies as Christian.
- Islam has seen an increase of 1 million since 2011.
- The largest Black ethnic group is Nigerian, followed by Somali and Ghanaian.
- Knowsley had the highest percentage of people reporting their religion as Christian.
- Wales had the largest decrease in people reporting their religion as Christian.

The full Census 2021 results are available at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census>.



The author,
Dr Floyd Millen, is
a political scientist.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

21st century Britain? As we commenced this journey, I received a call from a dear friend of mine, **Rev Betty King**, who asked if we would collect some food from her church to feed our community. We arrived with a van and introduced her to the **Felix Project**. To our surprise, we were given a full van containing such a variety of food items, that we were able to stand outside our church premises and offer it to people on the streets and to share with church members.

Today we have a service between our **Community Food Hub and Foodbank**, operating five days a week. It receives supplies from many different sources, and provides food for thousands of individuals and families from London's diverse community, some of whom have since come to faith.

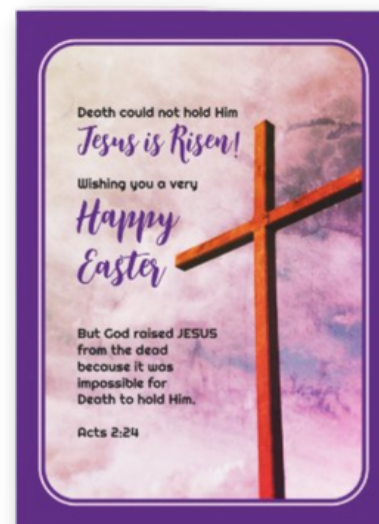
It's amazing how God takes the seeds of our vision, hopes and dreams and amplifies them beyond our wildest imagination.

It's amazing how God takes the seeds of our vision, hopes and dreams and amplifies them beyond our wildest imagination. In **John 12:24**, Jesus said concerning His death: "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."

In the season of Easter, I want us to consider the seed of Jesus' crucifixion, and how His resurrection has given the promise of eternal life, not just for us, but also for millions who are waiting for the labourers to step out in seed faith into the fields of abundant harvest.

Have a blessed Easter.

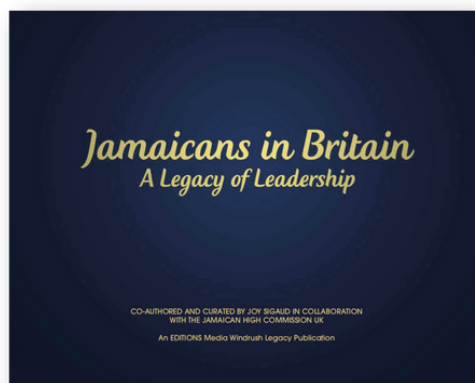
Nims is Pastor of Freedom's Ark and CEO of the Peace Alliance



NCLF Newsletter

NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS FORUM | A BLACK CHRISTIAN VOICE

Windrush 75 NETWORK



**FROM
1948
TO
2023**

Following the success of the glossy coffee table book, ***Jamaicans in Britain — A Legacy of Leadership***, the publishers, Editions Media, are releasing a limited edition to celebrate 75 years the arrival of the Windrush Generation in Britain.

Over 495 people boarded the HMT Empire Windrush at Kingston Harbour, Jamaica, in May 1948 and disembarked at Tilbury Docks, England, on 22nd June 1948.

This first voyage of former soldiers and civilians marked a new era for both Britain and the West Indies. Several other liners made that same voyage in the decades that followed, bringing young men, women and children to Britain to embark on new lives.

As with all stories of great migrations, the lives and journeys ahead for these people were not smooth sailing — even though many had initially intended to eventually return “home”.

They found themselves isolated and lonely, and welcomed the company of fellow migrants, often forming lifetime bonds. Now, 75 years later — representing four generations in some families — ***Jamaicans in Britain — A Legacy of Leadership***

has documented a significant portion of this history with over 1000 names and 500 individual biographies telling the stories of how they overcame hardships, isolation and racism on corporate, institutional and social levels.

Despite these challenges, they showed resilience and determination and have made significant contributions to their own communities and to British society.

This important coffee table book, displaying over 260 pages of stories, photographs and facts, has been co-authored and curated by editor, **Joy Sigaud**, and gives great insight into the lives of these people on an unprecedented scale. It is certainly a collector’s item.

The **Windrush 75 Special Limited Edition** print version can be purchased directly from joysigaud@editionsbhm.co.uk for £45.00. Standard individual copies of the book are available from the Jamaican High Commission in London.

For bulk orders (over five copies) contact: joysigaud@editionsbhm.co.uk

Editions Media Limited are publishers of Windrush and Black History Month publications.



PICTURE CREDITS: Wikipedia & English Heritage

NCLF Newsletter

NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS FORUM | A BLACK CHRISTIAN VOICE

Congratulations!



PASTOR ADEBOYE AWARDED TOP U.N. HONOUR

The United Nations Global Women Foundation has awarded **Pastor Foluke Adebayo**, wife of RCCG General Overseer, **Pastor EA Adebayo**, a Woman of Distinction Award and has recognised her as an Outstanding Global Peace Ambassador for Change for her contribution to the Nigerian education sector.

REACH SOCIETY'S 11th CAREERS CONFERENCE on 4th APRIL

The **Reach Society** has assembled its largest panel of eight experts for its forthcoming Careers Conference, including an outstanding trio Colette Machado, Tacita Small and Kirsty Smith. Entry is free. Please register via **Eventbrite** for tickets and details:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reach-society-11th-careers-conference-tickets-516559091147>

THE CHALLENGES OF PENTECOSTAL THEOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The lectures of Rev Dr Oliver Lyseight, the founding Administrative Bishop of the New Testament Church of God, have been compiled in a book, *Challenges of Pentecostal Theology in the 21st Century* (edited by Phyllis Thompson), and also developed into an online home group course by Phyllis Thompson as part of the SPCK's Home Group series.

The course comprises five parts that correspond to the chapters of the book (to be featured in the next newsletter), and can be delivered over five weeks, five months or a year. It offers valuable guidance on how to assess the challenges and opportunities facing Pentecostalism today.

For further details, visit <https://homegroups.org.uk/series/challenges-of-pentecostal-theology/>



The NCLF Newsletter is published quarterly: Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. We welcome contributions (300 words max) about news of national interest happening in our churches or elsewhere, national or international. Tell us your events, eg. your conferences and conventions, etc.

Key areas of interest are topics in line with our *Black Church Manifesto*. Submission does not guarantee inclusion. Please include your name and contact details and send to: info.nclf@gmail.com and also to Jackie Raymond at bereanservicesuk@gmail.com.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS 14th May 2023.

Email us at info.nclf@gmail.com or connect with us on social media



PLEASE DONATE TO NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS FORUM (NCLF):

Barclays Bank PLC | Account Number 33315959 | Sort Code 20-41-50

Thank you!