

## Controversial Book 'Sex In The Church' Making Waves

Since the publication of his exciting book *Sex In The Church*, Pastor Winston Bello has gained a number of fans from various walks of life. Some see the book as 'well needed' as it addresses issues which most people shy away from, while a few find it a little too explicit. According to Bell, 'these are usually the ones who don't talk about sex and whose children perhaps still believe in the stork.' But for good or bad, it is making waves.

The title of the book alone *Sex In The Church* is enough to stimulate interest, with the content taking you deeper and higher. It deals with a wide cross section of issues related to just that - sex in the Church. In his introduction Bell says, 'My topic *Sex in the Church* will not deal with the activity of sexual intercourse within the building known as church (although we hear about that happening sometimes), but rather with the way the Church in general deals with the subject of sex as it regards intercourse.' It draws on biblical references from the King James version, which are used to ground his philosophy and underscore his points. Though Bell does not see himself as a 'writer', his writing style is extremely engaging and entertaining, thereby making the book easy to read. In one chapter, he deals with the fact that many women, young and old, married and unmarried, find 'men of the cloth' attractive. On the one hand, the goal is the status of being the pastor's wife, while there are those who just want to 'fall' the pastor, to prove their sexual power vis-à-vis his weakness and "give new meaning to the term lay preacher." In the book he also tackles his own moments of temptation, and the struggle to say 'no' to an attractive woman intent on 'falling' the young Christian. The process of putting the book together was, for the author himself, amazing, as the first draft was completed in three weeks, for Bello, a clear case of divine inspiration. "Once I started writing I just could not stop." He credits his wife, Joy, for having faith in his ability to write and for being his initial sounding board. "I would wake her up at three in the morning, and read it to her." He said he knew that that the book would 'squeeze a few corns', and one of his friends had said to him "Dem sure to read you out of church." The good thing is that Bell is pastor of his own church *Time Out For Jesus*, on Waltham Park Road in Kingston. His editor and longstanding friend, Joan Andrea Hutchinson, said the minute she saw the manuscript she was hooked, and knew that it was something she wanted to work with. She describes Bell's writing style as "so more information, so much to think about, packaged in an easy-to-read vehicle", and describes the work as a 'must read'. The general feeling, about the book is that it puts on the discussion table, a topic which the Church seems generally too timid to address, especially at a time when the church is battling with its level of relevance. While not being condemnatory, Bell takes a shot at the many single Christians who pray for a husband or a wife, not because they are ready for marriage, or feel a need to commit to a particular individual, but because they need to have sexual intercourse sanctioned by the Church. He also puts on the discussion table, the many pastors who lead a flock, not necessarily because of a commitment to God, but because they have a degree in theology. But then, Bello, the actor and pastor is no stranger to controversy. He is regarded as one of the finest Jamaican actors, and stoutly defends that right, while carefully selecting his roles, even though some of these roles do not meet public approval. He was described as the 'F-word pastor', for using an expletive in the movie *Third World Cop*. To that he responds, "That is Winston Bell the actor playing a role." He is hailed by many as one of the finest Jamaican actors and remembered for roles such as the timid policeman 'Back Up' in *Third World Cop*, and a role in the movie *One Love*. His television credits include roles in ABC's *Going To Extremes* and *All My Children*, BBC Channel Four's mini series *The Orchid House* (where he played alongside the late Madge Sinclair) and the Jamaican soap opera *Royal Palm Estate*. He also played in *Laugh Jamaica* alongside Tony Hendriks, Blacka Ellis and Joan Andrea Hutchinson. For more information contact : [winbello@yahoo.com](mailto:winbello@yahoo.com)