



# COMMUNITY

## Businessman grounded in God

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MONDAY

**FROM AS EARLY as his teens, Cornelius Bartlett wanted to be an entrepreneur, though there was no one in the family who was.**

DAILY Nation



Family Fest 20



And because of this, he was “very guarded” about who he shared his dream with.

Bartlett felt that after he left Foundation School, he should first experience the world of work before furthering his studies.

At school, he was technically-inclined, being one of the top students in technical drawing and metal work, so he fancied himself as an engineer.

That dream fell through because he was unaware that he would also need physics and other subjects to fit into this field.

His first job was in sales at Brydens, in The City.

As he got his hands wet, his desire to learn more grew and any courses that were offered, he volunteered to participate.

Describing himself as “a sponge soaking up information”, he said he took it all in and soon became a “boss” at what he did.

As time progressed, he moved on to Plantations, working as a merchandiser.

### Did his best

And there, too, Bartlett did his best.

“I know God had a hand in my life, because something in me always led me to give of my best. I am only comfortable giving 100 per cent,” the 53-year-old businessman told the **DAILY NATION**.

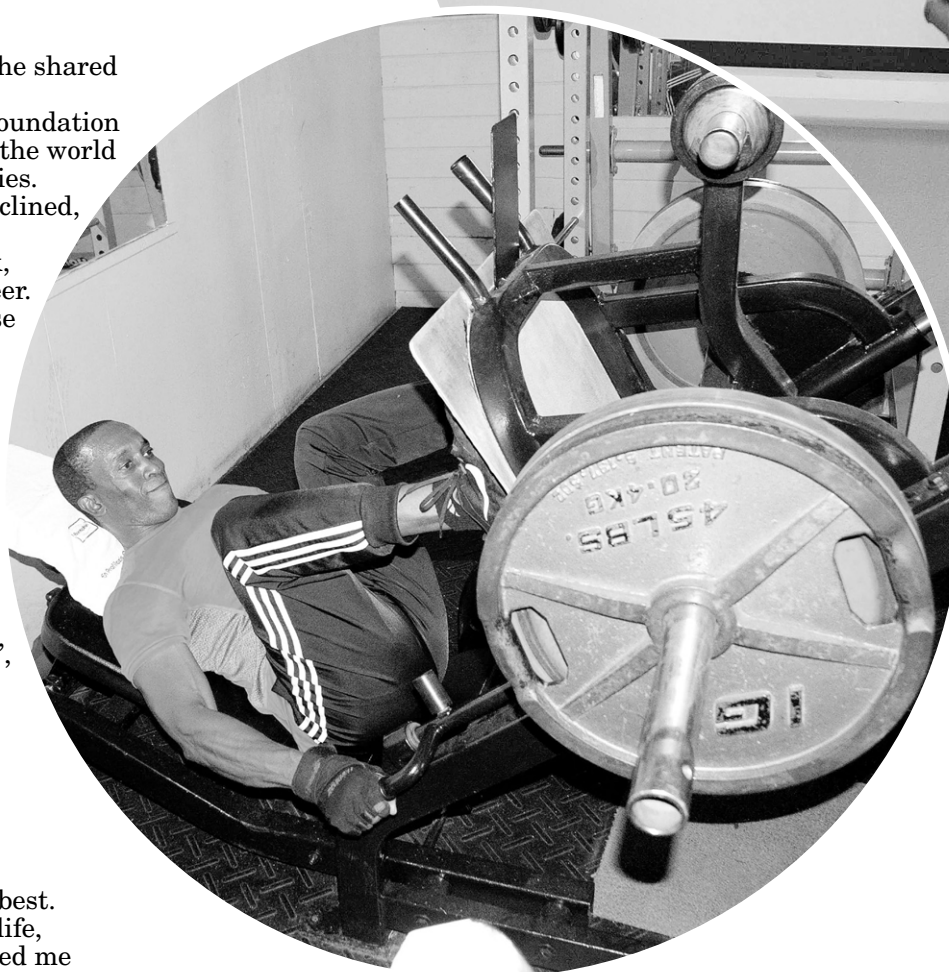
Though as a merchandiser it meant he was responsible for packing the shelves, he made it into more than that. He brought new energy to the job and when specials were on offer, he hung signs from the roof alerting customers of them.

Within one year, and at 21 years old, he was promoted to the sales department and given a company car.

“Attitude is everything. It has nothing to do with who your father is and how much money he has or anything like that. I am living testimony of this,” he said.

Three months after working at Plantations, he was voted top performer, beating out employees with as many as 20 years on the job. This caused him to set his sights on broader horizons.

As he opened his first business selling fresh produce, he encountered unforeseen challenges and the business folded.



He moved on to selling equipment. Through advertising in **THE NATION Classifieds**, he got results that amazed him.

“The equipment [cash registers, scales and cold storage items] sold off very quickly and thereafter people were still calling,” he said.

Bartlett then brought in similar items, advertised them in **THE NATION Classifieds** again, and got similar results.

This gave birth to his second business.

The holder of a master’s degree in business administration, Bartlett stressed the importance of his love for people.

“I always share this view with politicians because the only qualification for politics should be a love of people,” the father of three said.

And with this love, he said, there would be no limits to what could be done. It is out of this love for people and “blood, sweat and tears” that he opened his business in Oistins 14 years ago, specialising in office supplies.

**CORNELIUS BARTLETT will be putting families in focus at Family Fest, scheduled to come off in July. (Pictures by Lennox Devonish.)**

**AFTER A hard day’s work, Cornelius Bartlett uses exercise as a means of destressing.**

“I feel happy when I can move people and businesses from donkey carts to high-speed sports cars.”

And this love of people, he said, has its basis in his love of God, adding he was called from being a man of the world to being a man of God.

His message is spread from the pulpit on Sundays at Evangelical Assemblies which meets at The Lester Vaughan School, but the divine love that flows through him causes him to spread the Word endlessly and uninhibitedly on a daily basis.

Describing himself as a Jesus Christ businessman, Bartlett said he leads this lifestyle “24-7”.

Organiser of **Family Fest**, he said he was led by God to conceptualise it two years ago, but officially launched it last year.

### Crisis in his family

This initiative rolls out in July and there will be a month of activities targeting the family.

But as the family and marriage advocate spoke, he admitted he was facing a crisis in his family, but this would not change his resolve to assist the dysfunctional family unit in Barbados.

And whereas he said people argue that if their relationship does not work out the partner was not the one for them, he held a different view.

“In spite of the challenges that I may have in my family, the woman that I married is the woman that God had for me, without a shadow of a doubt,” said Bartlett, who also holds a certificate and diploma in church ministries.

He has put God first, family second and business third.