GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

Tel: (284)468-2730
Official Government Website:
https://gov.vg

Dr. Christine Hodge Releases New Book – Real Family Jokes

Release Date: 27 November, 2025



Memories and unforgettable moments captured and shared through generations make the best stories.

On Thursday, 20 November 2025, local retired educator, Dr. Christine D. Hodge of Ballast Bay, Tortola, celebrated with family, friends and well-wishers at the launch of her book entitled: “Real Family Jokes”. In this book, the author expresses these memories in the form of humour, culture and history.

In her remarks, Dr. Hodge stated: “First of all, I thank God for this beautiful day and for His presence here with us. This book has been long in coming - from the time Noah was building the ark. Many of you will know me as an educator, not realising that I am a true comedian at heart. Get ready to learn, and laugh!”

Honourable Melvin ‘Mitch’ Turnbull, Member for the 2nd District, delivered the welcome remarks, while Dr. Angel Smith, Historian and Manager of Archives of the Government of the Virgin Islands, expounded on the book’s historical perspectives and significance, as he offered congratulatory remarks.

The ceremony was chaired by the author’s niece, Mrs. Joy Penn. Dr. Hodge’s pastors, Dr. Michael Turnbull, delivered the invocation and Dr. Melvin Turnbull the benediction, while Ms. Rochelle Smith, Director of the Virgin Islands Studies Institute at H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, HLSCC, rendered a special musical selection: ‘The Goodness of God.’

Deputy Director of Culture, Ms. Anne Lennard, and the Department of Information and Public Relations staff also contributed to the event, with best regards also sent on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports. Mr. Keith Dawson, President of the Ivan Dawson Memorial Scholarship Committee, gave the closing remarks. He emphasised that the proceeds of book sales will go towards the scholarship fund, which was established in loving memory of the author’s father.

The Department of Culture continues to support Virgin Islands authors through their long-standing Book Launch Programme. Individuals and families are encouraged to write their stories which is a form of cultural preservation. For information on this and other programmes, individuals may contact the Department of Culture at 468-4408.

The Real Family Jokes book is now at One Mart Supermarket for sale and can be purchased on line at www.realfamilyjokes.com.

###

Photo Credit: Andre 'Shadow' Dawson

About:

The Department of Culture serves as the central agency for preserving, protecting, and promoting the unique heritage and cultural traditions of the Virgin Islands. As the Government’s focal point for policy and coordination on cultural matters, the Department manages the Territory’s festivals, fairs, performing and creative arts, and cultural-heritage initiatives.

For Additional Information Contact:

Angela U Burns
Information Officer II
Premier's Office
Government of The Virgin Islands
Tel: +1 284 468 9445
Email: aburns@gov.vg
Website: https://gov.vg/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BVIGovernment/

Additional Documents or Media

- vf_dr_christine_hodge_book_launch_press_release.pdf