



# UCJCI UPDATE

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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**THE UNITED CHURCH IN  
JAMAICA AND THE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS**

*A Union of the  
Presbyterian,  
Congregationalists and  
Disciples of Christ  
Churches*

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**OUR VISION:** *"Touching  
lives, Nurturing Disciples,  
Seeking Transformation  
through Christ."*

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## Special points of interest:

**Re: The "Face To  
Face" Programme:**

**Ministry Intern  
Karleen, writes:**

*"I am grateful to  
God that I have  
survived that expe-  
rience and continue  
to find the pro-  
gramme a learning  
experience!"*

## ~LETTER FROM HAITI~

*The following is a letter  
from Joan Page-Bain our  
Mission Partner in Haiti.*

**"I AM A VESSEL OF  
HONOUR"**

**Dear Friends:**

What a thought! Does this sound somewhat presumptuous? No, like Paul, I have been chosen as such. This was the theme of our annual staff retreat on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Our speaker of last year Mrs. I. de Mercado was again invited to address us and what a day of reflection and renewal it was. We were all thankful as our theme song said, that God **"Didn't Throw the Clay Away!"**

The staff was appreciative of the presentation and



*From: Allemand Joan & Jirene,*

interaction. At the end they made their own of 'vessels of honour.'

We rejoice that God has blessed us so graciously and that He continues to provide for our needs in such wonderful ways. We begin by

thanking you for all your expressions of love and kindness and we hope all is going well for and with you.

**February 20<sup>th</sup>** was a date that was on many prayer lists. A five-member team from Grand Cayman visited. One came from the Baptist church. He has been praying for me almost daily for many years.

The others were from **Elmslie Memorial United Church**, who have been supportive of my ministry here in Haiti for many years—The group's stay was short but full. They preached in four services and **conducted seminars, home visits, evangelization and did**

## MOVEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS...

•**Rev. Alice Blair** and the East End/Gun Bay Charge in Grand Cayman have agreed to a Settlement arrangement effective **May 1, 2016.**

•**Mr. Roy McGreggor**, UCJCI's 'Training in Mission' Participant for 2016 has arrived in **Taiwan** and commenced the seven (7) months programme.



Andrews United Church.

**NERMC – Saturday, May 14,** at King's Gate United Church.

The upcoming **Regional Mission Council Meetings** will take place as follows:  
**WRMC – Wednesday, May 11,** at St.

**SRMC – Thursday, May 19,** at Lowe River United Church. **Be there!**

### Remember:

•**Summer Camp 2016;** A great opportunity for our Youth to experience spiritual growth, and just plain fun!

•**Synodical Committees** will be held **May 16-18 at the Synod Office!**

## EVENTS

**“YOUTH QUAKE”** was a successful, **high energy event!**

**We celebrate the achievements of our gifted young people who participated, coming from all three Councils in Jamaica.**

### Congratulations to:

- **NERMC** taking **1st place**;
- **SRMC**, which placed **2nd**, and
- **WRMC**, placing **3rd**.

**Share with your congregation the pride we feel in their achievements!**

## GIVING THANKS!

**Our friends in Haiti invite us to give thanks and praise to God that His faithfulness endures, regardless of the national uncertainty. In the south where they are, they have had good rainfall and a good crop of peas and corn.**

### **Join them in:**

#### **GIVING THANKS AND PRAISE FOR...**

- **Rain** and the resulting good crops.
- **Relative political stability** over the last few weeks.
- **Joan’s good health report.**
- **Improvements noted in Jirén’s health.**
- **The fruitful visit of the work team.**
- **A good staff retreat.**
- **A valuable Convention in April**

## PRAY FOR:



**At the same time they also ask for our prayers for:**

- **Political stability in Haiti**
- **Victims of the flood in the north of Haiti.**

- **Progress of the Sign Language Class**
- **A car to replace the old one.**

**We too join with them in prayer that God will:**

**“Make us holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.”** (2 Timothy 2:21b).

## THINGS TO CELEBRATE: - Anniversaries & more!

**The Caribbean Workers Outreach program will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2017.**

[Rev. Lennox Scarlett, Pastor at St. Paul’s Lockett Avenue reports:](#)

“Already there is much talk about making the event big. There are however some important milestones for 2016.

This is the **50th anniversary of the Farm Work Programme** and the **10th anniversary of the Welcome Concert**, where Caribbean migrant workers are

officially welcome to another season of work.

Participation in this concert by prayer and or greetings is facilitated. On this occasion I was invited to offer prayer.

**There were in excess of seven hundred persons present representing a number of Caribbean territories and Canada.**—The featured group was the Toronto Mass Choir . They raised the roof. Absolutely spectacular.

The first five days of my stay were spent with a Jamaican-Canadian family. Their hospitality was very good. I am now with another family.

**Ministry to the workers has been useful.** The guys are receptive and appreciative of the efforts being made to keep in touch with them.

**Tracts, devotionals and contact cards are being distributed** and plans are being made for both morning and evening services.”

## “FACE TO FACE” PROGRAMME: Unique & Enriching!

**Karleen Thomas–Barnes, Ministry Intern, shares her experience in the ‘Face to Face’ Programme in the Netherlands.**

“Being in the Netherlands as a participant in the Face to Face Programme has been a unique and an enriching experience for me. I shared in interviewing persons from different social and cultural backgrounds who were engaged in different types of projects especially in Amsterdam. These included pastors, lawyers, social

workers, refugees, volunteers and coordinators. Among the issues focused on in these interviews were migration and human trafficking. One of the high points for me came the opportunity to be engaged with some refugees on a one-on-one basis.

On different occasions, I was able to assist in preparing, and sometimes sharing in meals for or with these persons. This was not always easy because the activity took place after an already exhausting day. **One of my placements was in the south of the Netherlands,**

**Amsterdam, for a duration of three weeks. The purpose of the placement was to provide the exposure and experience considered necessary for the programme.**

For me, the food provided often times presented a challenge and there were times I had to find alternatives to avoid complaining. This was despite my many attempts to explain the negative impact the food was having on me.