



# 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

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

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST.



The United Church in  
Jamaica & the Cay-  
man Islands  
celebrates June as  
'Family month'

# SRMC & 'FAMILY'

June has been celebrated by the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands as "Family Month." In its May Synod Report, the Southern Regional Mission Council through its Deputy General Secretary, Mrs. Rose Wedderburn had this to say about the celebration of 'Family.'

"The Council at its Day of Fellowship on February 10 focused on the theme Discipleship: the LIFE of the Family. It was the aim of the Planning Team for the Day of Fellowship that this focus on family continues and the congregations be encouraged to focus on the family as part of its discipleship mandate. To this end we have been using one Sunday each month on the United in Faith Programme to continue the emphasis and so far we have had presentations from Revs. Earl Thames, Gary Harriott & Gerald Emanuel and others will follow. The issue of family is very



important as we reflect on what statistics and research have been telling us about its impact on the life of society as a whole and on issues such as crime and violence. Dr. Michael Coombs, Regional Technical Director of the Southern Regional Health Authority in commenting on the decline in marriages stated that 'Decline in marriages ... coupled with an increase in divorce rates in Jamaica and other Caribbean countries, is posing a serious threat to public health, social wellbeing and national development'.  
**Did you know that:** The Registrar's General Department (RGD) has indicated that marriages have declined from 26,000 in 2005, to 15,500 in

2015 and that, according to 2014 statistics, 85% of children are born to unmarried mothers. Dr. Coombs said that based on research: "Children raised in intact married families are more likely to attend college, are physically and emotionally healthier, are less likely to be physically or sexually abused, less likely to use drugs or alcohol and to commit delinquent behaviours, have a decreased risk of divorcing when they get married, are less likely to become pregnant/impregnate someone as a teenager, and are less likely to be raised in poverty."  
He called on "governments, NGO's, the church, civil society and indeed all of

## EVENTS

☀️ *Listen to Radio Jamaica at 6:30 am on Sundays for “United in Faith”, the Radio broadcast of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.*

Sunday, **July 3**, marks the first broadcast for the month which celebrates **Discipleship** and will feature a ‘sermonette’ by Minister of **Ridgemount United Church, Rev. J. Oliver Daley.**

Under the theme for **July** our guests the **Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson, and the Rev. Dr. Derik Davidson**, will speak on one of our antecedent denominations, the **Disciples of Christ.**

## CELEBRATIONS!



• **Congratulations** to **Knox Community College** on a successful **Agri-Expo 2016** and the launch of the **Associate of Science Degree** in Agriculture Technology and also the launch of the **Knox Farms brand.**

• **Congratulation also to:**

**Brixton Hill United** which celebrated its **180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** with a **Service of Thanksgiving** on **Sunday June 12 at 4:00p.m.**

## PRAY FOR:

• **Pray for Rev. Euthman Wray** whose father **Winston Wray** passed on **June 21.**



• **Jiréné Bain**, daughter of **Joan Page-Bain**, who is not well.

• **Janet White**, wife of **Pastor Delmond White**, who was involved in a motor vehicle accident and is recuperating.

**The people and nation of Britain** as it faces the consequences of **BREXIT**—the decision to leave the European Union. **The fate of one—for good or evil affects us all!**

## “FAMILY” CONTD.

society to **act with urgency to promote parental marriage**, especially among youth aspiring to become parents adding that this is the foundation of healthy families and a pivotal strategy in achieving **Vision 2030.** While **Dr. Coombs** has pointed to achieving **Vision 2030** (Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, do business and raise families), we of the UCJCI have a larger vision – that of :

**“Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ”.**

This vision which is aimed at creating a Christ-like society **has to begin in the family and has to be based on Biblical principles.**

God created the foundation of the family – the blessing of man & woman for the purpose of raising families (**Genesis 1:27-28 & Genesis 2: 24**).

We cannot continue in the way we have been going. **We have to actively seek to change the patterns of family life** that we have come to accept as the norm and those that are quickly developing around us and are becoming the norm.

**The Church has to arise and take a stand for Godly family life.** Let us actively do all we can to encourage marriages and promote healthy marriages between man & woman and stable family life where children can be brought up in a stable environment. The Church has to make a difference if we are to create a more Christ-like society. We need to act now - the society needs the Church and God is depending on us to be God’s agents in this regard.

**What will you do about family?**

## CAMP IS ON!!

**Under the theme: “Discipleship –Not a bag a mouth”: Camp fever is raging, as the dates for camps draw near.**

• **The dates for Camps are:**

**Children – July 9 – 16;**

**Juniors – July 16 – 23;**

**Teens Pacesetters – July 23 – 30 ;**

**Discovery Teens – July 30 – August 6;**

**Youth - August 6 – 13 ;**

**The cost per camper is \$8,000.00.**

**Young Adults – August 14 – 16**