



UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH
IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Volume 6: Issue 24

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Congregational
Disciples of Christ
Presbyterian

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

SYNODICAL THEME:
"Renewal and Transfor-
mation: Discipleship for
Life"

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PRAY FOR:



*Rev. Dr. Ralph Hoyte,
Rev. Lloyd Reid, Pas-
tor Joel Cameron, Ms.
Ronique Hewitt
(daughter of Rev. Ranford
Hewitt), Mona Cowan
(daughter of Rev. Dr. Col-
lin Cowan) who are ill.

*Ms. Joy Williams who
lost her uncle.

*Mrs. Janet
McConnell whose rela-
tive is recuperating from
surgery.

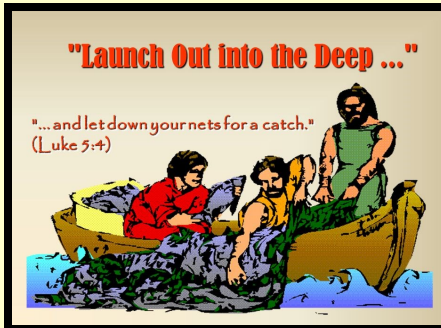
"Let Down Your Nets for a Catch"

“ In Luke 5:1-6, we read of the miraculous catch of fish (after the disciples had toiled all night and caught nothing). I noticed a few lessons from this story that can help (us) as we face the challenges of life.

Be faithful in our duties. Though disappointed, Peter kept working. He was faithful and diligent in his duty, washing the nets to be ready for the next trip out, most likely the following night.

We, too, need to be mindful that disappointments, failures and setbacks are not the end of the world, and should not define us. Stay at your post. Regardless of the circumstances, make every effort to be faithful in your duties to your family. Some days will be frustrating and disappointing. Some people – including family – will be ungrateful and forgetful, but be faithful nevertheless.

Trust and obey Jesus. Peter trusted and obeyed Jesus. The instruction from Jesus wasn't logical. It wasn't what Peter and his colleagues had learnt on the job over the years, or what the experts in fishing would have advised. But Peter had met Jesus before and he had seen the power of Jesus. He saw Jesus at His baptism by



John. He was there when He turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana. He knew that Jesus had just healed his mother-in-law.

Peter also trusted Jesus because of His **compassion**. He had seen Jesus heal and release those oppressed by demons.

In addition, Peter respected Jesus' **authority** over all of

life. Notice that Jesus gave Peter this instruction regarding his vocation **after** He had finished preaching and Peter and others had listened. It is a lesson for us that faith comes by hearing and that the Word of God and **our faith in God must be applied to all aspects of our lives.** When we hear and believe the word of God, we will apply the teachings of Christ to **all** our responsibilities.

We also learn from this story that when God permits delays and disappointments in our lives, it is only that He might bring us even **greater** blessings for the glory of His name. Trust and obey Jesus, so we will be blessed to overflowing until our nets break, and we will be channels of blessing for our families and communities...just as the partners in the other ship were also blessed.

(Continued on Page 2)

CELEBRATIONS!



70:

Rev. Dr. Henroy Samuels
Rev. Anthony Chung
 June 25

UCJCI OVERSIGHT

The Synod

All Ordained and Commissioned Ministers in Councils and Delegates appointed by each Congregation, constitute the Synod, the highest decision-making group in the Church. It is responsible for setting Church policy and objectives, and the framework within which the membership functions.

The Central Mission Council

The Central Mission Council (CMC) acts on behalf of the Synod in between Synod gatherings. Through the Regional Mission Councils and the Standing Committees of Synod, the CMC ensures that the Synod Agenda is carried out. It has been given authority by the Synod to implement decisions made, and receive reports from the Standing Committees, and be accountable to the Synod for all actions.

Regional Mission Councils

These are geographical groupings of congregations. Each is administered by a Council Executive comprising a Chairperson, Deputy, Secretary, Treasurer and other Officers. In addition, each congregation is represented at Council by delegates (2 representatives for the first 300 members of the congregation and 1 representative for each additional 100 or part thereof).

“Let Down Your Nets for a Catch”

(Continued from Page 1)

Because Peter trusted Jesus, this led him to obey Jesus and to do the counter-cultural. Fishing is best done at night and fishing done during the day is typically useless. Peter could have depended on human wisdom and said, “*Master, we have already washed our nets*”; or “*Master, you are a religious teacher but you don’t know anything about fishing.*” **When we trust Jesus, we will often be called to do what is counter to our culture.** Let us have the courage like Peter to obey and follow through.

In this COVID-19 season, it has been a time of sickness, fear and anxiety for some, and it has been a time of delays, disappointments, economic difficulties and failures for many. Remember that the God you serve is on the throne - powerful, compassionate and loving toward you. Friends, **remember the power of God’s word.** At His word the world was created. His word is the bread of life by which people shall live. **At His word, let down your net.** Take the first step of faith, do just as He has told you to do. Although it looks ridiculous, let down your net – make that phone call, visit that long lost relative or friend, initiate that transaction. *What are you being prompted by the Spirit of God to do?* When Jesus directs our work and orders our steps, it makes all the difference.

Remain humble before God. Peter was blessed by God with a large catch, so large that it filled two boats and frightened everyone. That blessing didn’t make Peter arrogant, proud and independent. Peter remembered from whom it came and this made Him humble and submissive. He said “*...I am a sinful man.*” The Lord promoted Peter based on this humility – he became a fisher of men instead of a fisher of fish.

In this season, could God be calling you to a new beginning that is marked by humility? This humility challenges you to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to radically reorder your priorities and your ambitions. This humility leaves the past behind and gets excited about the mission and purpose of Christ in this world. God is calling us to a humility that says, “This battle is not mine, but Yours”; “Follow me. I will make you fishers of men”. Be faithful in your duties in spite of. Trust and obey Jesus Christ, the all-knowing, all-seeing, all-loving Christ of the Cross. Remain humble before God so that He can use you as He wills.”

- Contributed by: Mr. Courtney Campbell, member of Webster Memorial United Church, Chair of the United Church Mission Enterprise and President & CEO of the Victoria Mutual Group.

APPOINTMENTS



Mrs. Rose Wedderburn, Regional Deputy General Secretary, SRMC, has been re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Council for World Mission (CWM) and elected Chair of CWM’s UK Trustees.



Mr. Markel Virgo, member of Andrews Memorial United Church, has been elected Youth Director on the Board of Directors of the Council for World Mission (CWM).

Send comments and news about your congregation to: ucjciupdate@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Become a Go-To Player

If you found yourself in a situation at work where you were on a deadline and trying to finish a project that was critical for the success of the organization, and then suddenly, with almost no time left, you were handed another critical task that had to be completed at the same time, what would you do? In this case, let's assume that delaying the deadline beyond today was not a possibility. It's do or die. How do you respond? If you're like most good leaders, you hand one of the tasks to a go-to player.

Winning teams have players who make things happen. Those team members who can make things happen are their go-to players. They demonstrate consistent competence, responsibility, and dependability.

All leaders are looking for people who can step up and make a difference when it matters. When they find such people, they come to rely on them and are inevitably influenced by them. When I think of go-to players, I mean people who always produce.

GO-TO PLAYERS PRODUCE WHEN THE PRESSURE'S ON.

Go-to players are the people who find a way to make things happen no matter what. They don't have to be in familiar surroundings. They don't have to be in their comfort zones. The circumstances don't have to be fair or favourable. The pressure doesn't hinder them either. In fact, if anything, the more pressure there is, the better they like it. They always produce when

the heat is on.

GO-TO PLAYERS PRODUCE WHEN THE MOMENTUM IS LOW.

Organizations have only three kinds of people when it comes to momentum. There are momentum breakers—people who sabotage the leader or organization and actually sap momentum as a result. These people have terrible attitudes and represent the bottom 10 percent of the organization.

The second group is comprised of the momentum takers—people who merely take things as they come. They neither create nor diminish momentum; they simply flow with it. These people represent the middle 80 percent.

The final group is the momentum makers—the people who move things forward and create momentum. These are the leaders in the organization and comprise the top 10 percent. These momentum makers make progress. They overcome obstacles. They help move others along. They actually create energy in the organization when the rest of the team is feeling tired or discouraged.

GO-TO PLAYERS PRODUCE WHEN THE LOAD IS HEAVY.

Good employees always have the desire to be helpful to their leaders. I always appreciate it when someone who works with me says, *"I've finished my work. Can I do something for you?"* But there is another level of play that some go-to players reach, and you

can see it in their ability to carry a heavy load anytime their leader needs it. They don't help the leader with a heavy load only when theirs is light. They do it anytime their leader's load is heavy.

The keys to becoming this kind of player are availability and responsibility. Being a heavy load lifter is really an attitude issue, not a position issue. If you have the willingness and capacity to lift the load of your leaders when they need it, you will have influence with them.

GO-TO PLAYERS PRODUCE WHEN THE LEADER IS ABSENT.

It is at those times that a leadership vacuum exists that leaders can rise up to fill it. True, when leaders know they will be absent, they usually designate a leader to stand in for them. But even then, there are still opportunities for people to step up, take responsibility, and shine.

You should also know, however, that when people step up to fill that vacuum, it almost always exposes their true colours. If their motives are good, and they desire to lead for the good of the organization, it will show through. If they are attempting a power grab for personal gain and their own advancement, that will show through, too.

When you are a go-to player, your leader will come to depend on you, and you will produce even when the time is limited.

Source: "The 360-Degree Leader" by John C. Maxwell

UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

WORD OF THE DAY



UCJCI CAMP MINISTRY PRESENTS

A VIRTUAL SUMMER LINK UP FOR OUR CHILDREN, TEENS AND YOUTH!

THEME:
CONNECTED:

TO GOD...PLUG IN AND CHARGE UP!

TO THE WORD...DOWNLOAD DI MESSAGE!

TO EACH OTHER...FOLLOW MI!

TO THE MISSION (PART 1)...ACCESS GRANTED!

TO THE MISSION (PART 2)...GWAAN WID IT!

LOOK OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION!

AUGUST 09 - 13, 2020



REJOICE IN
OUR
CONFIDENT
HOPE. BE
PATIENT IN
TROUBLE, AND
KEEP ON
PRAYING.
ROMANS 12:12

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS FEATURE

UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Individual Prayer:
Every Wednesday
from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

(2 Timothy 1:7)

UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

POINTS FOR PRAYER

- * A stop to the spread of the disease.
- * Healing for those who are infected with the disease.
- * Strength, comfort and peace for the loved ones of persons who have died from the disease.
- * Encouragement for the children who are confused and fearful during this time.
- * That persons will draw closer to God, and families draw closer to each other, during this time.
- * That all persons will take this matter seriously, and responsibly take the necessary precautions.
- * Support for our healthcare systems and workers who are on the frontlines.
- * Safety of all elderly persons, those with co-morbidities and our tourism workers.
- * Provision for the needy and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- * Our local and world economies.

