



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

July 7, 2021

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JEMM - Advancing the Gospel
in Word and Deed

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Pray for Haiti

VOLUME 7
ISSUE 27

Our Vision: Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ

JAMAICA ECUMENICAL MUTUAL MISSION



A house built in collaboration with Food for the Poor

UCJCI in Partnership Across Denominations in Jamaica and North America

HOUSING

In collaboration with Food for the Poor, one and two bedroom units are provided for single mothers living with HIV and their children as well as elderly persons in dire need. Since the inception of the initiative, houses have been built in St. Ann, St. Mary, Manchester, Kingston & St. Andrew.



Castor bean plant

AGRICULTURE

JEMM has now initiated a Castor Bean project which seeks to :

The Jamaica Ecumenical Mutual Mission (JEMM), is an ecumenical entity which undertakes joint work in mission with the aim of manifesting the Gospel in word and deed.

JEMM was established in 1979 and currently comprises the following denominations; the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas—Jamaica District, The Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands and the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. These groups work in collaboration with the Presbytery of St. Augustine of the Presbyterian Church, USA, whose mission arm is the St. Augustine Mutual Mission (SAMM).

Together, as JEMM, joint work has been undertaken in the following areas:

Housing

Agriculture

Health Ministry

Youth Exchange Programme

Adult Exchange Programme

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- Engage persons in the planting of castor beans and thereby alleviating poverty in deep rural communities
- Encourage the use of idle church lands to plant castor beans and ultimately producing castor oil with the aim of providing funding to continue &/or expand the current initiatives of JEMM.

There are currently 15 acres under cultivation.

Through the kind support of several stakeholders, including the participating denominations and the Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM), JEMM was able to import a bus which has been retrofitted into a mobile dental lab. This will enable the team to be even more efficient in the making and delivery of dentures. The dental mission is truly “impacting lives, one smile at a time.”

YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

The objectives of the programme are to:

- Heighten spirituality,
- Build character and self-esteem,
- Develop leadership qualities
- Sensitize the participants to situations of need, both in Jamaica and the United States.

The highlight of the programme is community outreach in which the members participate. These include serving as care-givers at Children’s Homes and Homes for the Aged, painting projects at homes and schools; as well as feeding



Blood pressure check

HEALTH

This involves teams of health professionals organized by the Presbytery of St. Augustine visiting Jamaica for one week.

During that period, they are joined by local health care practitioners and they offer medical care, including filling prescriptions, doing optical work, including eye testing and issuing of reading and tested glasses and dental services, which include, extraction, cleaning as well as making and repairing dentures.



Youth sharing fellowship meals.



BEFORE and AFTER dental pictures

programmes where the youth not only serve meals to the less fortunate but also share in the meals and interact with the recipients, where possible.

Cont'd from page 3

Here youth exchange participants paint the Hope Bay Basic School. This is one of the ways in which the youth are engaged in community projects.



ADULT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

The main objective of the Adult Exchange Programme is to share ideas among member churches. In recent years, this has resulted in Guidance Counsellors across the participating denominations being trained on mitigating violence in schools.

Remember to wear black on Thursday. Take a Stand! Work for a world without violence.

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- B.A. GENERAL STUDIES
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- MBA LOGISTICS & PORT MANAGEMENT

APPLY FOR 2021



SHORT COURSES AVAILABLE RIGHT THROUGH THE YEAR



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TOWER ISLE: 876.341.0734
MONTEGO BAY: 876.940.0382 / 876.971.8401



Essential Items for Hurricane Preparation

Be sure to get these items.

- ◆ Bottled water for drinking. Store at least seven gallons per person.
- ◆ Water, for personal hygiene, stored water to last for at least 7 days.
- ◆ First-aid kit and a supply of prescription medication.
- ◆ Non-perishable foods and beverages.
- ◆ Battery-powered radio with extra batteries.
- ◆ One flashlight per person with extra batteries.
- ◆ Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper).
- ◆ Towels and washcloths, pillows, blankets or sleeping bags
- ◆ Baby supplies (diapers, wet wipes, medication)
- ◆ Non-electric can opener
- ◆ Disinfectant, and laundry detergent
- ◆ Change of clothing, rain gear, gloves and sturdy shoes
- ◆ Identification cards
- ◆ A list of family physicians
- ◆ Oil lamps (with extra fuel)
- ◆ Fire extinguisher
- ◆ Wind-up or battery-powered clock
- ◆ Charcoal (for use only after the storm and only outside)
- ◆ Plastic trash bags
- ◆ Paper plates and cups and plastic eating utensils
- ◆ Tarpaulins or plastic sheeting for roof or window repair
- ◆ Water purification items (tablets, plain chlorine, bleach or iodine)
- ◆ Tool kit, including nails, screws, duct tape, twine and rope.

Adapted from the Caribbean Disaster Readiness Manual; 1997-2002

OTHER ESSENTIAL FOODS

- ◆ Crackers and Cookies
- ◆ Jams and Jellies
- ◆ Ultra-pasteurized milk in paper packaging or canned milk
- ◆ Baby food for infant (canned or bottled)
- ◆ Dried fruits and packaged shell nuts
- ◆ Canned meat and fish, vegetables, fruits and soups
- ◆ Vitamin Supplements

OTHER IMPORTANT SUPPLIES FOR THE HOME

- ◆ Matches (stored in watertight plastic bags)

GIRLS' BRIGADE AWARDS

The Girls' Brigade Award Ceremony for the West Bay Company was held on Monday, June 28, 2021, at the John Gray Memorial United Church Hall.



Explorers and Juniors performing at the Awards Ceremony.



The Explorers with their leaders and the National Chaplain.

Left: Hannah Jackson, an explorer in the West Bay GB Company receives her Year 1 Badge from National Chaplain and Acting West Bay Chaplain Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield for completing her four subject areas.

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT AT ELMSLIE



The first ever International Night organized by the Elmslie Memorial United Church Youth Ministry held on Friday, June 25, 2021 was a huge success. Persons from close to twenty different nations call this

congregation their home and on this special evening some had the opportunity to showcase their talents, dresses, music and mouth-watering cuisine to the delight of those gathered. By all indications, members of the Church and the community are expecting this festivity to become an annually recurring event from now on



To everyone's surprise and delight Master of Ceremonies, Elmslie's Youth Minister Mr. Roy McGregor appeared in traditional Scottish attire



National flags of countries on display representing the diverse membership of Elmslie United Church.

Super Summer in the Spirit!



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

CAMP MINISTRY PRESENTS

Teens & Youth SUMMER Virtual ENCOUNTER 2021



**THEME:
ROOT. SHOOT. FRUIT**

**FRI. AUG 13 - SUN. AUG 15
6p.m.-9p.m. via ZOOM**

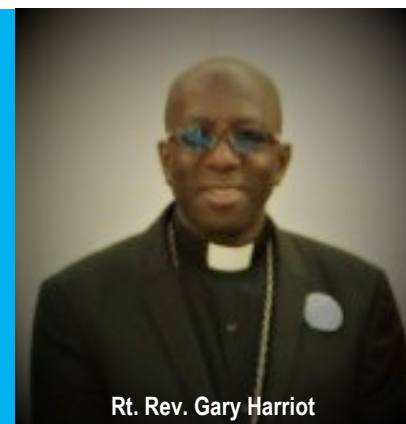


JOIN THE EXCITING ACTIVITIES



What plans do you have for your children and youth this summer? How about our UCJCI age-appropriate activities? Contact the Programme Secretary in your Regional Mission Council for more information.

Moderator's Musing



Rt. Rev. Gary Harriot

Our church, the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, in response to all that has been going on in our societies of Cayman, Jamaica and the global community, on account of the impact of COVID 19 and other challenges, has determined to focus on the Theme, "Rooted! Resilient! Responding in HOPE - HOPE being an acronym for Health, Opportunity, Peace and Evangelism.

Each quarter we have been focusing on one dimension of the Theme. We have looked at Health, Opportunity, and for this quarter, our focus is on "Peace and Peace-building." Societies all over, and to varying levels, are wrestling with the need for peace. My sisters and brothers, you may consider what areas or what situations in your homes; your Districts, the Cayman society as a whole where peace is under threat, or where tension and conflicts abound.

Whenever I consider the subject of Peace, I often go back to the Creation narrative in Genesis Chapters 1 & 2. There we see painted for us a picture of harmony, of balance, of equilibrium - peace between the various elements of creation; with God at the center of creation; with God as the cause of creation, and creation for God's glorification. In that narrative, human beings are said to be created in the Image and likeness of God - therefore special and unique. But what do we see since creation and over the centuries? Human beings setting up all kinds of systems of stratification or groupings; setting people apart from each other on the basis of all kinds of systems of segregation and disharmony - gender, religion, race, colour, politics, economics, education and you name it. We have set God's beautiful creation against itself, causing tension, hostility, violence, abuse, victims; those with power and those who are powerless. Some human beings have been treated with disrespect, disregard because others failed to see God's Image in them. It is also the

case, when we fail to affirm the Image of God in our selves, we behave in ways that deface that Image or disregard that Image in us.

In this broken world with the varying manifestations in societies across the world, including Cayman, God has a mission of peace; a mission of healing and reconciliation. The people of God; the church; every Christian has a responsibility in this mission enterprise of peace and peace-building.

A CALL FOR PEACE

Over the weeks ahead, we will consider afresh God's mission call and the need for us to respond. Where peace is lacking, God has a vested interest, and so must God's servants. Where justice is absent, peace is almost impossible. Just like the Prophet Amos in Chapter 5 beckons for justice, it is of utmost importance that we re-imagine what justice would look like in our society. If we want peaceful societies, we must pay attention to justice issues in our midst; we must pay attention to the weak and vulnerable; those who are at risk; those who are less likely to be considered or remembered. Some societies that have ignored these persons are now paying the price of violence, bloodshed, unproductivity and instability.

Peace-building is hard work. Peace-building is risky work. Peace-building requires sacrifice, but for the Christian who desires to be a faithful servant of Christ, there is no place for retreat; there is no avoidance; the only option is engagement; it is to confront evil in the name and power of the God who has called and sent us.

(An excerpt from a series of reflections by the Moderator of UCJCI with the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council)

Happy Birthday

Rev. Clifton Bailey



July 7

Rev. Dr. Cephas Stern

July 7



**Miss Lorraine
Howell**

July 11

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Hurricane Safety Tips For Home Owners At the Start of the Hurricane Season

1. Check the roof of your house, hurricane shutters, hooks and latches thoroughly and repair where necessary.
2. Make sure that galvanized sheeting on the roof of your house is properly fastened.
3. Keep in stock extra plastic bags and sheets of plastic. Plastic is essential to prevent important documents, paintings, equipment and furniture from getting wet.
4. Keep handy a supply of lumber, plywood, timber, etc. for battening down purposes.

PRAY ♦ PRAY ♦ PRAY

**UCJCI responds to the
COVID-19
pandemic and other local,
regional and global
challenges as a community
of faith**

Let us Pray Together

**Every Wednesday
12 noon—1:00 pm**

- Youth sitting examinations, some of whom have had their learning experiences negatively impacted by COVID 19
- Camps and virtual encounters planned for children and youth this summer
- Wisdom and disciplined behaviour which advances health in the face of COVID-19
- Plans for re-opening of the Cayman borders and re-building of the tourism sector
- The people of Haiti in the state of siege following the assassination of the President and his wife.
- The people of Cuba in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Elsa. Medicine is desperately needed.

LITURGY FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

This coming Sunday...

July 11, 2021



Messengers of Peace: Confronting Violence

Amos 7:7-15 and Psalm 85:8-13
Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29

Next week...



July 18, 2021

Messengers of Peace: Caring for the Weak & Marginalized

Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Psalm 23
Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56



Training for Lay Leaders

INTRODUCTION TO REFORMED THEOLOGY



Saturday July 10, 2021

9:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m. via Zoom

LECTURER: REV. DR. YVETTE NOBLE BLOOMFIELD

Persons interested in this topic should register with their Regional Mission Council.

UCJCI VALUE S

In seeking to live out our calling, we particularly value and are committed to:

Discipleship and Holiness:

The intentional and relational development of believers to become mature followers of Jesus Christ

(1 Peter 2:2, Colossians 3:1-17).

IN THE COMING ISSUE...

UCJCI Enlarged Territory – Ministry in Virtual Spaces

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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General Secretary

Rev. Norbert Stephens

Regional Deputy General Secretaries

Cayman Regional Mission Council
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield

Southern Regional Mission Council
Rev. Norbert Stephens (Interim)

North Eastern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

Western Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Mauleen Henry

SYNODICAL THEME:

“Rooted, Resilient: Responding in H.O.P.E. (Health - Opportunity - Peace - Evangelism)”