



UCJCI UPDATE

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

Volume 3: Issue 33.

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Congregational Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian

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

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PRAY FOR:



- Rev. Bevis Byfield who is not well.
- Rev. Delroy Harris whose aunt, Ms. Herma Harris, has passed on.
- Rev. Walter Russell who had a motor vehicle accident last week and continues to have associated pains.

THE 'CHRISTIAN FAMILY'

This month, following on from the last, the United Church in various ways, continued to celebrate the 'Christian Family'. This has been especially appropriate given the inclusion of **Mother's Day and Father's Day, as well as Child Month.**

The celebrations above are complimented by other family activities at this time. These include family gatherings, the preparation of children for exams and of course upcoming valedictory/graduation exercises.

Our Sunday morning Jamaican broadcast, '**United in Faith**' has appropriately given focus on the Family, examining ways in which we accommodate our diversity, including the disabled, and the various ways in which we adjust to the special needs of our men and women as vital members of the Christian Family.

What is the Christian Family?

Christian writer, David Jeter in notes that defining *family*, especially a "biblical" or "Christian" family, is no easy task, given that there are many different kinds of cultur-

al models described in the Bible, which conflict with the model that is accepted in our Western Culture.

What we can definitively say is this: That the institution of the family was created by **God. God is the originator of and continues to hold the patent. The Creation Story as told in Genesis establishes this ideal of humanity: one man and one woman joined spiritually and physically in a committed union for a lifetime, conceiving and rearing children. Genesis 1:27-28, and Genesis 2:18, 21-25.**

Despite the diversities of culture, the Christian Family may be defined as: "A group of people who are related to each other through marriage, birth, or adoption and are committed, first and foremost, to the person and work of Jesus Christ, faithfully witnessing to the love, power, and forgiveness of God."

What are we required to do as members of the Christian Family?

First as Christians, we are ex-

pected to have a relationship with Christ.

The detailed guidelines as set out in **Ephesians 5: 22-26**, including the expected behaviour of the Christian husband and wife: the husband being advised to love his wife 'as Christ loved the church', and the wife to respect her husband and willingly "submit to his leadership in the family.

Do today's mores make these guidelines appear outdated? or are God's words 'new every morning', and therefore to be obeyed?

What is probably even more instructive in today's world, is that the husband is expected to be the spiritual guide of his wife and children into biblical truth and a knowledge of God. **1 Timothy 5:8**, further instructs that **a father is also to provide for his family. "If he does not, he "denies the faith and is worse than an unbeliever"**.

Proverbs 31, does however indicate that the godly wife can also provide supporting help. It does not mean therefore, that the wife cannot assist in supporting the family but affirms the partnership relationship between husband and wife. **(Contd over.)**

CELEBRATIONS



70:

Rev. Dr. Gordon Evans
June 20.

The Christian Family contd.

Both men and women are equal partners, but each have different roles; Women utilising their nurturing skills in caring for the young, while men using their skills in providing for and protecting the family, in the Christian Family.

Against the background that the primary principle of the Christian Family, is commitment to Christ it is also expected, that the commitment between husband and wife is one for a lifetime. Both husband and wife are therefore responsible to hold the **ordained marriage together.**

What about children in the Christian Family?

Children are seen as a blessing from God and a part of God's plan as told in Genesis. —In both Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:1-4, too, children are told to honour and obey their parents. In the final analysis; the family is not an institution designed by humans. It was created by God for the benefit of humanity. ■



THE UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

PRESENTED BY ANDREWS/ EBENEZER UNITED CHURCH

“Realities of the Single and Married Life: Let's talk about it!”

**FREE!
FREE!
FREE!**

- Topical Issues**
- Loneliness
 - Keeping the passion alive
 - Dating older or younger persons

Dates: Friday, June 15, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. (singles at Ebenezer United Church) AND

Friday, June 22, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. continuing on Saturday, June 23, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. (couples and marriage at Andrews United Church)

PRESENTER:
Reverend Carla Dunbar



Refreshments on sale

SAVANNA-LA-MAR UNITED CHURCH
YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP
PRESENTS

GODFREY STEWART DANCE TROUPE

TORRINGTON GOSPEL DANCERS

MIME BROTHERS

GRACE EXPRESSIONS MINISTRY

PRAISE IN EXPRESSIONS 2018

Judah on the Rise!

Western Regional Mission Council

1ST STAGING QUIZ COMPETITION

CLUSTER 1 VS CLUSTER 2

CLUSTER 3 VS CLUSTER 4

4TH STAGING DEBATE COMPETITION

CLUSTER 2 VS CLUSTER 4

CLUSTER 1 VS CLUSTER 3

Victory Party

BRING YOUR MEDALS

VENUE: FULMOUTH UNITED CHURCH HALL

DATE: SATURDAY JUNE 30, 2018

TIME: 10AM

FREE REFRESHMENTS

VENUE: SAV. UNITED CHURCH

SAT. JUNE 30, 2018

START TIME: 6PM

COST: \$300



Take Dad to lunch at
Shirley Retreat Hotel
7, Maeven Ave. King 10.

Delicious Entrees, Lunch starting from \$1,200, First 10 bookings, get one lunch for 50% off!
(Conditions apply!)

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Sacrifice: The Heart of Leadership

Why does an individual step forward to lead other people? For every person the answer is different. A few do it to survive. Some do it to make money. Many desire to build an organization. Others do it because they want to change the world.

Consider Martin Luther King Jr. He accepted his first pastorate in Montgomery, Alabama, at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in 1954. He settled into family life when his first child was born the next year, however, that peace didn't last long. He was soon propelled into civil rights activism – an effort that led him to pay the ultimate price of sacrifice.

Each time King climbed higher and moved forward in leadership for the cause, the greater the price he paid for it. He was arrested and jailed on many occasions. He was stoned and stabbed. His house was bombed. Yet King's vision and influence continued to increase. Ultimately, he sacrificed everything he had. However, what he gave up, he parted with willingly, and he created notable change in his country.

In his last speech, delivered the night before he was assassinated in Memphis, King said, "I don't know what will happen to me now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter to me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. I don't mind. Like anybody else, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to

know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. So I'm happy tonight...I'm not fearing any man. 'Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.'" The next day he paid the ultimate price. His impact was profound. He influenced millions of people to peacefully stand up against a system and society that fought to exclude them. And there were changes for the better because of his leadership.

If you desire to be the best leader you can be, then you need to be willing to make sacrifices in order to lead well. Here are some things you need to know about **Sacrifice**.

There is no success without sacrifice. Every person who has achieved any success in life has made sacrifices to do so. Many working people dedicate four or more years and pay thousands of dollars to attend college, to get the tools they'll need before embarking on their career. Athletes sacrifice countless hours in the gym and on the practice field, preparing themselves to perform at a high level. Parents give up much of their free time and sacrifice their resources in order to do a good job raising their children. Ralph Waldo Emerson observed, "For everything you have missed, you have gained something else; and for everything you gain, you lose something."

Leaders are often asked to give up more than others. The heart of leadership is putting others ahead of yourself. It is doing what is best for the team. For every person, the nature of the sacrifice may be different. Everyone who leads gives up other opportunities. Some, like King, give their actual lives. The circumstances are different from person

to person, but the principle doesn't change. Leadership means Sacrifice.

The higher the level of leadership, the greater the sacrifice. Have you ever been part of an auction? It's an exciting experience. An item comes up for a bid, and everyone in the room gets excited. When the bidding opens, lots of people jump in and take part. But as the price goes higher and higher, what happens? There are fewer and fewer bidders. When the price is low, everybody bids. In the end, only one person is willing to pay the high price that the item actually costs. It's the same in leadership: the higher you go, the more it's going to cost you.

Anytime you see success, you can be sure someone made sacrifices to make it possible. Even if you make the sacrifice and don't witness the success, you can be sure that someone in the future will benefit from what you've given. That was certainly true of Martin Luther King Jr. He did not live to see most of the benefits of his sacrifices, but many others have.

Also remember, one of the most harmful mind-sets of leaders is what is called *Destination Disease* – the idea that they can sacrifice for a season and then "arrive". Leaders who think this way, stop sacrificing and stop gaining higher ground in leadership. At the same time, be aware that there are some things you should never sacrifice in order to move ahead. Consider what those things are for you.

Source: "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership" by John C. Maxwell

