



UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH
IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

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OUR VISION: "Touching
Lives, Nurturing Disci-
ples, Seeking Transfor-
mation through Christ"

IN THIS ISSUE

**Mt. Olivet Boys'
Home in Mission 1-2**

**Church Schools'
Graduation 2**

Ad Corner 2

Leadership Corner 3

PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Bevis Byfield**
who is not well
- **Nyle Stewart** (son of
**Pastors Roger and
Michelle Stewart**)
and family, as they grap-
ple with Nyle's serious
illness
- **Mrs. Helen Webley**
(wife of the late **Rev.
Stanford Webley**)
who is not well

Mt. Olivet Boys' Home Excels in Mission!

The UCJCI's Mt. Olivet Boys' Home, located in Walderston, Manchester, has undertaken outstanding initiatives to increase and enhance the services it offers to the boys in its care!

The Home, which accommodates forty-six (46) boys, has launched a pre-independence facility so that the boys, who would usually transition from the Home at age 18 years, now have the opportunity to continue their residence until age 21. This, with a view to increasing their readiness for independence, and providing a home for them until they are able to adjust to full-time employment.

There are currently six (6) young men in residence at

this facility who are undertaking skills training, including one (1) who is employed on a full-time basis. They receive a cheque of \$6,000 per month to assist them to purchase materials essential for their learning.

There are also plans to expand the residential facility! The Yohan Blake Foundation will build new dormitories and a new playing field with a 4-lane track, seats, football field, and volleyball and basketball courts. The new dorms will accommodate approximately sixty-eight (68) boys.

Residents of the Mt. Olivet Boys' Home have been making marked achievements in their own way. One (1) resident of the Home, who ex-

celled in his external examinations, received a scholarship from the Yohan Blake Foundation to study Psychology at the American University of Paris. Another young man is undergoing training with Racers Track Club and the Vocational Training Development Institute (VTDI), having aspirations to become a Sports Coach.

Indeed, over the past three (3) years, the boys have participated in the Council for Voluntary Social Services (CVSS) Summer Games at the UWI Mona Bowl, in football and track and field. This year's event, held on July 7, saw the boys winning five (5) gold, seventeen (17)

(Continued on Page 2)



CELEBRATIONS! Mt. Olivet Boys' Home Excels in Mission!



70:

Ms. Lorraine Howell

July 11

Rev. Tamara Smith-Coleman

July 14

Graduation ceremony for students of the Mel Nathan Preparatory School and St. John's Early Childhood Development Centre held on July 4, 2018



Tamara Steele-Rowe presents a plaque to Miss Sarah Palmer for her distinguished and exemplary service as a dedicated Principal from the Preparatory School's inception in 1994 until 2016



(Continued from Page 1)

silver, and seven (7) bronze medals, as well as two (2) Champion Boy trophies!

The Boys' Home has a structured Counselling programme in place, with the assistance of Ridgemount United Church in the parish. A mentoring programme has also been established, and persons from the United Church and other denominations conduct spiritual enrichment sessions with the residents on weekdays and Sunday evenings.

The boys also attend church on Sundays! They visit congregations such as: Spaldings United, Baillieston United,

Bryce United, Lowe River United, Ridgemount United, and Mount Olivet United Churches. They also visit the United Church Senior Citizens' Home in the parish once per month, bringing food prepared at the Boys' Home, and have devotions with them.

The Home is currently establishing a Barber Shop, even as some of the boys learn barbering off-site on weekends. The intention is that the boys will operate the barber shop in order to meet the needs of the residents. Sponsorship in this venture is being granted by Food for the Poor and Jamaica Volunteer Expedition.

(This article will continue in next week's UCJCI Update.)

THE UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Building a Winning Small Team

When the work environment is uncertain and risky, the task complicated and challenging, and the opposing force overwhelming, small teams are called in.

Breakthrough results often come from small teams, as larger groups frequently have a hard time maintaining teamwork and unity of purpose. There is much to be said about the agility, focus, and inventiveness of an effective small team of committed and talented individuals, willing to give priority to the team's success to deliver the seemingly impossible.

Here is a Method for building your own effective small team:

Start Strong

Have a clear purpose and core values. If you want to get somewhere, you have to know where you are going and what roads you are willing to take. This will serve as your guide in hiring.

Hire the right people. This is critical. You want the best, most talented people, but only those who are willing to work together for the team's success. Hire people who are a good fit with your core values and your team's competencies. Persons who are a bad fit will drain your team's time and enthusiasm, and are unlikely to be good "ambassadors of the Mission." Form a complementary team, where individual strengths are enhanced and their weaknesses become irrelevant because they are compensated for by the strengths of others.

Stay Effective in the Present

Create an inspiring work environment. Create a space where people feel nurtured, and which will allow their creativity to flow.

Foster a strong organizational culture. Give your team small perks and a space where they can relax while brainstorming. Foster the team spirit that makes your team feel part of something worthwhile. Talk about trusting others, and so emphasize the importance of developing trust.

Help your team to create a clear mind and focus. Talk about the task at hand. Rather than just quietly doing the work, explicitly talk about what the team is doing to accomplish the team goal. To maximize productivity, take care of your team's day-to-day concerns.

Promote Future Effectiveness

Invest in Learning. Help your people to develop and grow as individuals and in their knowledge and competencies, by sending them to training programmes and conferences. They will become more valuable to you, your team, and those you serve.

Support innovation. Your small size gives you an advantage over larger teams – you can progress faster and more efficiently. Give your team time to share ideas and think about their projects outside of their workspace. The results will amaze you.

Keep Your Team Fresh and Happy

Treat your people right. If you support their work-life balance, then they will support your vision and goals with everything they have. According to a March 2015 survey by Totaljobs, a U.K.-based job placement agency: "Work-life balance is by far the most universal concern for 50% of the workforce." Encourage your team members to have lives outside of work. If they do not, they may burn out.

Have fun. Celebrate successes and arrange fun activities as a team. If you fail to take the time to acknowledge a job well done, after a while the team will see no point in giving you their all.

Source: "Ten Steps to Lead a Small but Effective Team" by Kevin Gibbons

