



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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Presbyterian*

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

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PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Bevis Byfield** who is not well
- **Nyle Stewart** as he grapples with life-threatening illness
- **Mrs. Helen Webley** (wife of the late **Rev. Stanford Webley**) who is not well
- **Rev. Ranford Hewitt** who is not well

Celebrating Mrs. Elrys Kensington: 100 Years and Counting!

Mrs. Elrys Kensington, member of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, recently celebrated 100 years of a life of vigour, engagement, and purpose!

Smart and sharp-witted, she was born on July 15, 1918 in Spaldings, Manchester, and is mother to one child, grandmother to another, and great-grandmother to yet another child.

The eldest of 9 children, Mrs. Kensington has witnessed longevity among her maternal relatives, including the first five (5) of her siblings who lived beyond 90 years, and two (2) others, past 80 years.

She was actively engaged in the mission of the UCJCI since age 15, until 7 years ago! Mrs. Kensington became a Sunday School Teacher at the youthful age of 15 at Spaldings Presbyterian Church, until age 32. She also joined the Women's Guild (now called the Women's Fellowship) at age 15, still attended meetings until age 93, and

represented the Guild in the Cayman Region.

Mrs. Elrys Kensington was the second person to become President General of the Women's Guild, serving for 2 years, and remembers her association with the Auxiliary with such fondness and delight! She also continued her dedication to the cause of Christ when she was ordained an Elder at Meadowbrook United Church in 1974, became a member of the High School Board, and later, its Chairman.

Mrs. Kensington also offered committed service as a member of three (3) Synodical Committees: Finance & Property, Education, and the Central Committee of Synod. Further to these involvements, and as a

member of Church Women's United, she was also Coordinator of World Day of Prayer in 1983.

She enjoyed and found these roles and activities meaningful, and demonstrated such strength, tenacity, and diligence, even as she was employed as an Underwriter on a full-time basis. Indeed, she deemed it necessary to create the space to balance her time and activities in order to fulfil a higher calling.

She is currently a member of St. Paul's (Lockett Avenue) United Church, even while living outside of the corporate area. This congregation holds a special place in her heart because of their impactful activities which left an indelible impression on her.

She now spends much of her time writing letters to family and friends who reside overseas – a pastime that she greatly enjoys. She also spends significant amounts of time reading, and even cooks and carries out household chores!



Mrs. Elrys Kensington (second left) with granddaughter Kamla (left), great granddaughter Marley (second right), and daughter Karlene Grace Alexander at her 100th birthday party!

(Continued on Page 2)

CELEBRATIONS!



70:

Rev. Millard Edwards
Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler

August 12

Rev. Euthman Wray
August 13

Mrs. Subrina Dooley
August 14

(Continued from Page 1)

Mrs. Kensington explains that she has had no serious cases of illness throughout her life, and attributes this to her diet of Jamaican foods and green vegetables!

She no longer spends as much time with the Youth, but offers them advice for living well: She admonishes Youth to be focused on where they want to go and who they want to become, and not be involved in areas that do not reflect their Christian faith. She also encourages Youth to see the Church as an important place to be refreshed in preparation for engagement with the wider world. Certainly, these are secrets to her success, and indeed, hers is an example that we can all follow!

We thank God for the rich life of Mrs. Elrys Kensington, and recognize that the UCJCI is a better institution because of her faithful, and fruitful contributions.



Pacesetters Teens Camp 2018!



Camp Girl, Shanice Edwards, being presented with her award by Mr. Mark Jonas, Camp Coordinator



Camp Boy, Jeffrey Andrade being presented with his award by Mrs. Lois Jonas, Camp Coordinator



The Campers learn sign language!



The Winning Family, Missionaries of Christ Arise!

THE UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

United Church in Jamaica & the Caribbean Islands

YOUNG ADULTS CAMP/CONFERENCE 2018

Theme: "# Now is the time... Dweet Fi Christ Dweet Fi Life"

AUGUST 16-19, 2018

MADGE SAUNDERS CONFERENCE CENTER

Ready for TRANSFORMATION? Register today!
Registration forms can be had from any COUNCIL OFFICE, your CHURCH or COUNCIL REP
Payment can be made at the COUNCIL OFFICE or to this NCB account: 231070443
For more information CALL:
Annya Morris - 435-0314, Nichola Daley - 527-8980, Anton Hutchinson - 871-0880

Rates
\$9000 pp - dorm
\$10,000 pp-private
Child 4yrs & under - free
5yrs -12yrs - \$5000
13yrs - \$7000

Rich Worship Experiences

Exciting Children's Activities

Camp Fire

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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Leading Millennials Effectively (Part 1)

Millennials are widely considered to be persons who are between ages 18 and 35 today. However, it is noted that church attendance and impressions of the Church among this group of persons are the lowest in recent history.

We witness significant portions of this age cohort dropping out of Church, with some having an anti-Church stance, believing that the institution does more harm than good. They are becoming the least-likely age group of anyone to attend church.

From **Sam Eaton's** February 2017 article titled, **"59 Percent of Millennials Raised in a Church Have Dropped Out – And They're Trying to Tell Us Why"** posted on **Faithit.com**, we can gather the following lessons on how to effectively lead Millennials in the Church, in such a way that we assist them to become and stay engaged:

Listen to them. Millennials value voice and receptivity above all else. If a Church forges ahead without asking for their input, they believe that nobody cares about what they think. This then leads them to shun serving the institution.

Churches can address this concern by creating regular outlets (fora, surveys, meetings) to discover the needs of young adults both inside and outside, invite millennials to serve on leadership teams or

advisory boards where they can make a difference, and/or hire a young adults pastor who has the desire and skill-set to connect with millennials.

Put all the action necessary behind the vision and mission statements. Ensure that they are not only on paper. While engaging in bible studies, meetings, groups, social functions, and planning meetings, they want to see us caring for the poor. Millennials want us to stop creating more Bible Studies and Christian activity, and instead, engage in community service with a shared purpose.

Try this approach: Survey your members asking them what injustice or cause God has placed on their hearts, then connect people who share similar passions. Create space for them to meet and brainstorm, as well as occasions once a month where anyone can show up and make a difference.

They don't want us to blame the Culture. They are aware of the downfalls of the Culture, because they are living in it, too. Instead, focus on real solutions and impact in your immediate community. Explicitly teach them how their lives should differ from the culture.

Millennials want us to be radically kinder and more compassionate than the world at large, otherwise outsiders will believe that they are better off on their own.

Mr Eaton commented, *"Today, my Mom said to me, 'Church has always felt exclusive and 'cliquey', like high school.' With sadness in her voice she continued, 'and I've never been good at that game so I stopped playing.'"*

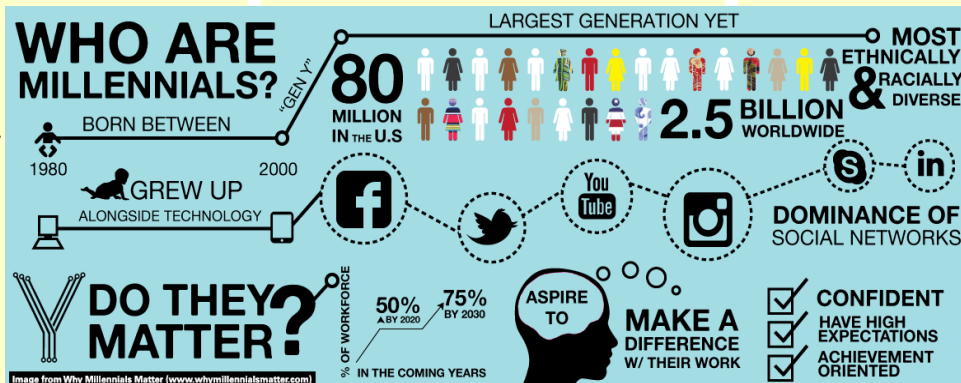
In seeking to address this obstacle, create *authentic* communities with a shared purpose, centred on service. Don't place blame on individuals who struggle to get connected. For some people, especially those who are shy or struggle with anxiety, putting themselves out there even just once might be an overwhelming task. Let's find ways to bridge that gap.

Create and train a team of **CONNECT** people whose purpose is to seek out the outliers on Sunday mornings or during other events. Explicitly teach people these skills as they do not come naturally to many people.

The truth is, it's the Church's move.

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

Source: "59 Percent of Millennials Raised in a Church Have Dropped Out – And They're Trying to Tell Us Why" by Sam Eaton



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