



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"

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PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Bevis Byfield** who is not well
- **Pastors Roger and Michelle Stewart**, as they grieve the loss of their son, **Nyle Stewart**
- **Rev. Ranford Hewitt** who is not well
- **PEACE** in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Volume 4: Issue 8

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Fruitful and Overflowing: International Girls' Brigade at 125 Years!

On Saturday, July 21, 2018, a ten-member Jamaican contingent gathered in Livingstone, Zambia, for the first day of the 12th **International Conference of the Girls' Brigade** (ICGB), held over an eight-day period. This delegation consisted of five (5) Officers, two (2) Youth Representatives, and three (3) Supporters.

The quadrennial conference had as its theme: "Fruitful and Overflowing" based on the Brigade's call and charge to its membership to continuously bear fruits of the "true vine", and also because this year marks the Girls' Brigade's 125th anniversary.

With over 360 participants from 28 countries across five (5) Fellowships, the format of the Conference allowed for many opportunities to have inter-fellowship, and the sharing of ideas and concerns.

The primary topics covered were: **Fruitful Ministry, Understanding the Soil, and Prun-**

ing for Growth.

Rev. Dennis Pethers of Roof-top International encouraged the gathering in **Fruitful Ministry**, emphasizing that a prerequisite for bearing fruit is remembering the enormous love of God towards us that enables us to change lives.

He reminded the group of Jesus' command to "Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:4-5).

He asked and answered, "How do we become fruitful?" By allowing Jesus to transform us so that we become more like Him, and so live our lives among non

-believers so that they question their unbelief. Within the context of the Girls' Brigade mission, he explained that being fruitful also means to be intentional in growing, developing, and moving into new countries and/or churches, for the establishment of new groups.

Under the topic of "Understanding the Soil", **Mrs. Janet Kalale, Lay Preacher of the United Church of Zambia**, challenged the attendees to analyze today's soil, that being, the Generation Z/Post-Millennials/iGeneration/Homeland Generation.

She urged the group to recognize that this is the generation that craves instant gratification, based on their socialization; and encouraged the Brigaders to reflect on what this means for the organization.

However, she posited, once they understand the soil, they should seek to engage with them, give them hope,



Jamaican Officers and Young Leader, from left: Hazel Wright O'Connor, Glenda Prescod, Rev. Verna Cassells (National President), Quindell Ferguson, Cody Ann Pinnock, Ayana Graham, and Celia Lewis at the Conference

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CELEBRATIONS!



70:

Rev. Glenroy Clarke

September 15

UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

NERMC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Presents a

BENEFIT CONCERT

FEATURING

JCF BAND, JCF CHOIR AND OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS

SUN-7TH - OCT-5^{PM}

@ WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
53 HALF WAY TREE ROAD, KGN.

TICKET: \$1000

TICKET

TEL: (876) 837-3369 / 577-6161

\$200 per km

WESTERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL
YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

WALKATHON

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2018
STARTING AT 12:30 PM

5K

FREE PORT ROUND ABOUT
KENT AVENUE (BOTTOM ROAD)
5K FORMS AVAILABLE AT COUNCIL OFFICE

CONTACT (876) 979-0259

International Girls' Brigade at 125 Years!

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convince them of the truth, show them love, and not be discouraged if the results of their seed-planting seem minimal.

The third key area explored was **Pruning for Growth**, led by Mrs. Brenda Muntemba-Sichilembe, Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Nairobi. The presentation surrounded the question of, "Who am I?" based on Mark 8:27, in which Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say I am?"

She asked the group, "What is the image that the Girls' Brigade has?" She suggested that they should be: **Innovative**—Do things in a new way to appeal to new girls; **Masterful**—Be a Master at what they do, and be a winner regardless of the circumstance; **Authentic**—As they change their approach, they should ensure that they remain true to their core beliefs; **Go-Getters**—Keep in mind their own track record, and dare to take on big challenges; **Ethical**—Maintain their standards, teach ethical standards while the girls are young, to enable them to grow into women with sound values.

The Jamaican delegation certainly packed in a full day of fun, visiting the **Livingstone Museum** (the largest and oldest in Zambia), and **Victoria Falls** (one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World), and **Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park**.

Also critical to the Mission was Community Service, through a visit to the Paediatric, Maternity, and Female Wards of the Livingstone Central Hospital. This was done based on the Brigade's four-square programme of meeting the following needs: Spiritual, Physical, Educational, and Community Service.

The event culminated in a showcase of national costumes by representatives of all twenty-eight (28) member countries, who also had the opportunity to experience traditional Zambian culinary and musical culture, and the amazing total lunar eclipse!

The ICGB Conference was indeed, a wonderful opportunity for learning, sharing, and enrichment, and the Jamaican contingent returned refreshed and revitalized to continue their efforts to fulfil the vision of the Girls' Brigade: "Girls' lives transformed, God's world enriched."

AGITATE FOR PEACE

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God - Matthew 5:9

The Thanksgiving Service for Mr. Nyle Stewart will be held on **Saturday, September 29, 2018 at 12 p.m.** at **Greendale United Church**.

Please join the family in cheerful colours, as we celebrate Nyle's Homecoming.

A **Prayer Meeting** will be held at Greendale United Church on **September 27, 2018 at 6 p.m.** Persons desirous of offering tributes will have the opportunity to do so at that time.

For further details, please contact the Greendale United Church Office at 876-749-1737.

LEADERSHIP CORNER

CHARACTER: An Indispensable Quality of a Leader

What makes people want to follow a leader? Why do people reluctantly comply with one leader, while passionately following another the full distance? What separates leadership theorists from successful leaders who lead effectively in the real world? The answer lies in the character qualities of the individual person.

Do you know whether you have what it takes to become a great leader, the kind who attracts people and makes things happen? That's a question each of us must have the courage to honestly ask—and answer—if we want to achieve our real potential and impact lives for the glory of God.

Let's examine an indispensable quality of a Leader. These pointers can help you to recognize, develop, and refine the personal characteristics needed to be a truly effective leader, the kind people *want* to follow.

CHARACTER: How a leader deals with the circumstances of life tells you many things about his or her character. By God's enablement and our yielding to His will, crisis can build character, and it certainly reveals it. Adversity is a crossroads that makes a person choose one or two paths: character or compromise. Every time we choose character, we become stronger, even if that choice brings negative circumstances. The development of our character is at the heart of our development, not just as leaders, but as human beings.

What should we know about Character?

Action is the real indicator of Character. Your character determines who you are. Who you are determines what you see. What you see determines what you do. That's why you can never separate a leader's character from his or her actions.

Talent is a gift, but Character is a

choice. There are some things that we don't have control over in life. We don't get to choose our parents. We don't select the location or circumstances of our birth and upbringing. We don't get to pick our talent or IQ. *But we do choose our Character.* In fact, we create it every time we make choices—to cop out or dig out of a hard situation, to bend the truth or stand under the weight of it, to take the easy money or pay the price.

Character brings lasting success with people. True leadership always involves other people. Followers do not trust leaders whose character they know to be flawed, and they will not continue following them.

Leaders cannot rise above the limitations of their character. Have you ever seen highly talented people suddenly fall apart when they achieved a certain level of success? The key to that phenomenon is *Character*. Author Steven Berglas says that people who achieve great heights but lack the bedrock character to sustain them through the stress, are headed for disaster. It is a terrible price to pay for weak character.

If you have found yourself being sucked in by this hindrance to fulsome living, remember that unaddressed cracks in character only get deeper and more destructive with time. Ask yourself whether your words and actions match—all the time. *When you say you'll finish an assignment, do you always follow through? If you tell your children that you'll make it to their ball game or recital, are you there for it? Can people trust your handshake as they would a legal contract?* As you lead others at home, at work, and in the community, recognize that your character is your most important asset.

To improve your character, do the following:

Prayerfully search for the cracks. Spend some time looking at the major areas of your life (marriage, family, work, service, etc.), and identify anywhere you might have cut corners, compromised, or let people down. Write down every instance you can recall from the past two (2) months.

With God's guidance, look for patterns. Examine the responses that you just wrote down. Is there a particular area where you have a weakness, or do you have a type of problem that keeps surfacing? Detectable patterns will help you diagnose character issues.

With God's courage and strength, face the music. The beginning of character repair comes when we face our flaws, apologize, and deal with the consequences of our actions.

By God's empowerment, rebuild. It's one thing to face up to your past actions. It's another to build a new future. Now that you've identified any areas of weakness, create a plan that will prevent you from making the same mistakes again.

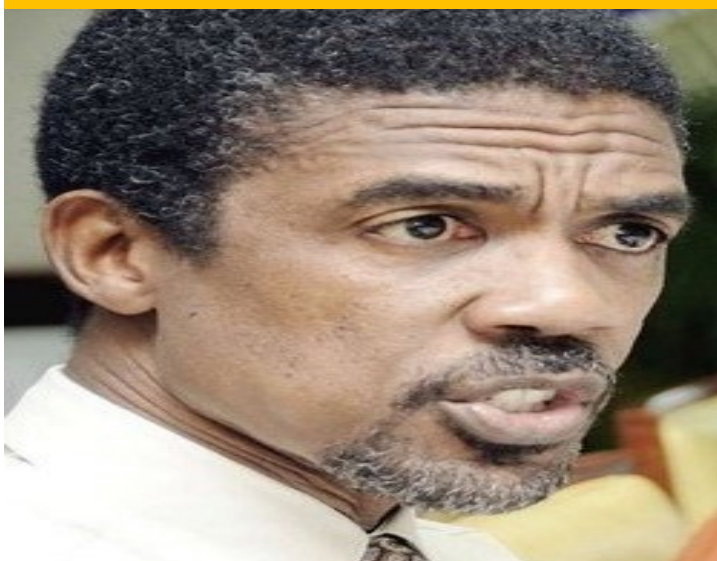
Everything rises and falls on Leadership. Leaders are effective because of who they are on the inside—in the qualities that make them up as people. To fulfill our leadership potential, we have to develop these traits from the inside out. People will then want to follow us, and we will be able to have the desired impact on those around us.

Source: "The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader" by John C. Maxwell



PROFILES OF NOMINEES FOR MODERATOR: 2019-2021

Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans



An ordained Minister of the UCJCI since 1986

Served in **pastoral ministry at St. Andrew Scots Kirk United Church** from 1983 to 1993

Became **Principal of Knox College** in 1994, a post he held for almost twenty (20) years, then **Head of Knox Community College** until his retirement from the institution in 2018

Was awarded the **Diploma in Ministerial Studies** from the United Theological College of the West Indies and **Licentiate in Theology** from the University of the West Indies

Obtained the **Doctor of Ministry degree** from Columbia Theological Seminary and the **Diploma in Education, specializing in Guidance and Counselling** from Church Teachers College

Was awarded the **Bachelor of Science degree in Economics** from the University of the West Indies and a **Master of Commerce degree in Economics** from the University of Melbourne, Australia

Recently served as **Chairman of the Southern Regional Mission Council** and is a **Founding Member of the Inner-City Development Trust**

Member of the National Advisory Council on Disabilities, Caribbean Coordinator of the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network of the World Council of Churches, Founding Member of the Cari-Folk Singers, and Member of the 3D Projects Management Committee

Served as: **Chair of the Synod Committee on Disabilities, the former Education for Ministry & Mission and Strategic Planning Committees, Member of the Finance Committee and Member of the Board of the United Church Mission Enterprise**

Now serves as **Minister of St. Paul's United Church (Lockett Ave.)**

Rev. Gary Harriott



Ordained Minister since 1991

Served in **pastoral ministry at the East End/Gun Bay Charge** in Grand Cayman, **Ebenezer and Webster Memorial United Churches**, and presently on a part-time basis at the **Bryce Charge of United Churches** in Manchester

Served as **Interim Minister for the Shortwood and Lincoln Kirk United Churches**, and the **Denbigh and Lowe River Charges**, and was **Director of Youth Ministries, Chaplaincy and Counselling, and Ministerial Formation** for the UCJCI

Holds **Diplomas in Ministerial Studies** from the Jamaica Bible College and the United Theological College of the West Indies, a **Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology** from the University of the West Indies, a **Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Psychology and Counselling** from St. Stephen's and St. Andrew's College in Canada, in collaboration with the International University of the Caribbean (IUC), Jamaica

General Secretary for the Jamaica Council of Churches since September 2006 and **Secretary for the Jamaica Umbrella Group of Churches** from 2006-2018; **Former Coordinator of the Counselling programme at Webster Memorial's Eden Garden Social Services**, current **Host of the Family Counselling programme on RJR**, **Leader of Noonday Meditation on RJR**, and **Radio Jamaica's Spiritual Advisor**

Lectured on a part-time basis at the International University of the Caribbean, and has **positions on various Boards and Committees**. These include: **Director of The Violence Prevention Alliance**, **Director of LOVE FM**, **Director of the Ecumenical Loan Fund**, **Member of the National Leadership Prayer Breakfast Committee**, **Member of the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical HIV & AIDS Initiative and Advocacy Reference Group**

Member of the General Council of the IUC