



# 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
- Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan's brother, Steve, and daughter, Mona, who are recovering from surgery
- Rev. Rohan Kong's mother, Ms. Audrey Smith, who is not well

# Hope United Church: VBS with the Jamaica Association for the Deaf

For the third consecutive year, Hope United Church's Vacation Bible School (VBS) has been held in conjunction with the Jamaica Association for the Deaf (JAD), and it has reaped the rewards of renewal and inspiration by both the children and volunteers. This year's event was held from July 23-27, 2018.

The theme for VBS 2018 across the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands was: "Incredible Me: Up Like Heaven". This reinforced the truth that our children are special because they have been made by the Creative God of Love and Beauty.

Attending, were sixty (60) children and thirty-nine (39) volunteers, with participants being transported from as far

as Linstead, St. Catherine, through the kind sponsorship of the JMMB Foundation.

The tireless preparations by the Hope United team ensured an impactful event! They engaged in training sessions, developed and discussed the daily lessons in order to ensure that the assigned teachers understood the biblical concept underpinning the theme. Also critical was their work in delivering the bible stories in an interesting way to both the hearing-impaired and hearing.

Visiting student, Mr. Paul Essah, from the Columbia Theological Seminary, Georgia, delivered the devotional exercises. Indeed, his enlightening stories were enhanced by special videos with sign language content.

Throughout the week, the teachers and volunteers worked hard to ensure that a primary objective was met: That of creating the right environment in which the hearing-impaired and hearing could work together in all activities, thus fostering greater integration.

Besides the fun art classes, sporting activities, concert, prize-giving exercise, and bible studies, many of the children came away with a greater sensitization to, and appreciation of, the needs of the disabled community, while both groups had another opportunity for further adaptation based on the environment and its attendant requirements. In this respect, it was indeed a life-enhancing experience for all. To God be the glory.



Participants at Hope United Church's VBS 2018

# CELEBRATIONS!



70:

**Rev. Henley Bernard**

**Mrs. Norma Smellie**

**September 20**

**Rev. Kraig DeLeon-Diedrick**

**September 21**

**Mr. Alja Dias**

**September 24**

**Rev. Ashley Smith**

**September 25**

**NERMC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**  
*Presents a*  
**BENEFIT CONCERT**

**FEATURING**  
**JCF BAND, JCF CHOIR**  
 AND  
**OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS**

**SUN-7<sup>TH</sup>-OCT-5PM**

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

**TICKET: \$1000**

# TICKET

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

# UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

**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.

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands  
**MT. OLIVET UNITED CHURCH**  
 PRESENTS

**OLE-TIME SINTING**

Culture, music, Games, and food

**No. 836**  
 On sale -side orders  
 Manish water  
 Ackee & Saltfish  
 Blue Drawers  
 Jerk chicken & pork  
 And other baked products

**Menu**  
 Curried Goat  
 Escovitched Fish  
 Fried Chicken  
 Baked Chicken  
 Stew pork  
**Cost: \$600**

**No. 836**  
**HEROES DAY**  
**Monday**  
**15 October**  
 2018  
 From 10am-6pm

**Venue:**  
**@Knox Cobbla Campus**

**Additional Attractions:**  
 Cultural concert, and other surprises  
 Adults: \$200 Children: \$100, Quadrille  
 Proceeds in Aid of church Building fund.

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH**  
*Presents*  
**Ignite**  
**LET THE PRAISE ARISE**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2018**  
 WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH  
 53 HALF WAY TREE ROAD, KINGSTON

**5PM**

**FEATURING**  
 St. John's United Dance Ministry, Brittanya & Friends  
 Webster Memorial United Choir, Mordeki (Digicel Rising Star Top Ten Finalist)  
 Adeoluwa Adeoye (JCDC Top Ten Gospel Finalist 2018)  
 Joelle Notice (JCDC Top Ten Gospel Finalist 2018)  
 and many more!

**TICKETS \$700**

Send comments and news about your congregation to: [ucjciupdate@gmail.com](mailto:ucjciupdate@gmail.com)

## LEADERSHIP CORNER

### Focus: An Essential Quality of a Leader

*"If you chase two rabbits, both will escape." (Unknown)*

**Focus:** The sharper it is, the sharper you are. *What does it take to have the focus required to be a truly effective leader?* The keys are priorities and concentration. A leader who knows his priorities but lacks concentration knows what to do but never gets it done. If he or she has concentration but no priorities, he has excellence without progress. But when he or she harnesses both, therein lies the potential to achieve great things.

So the important question is: *"How should you focus your time and energy?"* Use these guidelines to help you:

#### **FOCUS 70% ON STRENGTHS.**

Effective leaders who reach their potential spend more time focusing on what they do well than on what they do wrong. To be successful, focus on your strengths and develop them. That's where you should pour your time, energy, and resources.

#### **FOCUS 25% ON NEW THINGS.**

Growth equals change. If you want to get better, you have to keep changing and improving. That means stepping out into new areas. If you dedicate time to new things related to areas of strength, then you'll grow as a leader. Don't forget: In leadership, if you're through growing, you're through.

#### **FOCUS 5% ON AREAS OF WEAKNESS.**

Nobody can entirely avoid working in areas of weak-

ness. The key is to minimize it as much as possible, and leaders can do it by delegating.

How would you rate yourself in the area of Focus? Have you been majoring in minor things? Have you spent so much time shoring up your weaknesses that you've failed to build up your strengths? To get back on track with your focus, do these things:

*Work on yourself.* You are your greatest asset or detriment.

*Work at your priorities.* You will have to fight for them.

*Work in your strengths.* You can reach your potential.

*Work with your contemporaries.* You can't be effective alone.

To improve your Focus, do the following:

#### **SHIFT TO STRENGTHS.**

Make a list of three or four things you do well in your job. What percentage of your time do you spend doing them? What percentage of your resources is dedicated to these areas of strength? Devise a plan to make changes, allowing you to dedicate 70% of your time to your strengths.

#### **STAFF YOUR WEAKNESSES.**

Identify three or four activities necessary for your job that you don't do well. Determine how you can delegate the job to others. Will it require hiring staff? Can you partner with a co-worker to

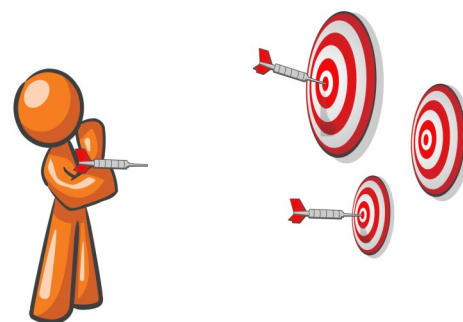
share responsibilities? Develop a plan.

**CREATE AN EDGE.** Now that you've looked at priorities, think about concentration. What would it take for you to go to the next level in your main area of strength? What new tools do you need? Rethink how you do things, and be willing to make sacrifices. Time and money spent to take you to the next level are important investments to make.

Experienced animal trainers take a stool with them when they step into a cage with a lion. Why a stool? It tames a lion better than anything else. When the trainer holds the stool with the legs extended toward the lion's face, the animal tries to focus on all four legs at once, and that paralyzes him. Divided focus always works against us.

We cannot hit our target without focus, and this essential quality of a leader is not outside of our reach. It can be developed through diligent practise.

*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**