



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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Congregational Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian

PRINGLE HOME CELEBRATES ITS 94TH

12, Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10. Tel: 926-8734, email: synod@ucjci.com. Website: www.ucjci.com

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

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PRAY FOR:



- *Rev. Dr. Clinton Smith (UWI),*
- Mrs. Doris Longmore (UWI)*
- *Rev. Stottrel Lowe,*
- *Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler.*
- *Rev. Ashley Smith,*
- *Rev. Garwell Bacchas who lost his brother.*



The UCJCI logo firmly affixed on one side of the gateway, identifies it is ours, a Home for Children, which is owned and managed by the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. In September 2016, it celebrated its **94-year anniversary**, marking it as the oldest privately-owned and managed "Home" for Children in Jamaica!

Located in a remote mountainous section of Carron Hall, St. Mary, Jamaica, children come to Pringle Home from situations of neglect and abuse, most having no family refer-

ence.

The Pringle Home provides accommodation and support for these abandoned, orphaned, and street children. Among the services offered are education, recreation, employment training, and worship services.

Under the current management of the newly appointed Director, **Miss. Veronica Jackson**, who was formerly Assistant Director, Pringle, was Home to some 28 to 31 children during the 2016, Anniversary year.

Anniversary Celebrations included a **Prayer Breakfast, a Fun Day and a Thanksgiving Service** held September 11,

Several past residents of the Home, both locally and abroad were in attendance. **A luncheon, sponsored by the past residents, was held after the service.**

They also presented a chiming clock to the Home, replacing the one which was there during their time.

Residents of the Home who are currently mainly girls, are engaged in self-help projects; operating a Farm which is on the property. **Recently resuscitated, the Farm enables the Home to be self-sufficient for farm products produced such as potatoes, chickens, pigs and goats.**



70:

- Ms. Heather Thompson & Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans
– April 13
- Pastor William Chirwa
– April 14.

PRINGLE at 94.

Excess farm products are sold.

HELP RECEIVED

A number of organizations both within the United Church and outside, continue to take an interest in the Home.

Assistance has been received from the

● **Women's Fellowship, the Young Adults' Action Movement of NERMC** as well as a number of Congregations from both Jamaica and Cayman.

● **The Yohan Blake Foundation** has done repairs to one of the water tanks, has paved the playing area and put in playing equipment. Through the Foundation, sessions are being held with the residents, in sports, dance and therapy. This is coordinated by **Ms. Regina Beavers, a former Miss World Beauty Queen.**

● **The Joseph Foundation, USA,** has replaced the roof on the main building.

● **The Whitehall Foundation** is supporting two residents with educational costs while, **Ace International** is supporting one child with clothing and transportation to school.

● **Other entities** visiting over the Anniversary year have also included the **Port St. Lucie Worship Centre (Florida, USA), St. Mary Chapter**

of Senior Citizens' Association, the New Apostolic Church, Guy's Hill, Christian Services International, Scotia Bank - Pt. Maria and Ocho Rios; Child Development Agency - St. Ann and St. Mary; National Youth Service - St. Ann and St. Mary; Chesterfield SDA - St. Catherine.

With the support of several stakeholders, the Home broke ground for a computer lab to facilitate computer literacy, and the acquisition of functional job training skills for the residents. Help is required to support this project so that its objectives will be met and sustained to the benefit of the students.

ACHIEVEMENTS

We celebrate however, that most of the children continue to do well in school. The report for 2015 shows that ten residents were placed between 1st and 10th in their classes at the Carron Hall and Guy's Hill High Schools. A special function was held at the Home for them in celebration of their success.

Two of our residents each sat four subjects at the CSEC level. Both were each successful in two subjects. One, was successful in the Grade Nine Achievement Test and was placed at the Guy's Hill High School.

Nine were trained as student leaders at the Carron Hall High School where they are serving in the roles of Peer Counsellors, Student Council Representatives, Form Captains and Assistant Prefects.

Two residents participated in the St. Mary Fire Brigade Quiz representing Carron Hall High School. They were placed third in the parish.

NEED

As the Home gives well-advised emphasis on the educational needs of its residents, it has identified the need for a bus to transport those who must often walk alone for miles to the closest school.

ENCOURAGE YOUR
CONGREGATION TO:
**SUPPORT THE UCJCI'S
PRINGLE HOME!**

40th SYNOD BRIEFS

■ DID YOU KNOW THAT THE 2017-2020 Synodical Theme:

"Renewal and Transformation: Discipleship for Life," has been accepted for the next Synodical period?

It was also agreed that we engage a four-year process for education, resourcing and implementation of our themes in ensuing years as follows:

- Year 1— **Education and Resourcing**
- Years 2-4— **Implementation**

This will be undergirded by a clear communication strategy which would involve all the existing channels as well as additional one to ensure clarity and engagement within the church.

Suggested quarterly themes for the three year cycle beginning in 2018 (theme promoted and resourced in 2017) are as follows:

- *Evangelist, Mission, Advocate, Care-giver,*
- *Cost, Steward, Fellowship, Youth and Children,*
- *Worship, Word, Family, Spiritual .*

■ Evaluation of the RDGSs and General Secretary

The evaluation of the General Secretary took place in November 2016. The evaluation of the RDGSs were conducted and the findings presented to Central Mission Council (CMC), in March 2017.

■ **Our Finances:** *Despite that fact that both Jamaica and the Cayman Islands have had significant financial challenges over the last two years which continue to impact giving among the congregations, we celebrate the high compliance rate of dues of over 90% in 2016.*

The ministers, pastors and congregations must be commended for their efforts towards this end.