



UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH
IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Volume 5: Issue 45

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Congregational
Disciples of Christ
Presbyterian

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

SYNODICAL THEME:
"Renewal and Transfor-
mation: Discipleship for
Life"

The Chetolah Mel Nathan Education Centre Gains Ground

Built by The Scott Foundation in 1994, in collaboration with then Minister of St. John's United Church, Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans, and his team, the UCJCI's Mel Nathan Preparatory School (the first inner city preparatory school in Jamaica) merged, on September 1, 2018, with Chetolah Park Infant and Primary School, to become The Chetolah Mel Nathan Education Centre, and the institution beams with promise!

of approximately 180 received mainly from Hannah Town, Denham Town, Torrington Park and Fletcher's Land; and twelve (12) teachers, the ethos of the merged school continues to find its premise in biblical precepts. Its core values: *Safety, Unity, Respect, and Responsibility* guide all practices at the institution—the daily reinforcement of which have resulted in improved outcomes for the children, who are more settled, with improvements in passes in external examinations.

school for holistic development. The children are involved in the Kiwanis' Builders Club, Cub Scouts and Girl Guides, weekly devotions led by a representative of St. John's United Church, advanced teaching methodologies such as Mimeo Technology for interactive learning, the use of smartboards, and occasional social trips.

This school is special because of the dedicated team, who operate as a family unit, well involved in the community, as a light of hope. (Continued on Page 2)

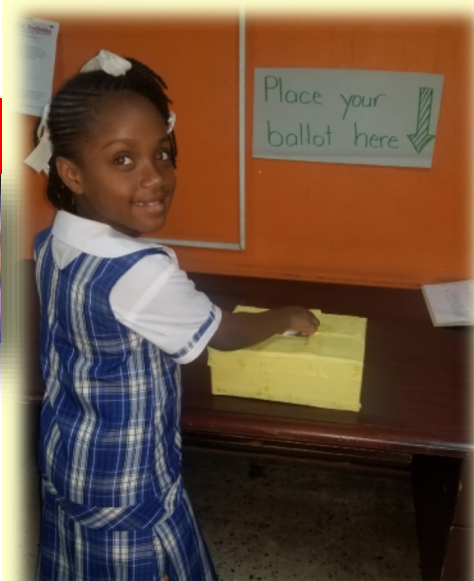
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PRAY FOR:



- The people of Haiti and the Bahamas



A student votes for Head Boy and Head Girl



Students on their trip to Seville Great House

CELEBRATIONS! The Chetolah Mel Nathan Education Centre



70:

Miss Laurel-Ann Livingston
Rev. Bryan Stone
November 19

Rev. Garwell Bacchas celebrated **40 years in ministry** on November 11, 2019!! Thank you for your faithful service, Rev. May God continually bless you.



(Continued from Page 1)

Seeking to be a needs-meeting institution, a **Special Education Unit** was built by the Digicel Foundation for children with learning disabilities, and the administration now seeks a Special Education Teacher to underpin this initiative. *Differentiated learning* is also practised at the school, which assists in developing the children's individual skills. All of the initiatives are undergirded by a structured professional development programme for the staff, who are engaged in such every Thursday. Environmental stewardship is also a pillar of the operations of the school, with special environmental wardens in place to assist in keeping this a focal point.

A tremendously significant event held recently at the institution, was the election of a head boy and head girl, replete with an *actual polling station!* Yes, the children are being prepared to function in a democratic society.

Further, through the initiative of **Mr. Joscelyn Jolly**, board member, **Elder at Meadowbrook United Church**, and member of the **Rotary Club**, the Club has hosted a health fair at the school, with a full dental clinic and seven (7) doctors, who met a range of medical needs of the students, staff, and members of the community. Back to School supplies were also given to students at the event!

Indeed, while the school gains ground, challenges persist. The school is in need of economic support, as the parents are of minimal financial means. They face the hurdle of water shortage, lack of Internet access, and are in need of general teaching and learning aids as well as male mentors. While the students have been able to enter external competitions and events, the cost has often proven prohibitive.

Notwithstanding, the staff and students persevere, the latter showing potential for tremendous personal progress, partly proven through the results of their entrance into the **Kiwanis** speech competition in May 2019, where they placed first, second, and third in several categories.

We celebrate the work of **Mrs. Tamara Steele-Rowe**, the school's **Principal** and member of **Shortwood United Church**, and her team, for their hard work, persistence in the face of odds and faith in touching and transforming the lives of these promising children. We give God all the glory!

UCJCI VALUES



In seeking to live out our calling, we particularly value and are committed to:

EVANGELISM: Sharing the story of God's amazing love demonstrated by Jesus Christ in a relevant manner, to those without Christ in our community and beyond (Matthew 28:18-20).



A student showing his inked figure after voting for Head Boy and Head Girl. He is pictured with Mr. David Allen, Chair of the Board.



A student riding a horse on their school trip to Seville Great House

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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Leadership: The Vision Challenge

What would you rather do? See your own vision put into action and come to fruition? Or help others fulfil theirs?

For people who want to lead, the answer is usually the former. Leaders see possibilities and they want to seize them. Most of the time they would rather work to fulfil their own vision than someone else's—unless that other leader's vision is really compelling and captivating. Leading from the middle, however, means that you will be asked to become a champion for a vision other than your own. In fact, the reality is that all the people in an organization other than the top leader are going to be asked to fulfil a vision they didn't generate.

So the natural question is: *How are you going to respond to the Vision Challenge?* Even though your own vision may excite you more than someone else's, to get the opportunity to pursue your own dreams, you will almost certainly have to succeed in achieving the dreams of others.

There are a number of ways people respond when leaders cast vision and attempt to enlist them. The following responses represent a progression, from most negative to most positive.

ATTACK IT—Criticize and Sabotage the Vision. The most common reasons people fail to adopt a worthy vision is: a) they didn't help to create it b) they don't understand it c) they don't agree with it d) they don't know the vision e) they feel unneeded to achieve it f) they aren't ready for it.

IGNORE IT—Do Their Own Thing. They may not attack the vision, but they don't support it either. Instead, they pretend it doesn't exist.

ABANDON IT—Leave the Organization. If the vision violates your principles or doesn't speak to what you value deep down, leaving the organization, may be the appropriate action.

ADAPT TO IT—Find a Way to Align with the Vision. Consider Bret, a middle manager whose job was to provide computer support and data tracking for an organization's training department. Bret was frustrated because he didn't think the job he was asked to do was contributing significantly to the company's vision. Instead of sulking or complaining, he approached his leader to talk about the issue. Together, they discovered how his department might add greater value to the organization by creating systems that use technology to make training faster, more efficient, and more cost-effective. By aligning himself with the vision, Bret not only furthered the mission, added value to the organization, and improved the bottom line, but he also found greater personal fulfilment.

CHAMPION IT—Take the Leader's Vision and Make it a Reality. Vision may begin with one person, but it is accomplished only through the efforts of many people—people who strive to take the vision from *me* to *we*. People who don't accept the vision neither champion it nor transfer it to their followers. As a result, the people

they lead often don't contribute to the overall success of the organization.

ADD VALUE TO IT—The most positive response to a leader's vision is to go beyond championing it and to actually add value to it. At that point, the vision becomes something more.

Consider the team at **EQUIP**, a faith-based non-profit organization that trains leaders. Initially, their strategy was to work in three (3) distinct areas: in academia, in urban areas, and internationally. In 2001 they narrowed their focus and refined the vision, deciding to turn every bit of their attention to training leaders overseas. Everyone on the EQUIP team was a vision champion from the start, but key leaders did even more than champion the vision. They were instrumental in helping the team to recognize the need to focus their attention and try to do *one thing* with total excellence, not three (3) things merely well. What emerged was the Million Leaders Mandate - their attempt to train one million spiritual leaders around the world - goal that they eventually achieved.

Once you have begun to add value to the vision, then you have eliminated the Vision Challenge, because you're no longer championing someone else's vision; you are championing a vision to which you have contributed.

Source: The 360 Degree Leader™ by John C. Maxwell



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and the Cayman Islands

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4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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- WIGMORE FRANCIS

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\$2500**



The Ordination of
Pastor Laddia D. Young
Pastor Alex D. C. Hayden
to the

Ministry of Word & Sacraments

will be held on
Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.
at the **Ridgemount United Church,**
Main Street, Mandeville

"God called some to be...pastors..." Eph.4:11



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