



# 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 Disciples,  
Seeking Transformation  
through Christ"

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

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## PRAY FOR:



Jamaica and Cayman, which have seen 233 and 66 confirmed cases, respectively, of the **coronavirus**; and against the further spread of the disease.

**The local and world economies** which are threatened by the spread of the coronavirus.

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Wednesday, April 22, 2020

## LIFE

# Has the Last Word!!

Sermon delivered on Easter Sunday by Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowsans, Moderator, UCJCI.

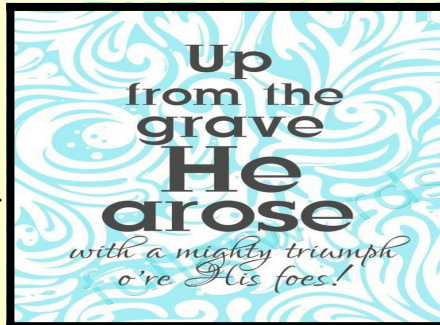
**“The Gospel of Mark’s** account of that first Easter Morning tells us that it was to Mary Magdalene whom our Lord first appeared, when she and others had attended at His tomb to anoint a dead body.

As far as she and those other faithful women were concerned, the horrible experience of the preceding Friday which had ended in Jesus’ death was the end of the matter. They could only now honor Him by ensuring that all the appropriate death rites were observed. He was dead, and death had had the last word.

This reflection today is about this question of the last word. *Who has the last word?* You know how in an argument when countervailing points of view are being posited, each side of the argument may

appear to score points as each develops its arguments. But it is often the last word which is seen to prevail. For that word may just be so compelling that the opposing view is unable to summon up a sufficient retort to regain its footing and prevail.

Picture the small, narrow



room in which the disciples, the men who had followed closely behind Jesus, were huddled on that morning, possibly oblivious to the fact that morning had broken.

I picture a room of gloom, of despondency and despair. I picture these men with a raft of emotions consistent with the last thing they knew: that their leader, in whom they had placed such hope, had been dragged off, humili-

ated, beaten and killed by those who, sadly, they were now willing to conclude, were more powerful than He was.

Their emotions, no doubt, also included their own disappointment in themselves. Incapable, as they had proven themselves, to stand with Him when it mattered, or even maintain the trust within the ranks, as it was now obvious that one of their very own had been the betrayer.

It is not hard to contemplate the direction of some of their deepest thoughts: *what a failure they had been in the face of the unexpected challenge.* Never mind that Jesus had tried to communicate previously about some of these things, they had not quite grasped it, and now, confronted by the spectre of death, in their gloom and despair, death had had the last word. Argument done.

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**CELEBRATIONS!**

70:

**Rev. Obren Thomas****April 22****Rev. Wayne Wisdom****April 23****UCJCI HISTORY**

The journey of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) began as far back as the 1880s, when efforts were made to bring about union between the United Presbyterian Church and Congregational Churches operating in Jamaica.

The first complete step in the process was made on December 1, 1965, when the Presbyterian Church in Jamaica and the Congregational Union of Jamaica became one church: *The United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman*.

**The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands** was later formed, following a historic ceremony held on the grounds of Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica, on **December 13, 1992**. This marked the union of the Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman.

**LIFE Has the Last Word!! (Part 1)***(Continued from Page 1)*

That's the room into which Mary burst with this explosive breaking news. *"He is not dead. He is alive. Yes, I have seen Him, He spoke to me, I am telling you what I know. He has awoken from the dead. He is no longer dead. He is alive."*

Death no longer can claim the last word. The last word belongs to LIFE.

I have a deep sense of how significant this word of Mary on this morning is to you and me, indeed, to a world caught unexpectedly in a condition that can only be described as unprecedented. Doesn't it feel like the whole living, bustling world has been crammed into a small, damp, narrow room? The spectre of death looms in many territories, and in many places, the most valiant human action seems inadequate to stave it off. For many, they see, in this time, a kind of triumph of gloom and doom in which death has the last word.

This is precisely the room into which Mary needs to be permitted to burst, as unexpected as her news may appear to some to be. It is resurrection news - news of the only kind which has any capacity to confront and defy the triumphing death news. Such a resurrection news blast defies the ear-shattering, prevailing death news, while in no way denying what has happened on Friday.

The trials and tribulations have been and are real, and challenge our capacity, like it did the disciples, to hold together in solidarity and brace each other up. Sadly today, at the individual level as well as in many cases at state and corporate levels, selfish goals and desires override the capacity for trust and compassionate concern for the needs of others. It seems to take a long time before we recognize and acknowledge that we are all in the same narrow, small room. We spare more than a passing thought for those who pass from this life even as we speak, and for their families plunged into grief.

In compassion, our hearts embrace you, as we are all in the narrow, small room. So I really want you to hear the news Mary brings on this Easter Day—it is this: *Death does not have the last word.*"

*(To be continued in next week's Issue of the UCJCI Update.)*

The steadfast love of the  
**LORD NEVER CEASES;**  
his **mercies**  
never **come** to an **END**;  
they are new every morning:  
**GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS**

*Isaiah 40:31*

## LEADERSHIP CORNER

### Leadershift from Career to Calling (PART 1)

*"Some wake up to an alarm. Some wake up to a calling." (Unknown)*

**H**ow do you currently think about what you do for a living? Think about which best describes you.

**YOU DO A JOB.** When you have a job, your main goal is often to earn a living and support your family. You may not think beyond the time you spend on the clock. You may do your work with excellence or you may simply mark time, but either way, when you finish your day or your shift, you walk away and don't think about it. Satisfaction and fulfillment for people who may have a job-only mind-set comes from activities outside of work. And while people in this group may hope to advance, they don't think in terms of a strategy of career building.

**YOU BUILD A CAREER.** Most people would acknowledge that it's a step forward to think in terms of developing a career rather than just holding a job. When you have a career, the implication is that you are headed in a direction. You're making progress, attaining positive achievements. An upward trajectory of skill mastery, larger responsibilities, and greater earnings are all marks of a successful career.

**YOU FULFILL YOUR CALLING.** Frederick Buechner said that our purpose is at *"that place where your deep gladness meets the world's deep need."* Your calling, when you find and embrace it, will result in the merging of your skills, talents, character traits, and experiences. It will make use of your experience, your gifts, and the lessons you've learned.

It will be represented by a deep desire to create, lead, inspire, and make a difference. Take a look at the difference between a career and a calling:

A *career* is mainly about you. A *calling* is mainly about others.

A *career* is something you choose. A *calling* is something chosen for you. With a *career*, you are separated from your best life. A *calling* is integrated into your entire life.

With a *career*, you can take it or leave it. A *calling* never leaves you.

A *career* is something you can do. A *calling* is something you must do.

A *career* is measured by success. A *calling* is measured by significance.

*Wouldn't you like to find and fulfill a calling that makes a difference and gets you excited every day for the rest of your life?* Finding your calling is like finding your *why*—the reason you exist, your purpose for living.

Christ's followers are in this world to be *salt and light*. Salt makes things better. Light makes things brighter.

There is also often a specific calling—a compulsion to do something unique. Here God calls people to Himself and to a cause so decisively that everything they are, everything they do, and everything they have is invested for Him in that cause.

You have a purpose in life, and you can receive a sense of calling. Your calling can give you a fruitful and fulfilling life, one that fills you with passion and motivates you to make a difference. When it is your calling, you won't have to chase it. You

will be *captivated* by it.

Here is how to understand your calling so that you can find yours, if you haven't already done so.

#### YOUR CALLING MATCHES WHO YOU ARE.

No one has ever been called to do something that he or she wasn't suited for. *Calling* always matches who you are. For that reason, it's important for you to be self-aware as you stay attentive to finding your calling. Here are some questions that can help you to think about your calling:

*If you could do one thing for the rest of your life, even if you never got paid for it, what would you do?*

What do people often ask for your help with?

*What experiences have you had that you desire to help others with?*

What lights you up?

*What do you love learning about?*

What could you talk about for hours and hours?

*What activities are you always self-motivated to do?*

What can you do to make a difference in the lives of others?

*What would you like to do that would live beyond you?*

That calling you receive often taps into not just one or two of these things, but *all* of them.

Source: "Leadershift" by John C. Maxwell

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

do you have a job, a career, or a calling?



# COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS FEATURE

UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19  
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

**Individual Prayer:**  
**Every Wednesday**  
**from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.**

(2 Timothy 1:7)

## POINTS FOR PRAYER

- \* A stop to the spread of the disease.
- \* Those who are infected with the disease.
- \* That all persons will take this matter seriously, and responsibly take the necessary precautions.
- \* Our healthcare systems and workers who are on the frontlines.
- \* All elderly persons and those with comorbidities.
- \* The needy and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- \* Our local and world economies.



///CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



///CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

## HOW WILL I KNOW IF I'M INFECTED?

If you find yourself experiencing these symptoms you may be infected. The symptoms are:



**COUGHING**



**FEVER**



**SHORTNESS OF BREATH**



You may also be infected if you have a travel history of going to an infected area. This would be considered as a case of imported coronavirus.



If you come in close with an infected person you may also become infected. This is called local transmission.

If you are experiencing symptoms  
please call 888-ONE-LOVE (663-5683).