



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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Presbyterian

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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 364 and 73 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.

LIFE Has the Last Word! (Part 2)

In his Easter Sunday message, the Moderator of the UCJCI, Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans, zeroed in on the impact of the Resurrection news brought by the disciples, broken and cloistered in fear and despondency. It is news powerful enough to challenge us in a time of unprecedented pandemic. His conclusion follows:

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ cannot and must not be taken lightly. It is no light matter. It is the news of Resurrection that energized the disciples to leave that cold, dreary narrow room to confront life again with vigour.

Confused, depressed and hopeless, the disciples were to be changed by the knowledge of His resurrection, into confident, fearless, heroic preachers of the Gospel of Christ. Indeed, it is the news on which the church was initiated and has striven now

for two millennia, becoming, in challenging, even hostile circumstances, this determined band seeking to faithfully proclaim the truth.

The death of their leader had left them despondent, disilluminated, near despair. However, his resurrection

knowledge of it has had on His followers. Such has been, and is, to this day the power of the Resurrection.

Whatever you have thought before now (and I know that this reflection may be read by some who are not yet Christians), today I want you to contemplate the power that was released in the Resurrection news that gushed forth from Mary that first Easter Morning.

It is not the easiest thing to believe. If you find it difficult to believe, then consider yourself to be in good company because the disciples did not believe either, at first. The text tells us that. So faith does not come easy. In fact, faith is the capacity to accept the incredible. As Hebrew 11 vs. 1 puts it: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen".

(Continued on Page 2)

"He is not here
**FOR HE
HAS RISEN**
just as he said"

Matthew 28:6

was to make them engage with power, in faith, to unleash a mighty spiritual force which, generation after generation, has gripped millions, transformed individuals' lives and changed the course of history.

Perhaps the most compelling evidence of His resurrection is the impact the

CELEBRATIONS!



70:

Rev. Dr. Elsa Clarke

April 30

Miss Lesley Hare

May 2

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 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

You, too, can accept incredible things. When you think about it, if someone had told you six months ago that the world as we knew it then would look the way it looks now, we would think: *Incredible!* Every one of us has come to accept the reality of a pandemic like we have never before imagined and like none in living memory.

Well, faith is similar, in the sense that it enables you and me to come to accept a reality before we see and experience it. This is what the Scripture means when it is said in Romans 10 vs. 17: *"So then, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God"*. I am speaking today because I want you to hear the Resurrection Word of God like you have never heard it before. This is the experience I deeply desire that you would have this Easter Day, that as the wrenching question which surfaces: *Is there life after death? Is there life after Corona? Is there light beyond this darkness?* By faith, you too can declare a resounding, *"Yes!"* And like the disciples, when you come face to face with the reality of the Resurrection, you discover that not only is there life after death, there is life *before* death.

Jesus' resurrection is a release from the tyranny of death for each and every one of us. In faith, you receive this release of which Hebrews 2:14-15 speaks so eloquently, *"He, through death, destroys him who had the power of death - that is, the devil—and delivers them, who through fear of death, were all their lifetime subject to bondage."* *There is no darker, more cramped room than that of the fear of death.*

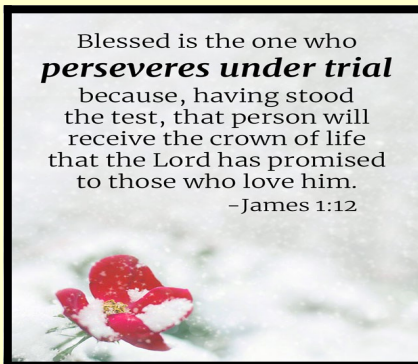
Death's most piercing sting is the fear of it. See how Jesus' resurrection released the disciples from the fear of it, and freed them from that damp, dark room to blossom and bloom, to flourish in life.

Jesus' resurrection taught the disciples, and confirmed for them, that death is something that happens in life, not something that happens *to* life. Death is not meant to have dominion over life. Life is meant to be lived, and lived through death into the glorious resurrection hope, of which no one says it better than Jesus. The breaking news is that *He is alive*. Wrest the argument out of the bowels of death today, and for the rest of your own life, give life the last word. Believe the word that Mary brought. It is this same Jesus, the Christ, who is determined to help you live through this coronavirus pandemic and entice you to use your life on earth, however long that might be post-corona, to help someone else to live and thrive. Begin the Resurrection life now, for in Christ there is life before death and the argument is closed. *Hallelujah*.

Blessed is the one who
perseveres under trial

because, having stood
the test, that person will
receive the crown of life
that the Lord has promised
to those who love him.

—James 1:12



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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Leadershift from Career to Calling (PART 2)

A calling lifts our hearts and expands our options. It can make even the mundane meaningful.

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.

YOUR CALLING TAPS INTO YOUR PASSION. Impacting the world is hard. If you lack passion for the call, your energy will fizzle out. You should use the sleepless night test for this one. *Is there a cause you want to pursue that is consuming you so much that you can't sleep at night?* That's a sign that you might be called to it. Howard Thurman said, *"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."*

Passion is a great driver toward calling. If you're not sure about where your passion lies, ask yourself some of these questions:

How do my strengths fuel my passion?
What experiences inform my passion?
What opportunities align with my passion?
How does what I love to do point to my passion?
How does what I do well contribute to my passion?
How does what others say point to my passion?
How does my history of success coincide with my passion?

Where does my desire to grow increase my passion?

Talents, skills, experience, and opportunities all align with calling, but *passion provides the fuel to pursue your calling.*

YOUR CALLING IS IMPORTANT TO YOU, BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU. A true calling is never about the person being called. It's about helping others. A calling moves us from the centre of everything in our world to becoming the channel through which good things come to others. As Nelson Mandela said, *"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."* When you're called, you have an important role to play, but it's never about you.

Significance come from making a difference with others wherever you are, with whatever you have, day by day. In other words, significance means giving beyond yourself, serving beyond yourself, thinking beyond yourself, loving beyond yourself, and seeing beyond yourself. What do all these things have in common? They require you to live beyond *yourself*.

YOUR CALLING IS BIGGER THAN YOU. A calling always involves something that feels big, something that's bigger than you are. It may intimidate you. It may even seem impossible. Yet you feel compelled to go out of your comfort zone to fulfil it. You are willing to stretch to complete it. You keep moving forward despite the odds. We were meant for more than simply doing work or building careers. We were made for significance—for making a difference.

YOUR CALLING CHANGES YOUR PERSPECTIVE. Having a calling makes you see your world differently. Where you once saw only obligations and responsibilities, you will begin to see options and opportunities. No longer will you be focused on the tasks you are required to do. A new world will open up to you of things you *want* to do. Take a look at the difference between the two perspectives:

The *responsibility perspective* feels heavy. The *opportunity perspective* feels light and exciting. The *responsibility perspective* is a burden. The *opportunity perspective* is a privilege. The *responsibility perspective* consumes energy. The *opportunity perspective* creates energy. The *responsibility perspective* can seem meaningless and rote. The *opportunity perspective* feels purposeful and meaningful. The *responsibility perspective* is driven by a sense of duty. The *opportunity perspective* is driven by a sense of optimism. The *responsibility perspective* is that it is something we have to do. The *opportunity perspective* is that it is something we want to do. The *responsibility perspective* leads to routine and repetition. The *opportunity perspective* inspires creativity.

A calling drastically changes our perspective for the better.

Source: "Leadershift" by John C. Maxwell

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



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.



A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING



You may miss going out for dinner or socializing with friends but staying home is the safer and smarter plan!

Limit who you interact with in person to
**#BreakTheChain of
#COVID19 transmission.**

Being on the frontline of the #COVID19 response can cause unnecessary stigma even from family, friends and other health workers. This can be very distressing.

Talk to your supervisors and colleagues about your experience. They may have experienced the same and you can support each other.