

UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

> Congregational Disciples of Christ Presbyterian

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10

Tel: 926-8734 E-mail: synod@ucjci.com Website: www.ucjci.com

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

SYNODICAL THEME:

"Renewal and Transformation: Discipleship for Life"

IN THIS ISSUE

The Value of Unrelenting Faith

UCJCI Officers

Leadership Corner 3

COVID-19 Feature 4

PRAY FOR:



coronavirus; against the spread of the disease.

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

Volume 6: Issue 19

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

The Value of **Unrelenting Faith**

to wonder and to ponder: parents or the child's sin. beings at this time?"

The answer, I believe, m y friends, is summed up in our story today. This story about a man, in John 9, who gave away the best thing he had - his

To find out God's intent, we must

Jamaica and Cayman, this story. A family had a with scorn. which have seen 529 child and took great pleas-

66 In this most difficult healed the child, and the child mine what can become of time of living with, and sang praises to God. It quick- us. God is looking at how surviving the impact of ly contradicted the belief that our lives can be an inspirathe coronavirus, we are left illness came because of the tion to someone else.

in this time?" "How do I serve God, and in serving God, serve my fellow human beings?" "What is the most precious thing that I can offer to God and my fellow human beings at this time?"

The Jews had a belief that healed, caused the haton to once a person was born with suddenly realize that Yah-a disability, somebody had weh, God, was acting sinned. However, God used through Jesus. God was the situation to point out that present in their nation. He, disabilities and deformities God, had appeared, and was are only biological. Such per-appearing before all, and

The blind man, in being "How do we give of our best. The Jews had a belief that healed, caused the nation to

> His action was there for all to see. God's functioning was new and different, and the same God is now working amongst people, touching people, and caring for people individually.

The blind man then walked with surer steps.

his walking. were not outstretched, and 111 confirmed cas- ure in the birth of the child. God uses the man's healing checking the space as he

(Continued on Page 2)



take a very close look at sons should not be treated was not being tentative in

es, respectively, of the The child was born blind to point out that God acts in moved about. and would require great our lives and makes us over- no stick-tapping to check further assistance throughout its comers. What is important is the surface of the space in that, in this hour, we allow which he was. Instead, he God to touch us and to shape walked with firm surety. Society said that, because us. God is opening our eyes Through this, my friends, the child was born blind, to what is around us, for us to God created a moment of somebody had sinned. Yet, embrace change. We should glorification. when the child was old not allow the negative ways enough, Jesus came and we view ourselves to deter-

UCJCI UPDATE Page 2



Rev. Raymond Coke Rev. L. Christopher Mason **May 20** Rev. Lembe Sivile **May 22**

UCJCI OFFICERS

The Moderator presides over the Synod, declares the decisions of the court, preserves order, provides spiritual leadership for the ator also provides pastoral care for ordained clergy, lay pastors, persons in training, and full-time commissioned/installed workers.

tions of the Church in matters relating to communication, recruitment, training and conditions of He/She supervises and service. monitors the programmes of the beings. regional mission councils, while staff.

The Regional Deputy General Secretaries manage the day-tothe co-ordination of Synod Committees and establishing and maintaining an efficient communication system.

The Value of Unrelenting Faith

(Continued from Page 1)

You see, his neighbours all noticed that a change had occurred. They realized that this former dependent person was no longer dependent. He was not in front of the crowd seeking alms. No. He was moving with the intent to do what he could not do before. God created the moment for him to tell the leaders and his community that God was there and acting among them. Yes, God sent Jesus into the world to act, and to act decisively, in God's favour.

Jesus, in putting mud on the man's eyes, created a moment for God's glory. The passage says, "I went to the pool of Siloam and washed my eyes, and when I was finished, I could see." What came next, my friends, is what God wants all to ask. Where is He? Where is Jesus? Where can I find Jesus that I can get this kind of relationship with God?

The questions, my friends, created the opportunity for the former blind man to re-tell the story. God was glorified. People had to acknowledge that Jesus is from God.

Some of us, during this Coronavirus pandemic, will have our moments to experience Jesus. We will be like the blind man and recover from COVID-19 or some other disease. Use it to cause someone to come to God and give God glory. Use it to cause someone to acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Use Church, and represents the Church it to cause someone to ask you, "Where is He?" Use it my friends, during this at both ecumenical and national time, to enable someone to make a drastic change in their life, in the same way occasions. In addition, the Moder- that God is making a drastic change in your life. Use it to give God glory. You can do so because of your unrelenting faith.

The blind man was placed in an awkward position to defend God in Jesus Christ based on one action. "Jesus put mud on my eyes." Having placed the mud, He walked off and told the man to go and wash. With this simple act, my friends, the man was healed. When the man came back, Jesus was not to be The General Secretary is respon- found, but he knew that it was Jesus who had healed him. From this action, he sible for the administrative func- had to defend God in Jesus, as the Messiah. He had to show that, irrespective of what they said, he was going to keep his faith in Jesus.

> In this time of COVID-19, we have to hold on to our faith, no matter what. We must hold on to it because it is the most precious thing we have. We must hold on to it because it is the only thing that we can give to our fellow human

also supervising the administrative This great faith in God will cause us to do something to help our neighbor who is in need. This faith in God will cause us to break down any discrimination against those who have suffered from the disease, as well as healthcare workers. This great faith in God will cause us to endure whatever is being thrown at us in this time, and cause our fellow citizens to bear on as well.

day affairs of the Regional Mission Our unrelenting faith will cause everyone to realize that it is only in God that Councils, organizing, coordinating they can, and will, overcome COVID-19. It might be awkward at times. We and enabling activities and the use might even seem downright foolish. People will question everything we do of material resources, assisting in and wonder if we have lost all our marbles, but my friends, hold on to God anyway, and defend God and defend your faith in Him with fervour. Talk about all you are experiencing in God, anyway. Then watch God prove to the world that you have shared with them your most precious faith. Amen.

> Contributed by Rev. Nigel Pusey, Minister of Boulevard/Pretoria Road Charge of United Churches. This reflection was offered on our United in Faith Programme on May 10, 2020.

Page 3 UCJCI UPDATE

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Avoid Office Politics

politician arrived late for a speaking engagement where he was scheduled as the keynote speaker. Usually he did his homework on the area and the organization, but because of his busy schedule, he had not been able to do it. He was rushed in as the attendees were finishing their dessert and taken immediately to the podium without having the chance to speak to anyone.

When he was introduced to the crowd, there was nothing he could do but dive in. With the bright lights shining in his eyes, he immediately launched into one of the main issues of the campaign and spoke at length. When he paused for a moment, the gentleman who had introduced him whispered that the group to whom he was speaking was on the opposite side of the issue.

Without missing a beat, the politician said, "My friends. Now that I have explained the opposition's position in great detail, I will tell you the truth." Some people seeking public office may be able to get away with such tactics—though usually it backfires on them—but people in a working environment where their peers know them, certainly cannot. Playing politics at work is a surefire way to alienate your peers.

I would define "playing politics" as changing who you appear to be or what you normally do to gain an advantage with whoever currently has power. Among those who run for public office, that often means changing their position on issues depending on which group they're speaking to. In work environments, it may mean sucking up to the boss, constantly changing positions to get on the winning side, or using people for person-

al gain, without regard for how it affects them. Political people are fickle and opportunistic, doing what's expedient in the moment to win, regardless of what's best for their peers, their employees, or the organization.

There seems to be two main paths for people to get ahead in organizations. One way is to try to get ahead by doing the work. The other is to try to get ahead by working an angle. It's the difference between production and politics. Some working environments seem to draw people toward behaviour that will ultimately damage peer-to-peer relationships. To avoid such difficulties, do the following:

Avoid Gossip. It's been said that great people talk about ideas, average people talk about themselves, and small people talk about others. That's what gossip does. It makes people small. There really is no upside to gossip. It diminishes the person being talked about. It diminishes the person who is saying unkind things about others, and it even diminishes the listener. That's why you should avoid not only spreading gossip, but also being a recipient of it.

Stay Away from Petty Arguments.

In most places where people work, there are past grudges, ongoing feuds, and petty arguments that run like currents through the organization. Wise leaders in the middle of an organization avoid getting sucked into these easily, even if they think they can resolve them. As the saying goes, a bulldog can beat a skunk in a fight anytime, but he knows it's just not worth it. It's a sign of maturity when someone

knows what's petty and what's not—when to jump in, and when to sit back and listen.

Stand Up for What's Right, Not Just for What's Popular. Leaders must stand for what's right, even when such a stand will be unpopular. How do you do that? How do you know when to stand up and when not to, especially in a culture where many people see truth as subjective? My answer is that you use the Golden Rule: in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you. When someone is being treated in a way that you would not want to be treated, then it's time to stand up.

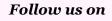
Say What you Mean, and Mean What You Say. Leadership is about building trust with people. If you want to develop trust with others, you must be more than competent. You must also be credible and consistent. The way to achieve those qualities is to make sure that what you say, what you do, and what you say you do all match. If you do that, the people who work with you will know they can depend on you.

Become a statesman or stateswoman for your organization. If you continually keep the big picture in mind, remain unselfish in your efforts, and try to be a diplomat with your peers, you will distinguish yourself, gain credibility, and improve effectiveness and that of the team. And you will also increase your influence.

Source: "The 360-Degree leader" by John C. Maxwell

INTEGRITY

CHOOSING YOUR THOUGHTS
AND ACTIONS BASED ON
VALUES RATHER THAN PERSONAL GAIN





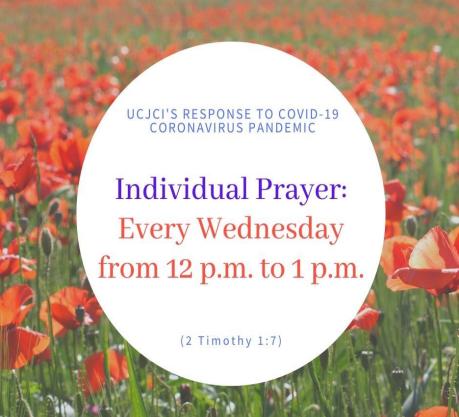






Page 4 UCJCI UPDATE

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS FEATURE



POINTS FOR PRAYER

- * A stop to the spread of the disease.
- * Healing for those who are infected with the disease.
- * Strength, comfort and peace for the loved ones of persons who have died from the disease.
- * Encouragement for the children who are confused and fearful during this time.
- * That persons will draw closer to God, and families draw closer to each other, during this time.
- * That all persons will take this matter seriously, and responsibly take the necessary precautions.
- * Support for our healthcare systems and workers who are on the frontlines.
- * Safety of all elderly persons and those with co-morbidities.
- * Provision for the needy and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- Our local and world economies.

MANAGING & COPING WITH CHANGE



TOOLS FOR COPING & SURVIVING DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS



FACILITATORS:
DR. NSOMBI JAJA, CMC, PMP, SMC, SAMC

MAY 25, 2020 1 P.M. TO 2:30 P.M. ON THE ZOOM PLATFORM ADMISSION: FREE!!!

Standing on God's Promises

MR. COURTNEY CAMPBELL.
PRESIDENT & CEO. VM GROUP

- ✓ INTERACTIVE AND INSPIRING
- NAVIGATE FROM FRAGILE TO AGIL
- MESSAGE OF HOPE & RESILIENCE
- ✓ INSPIRED TO FACE UNCERTAINTY
- LEAVE HOPEFUL AND POSITIVE

Register at: administrator@ucjci.com by May 21, 2020