



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

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

SHOWING COMPASSION

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PRAY FOR:



Rev. Dr. Clinton Smith (University Hospital)

Rev. Norman Francis

Rev. Bevis Byfield

Mr. Nigel Henry

Hurricanes, Storm-Surges, Earthquakes, more deadly than have ever been experienced before, have been the recent experience in the Caribbean Region. Local and international news headlines have been rich with superlatives not usually used by journalists who now seem to be tripping over themselves in wild descriptions of the effects of the prevailing weather.

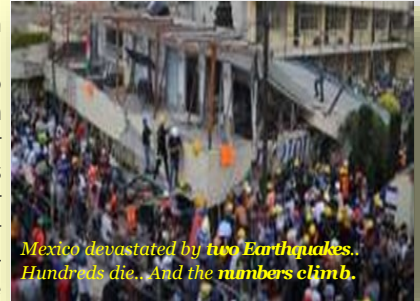
Hurricane 'Maria' a top Category 5 storm when it made landfall in the Caribbean, was the most feared. one report described it as follows; 'Pounding Caribbean, Hurricane Maria ripping off an 'avalanche of roofs' in Dominica'; 'Guadeloupe taking a lashing.' In Puerto Rico, Hurricane 'Maria' was described as causing "mind boggling damage. Oil cargoes shifted away from Venezuela as hurricanes extended 'disruptions'. With communication channels largely down, news of the fate of the peoples in our sister islands has been largely muted, and secured mainly via cable news from lands able to view the devastation from the air.

This is probably the reason why the reaction from the people of Jamaica who were not only spared from the impact of 'Maria', but also from that of Hurricanes 'Irma' and 'Harvey' that preceded them, have not so far been as compassionate as they could have been.



A dazed 'victim' of Hurricane 'Irma' walks in knee-deep flood waters.

For, countries like **Haiti and the Dominican Republic** were still reeling from the damaging effects of Hurricane 'Irma'... a category 4 storm when they had to face "Maria". Reaction in Jamaica seems uncertain; some being even afraid to give thanks to God for 'saving' us from devastation lest it seemed that we were at the same time like the family of Job, inferring that those



Mexico devastated by two Earthquakes. Hundreds die.. And the numbers climb.

who were visited by the destructive winds and earthquakes had somehow 'deserved it'.

What is certain however, is that as Christians, **we are our sisters'/ brothers' keepers, and some sort of neighbourly compassionate action is demanded of us as individuals, as a sister nation and certainly as a Christian community.**

Jamaica as a nation, after some initial delay moved to provide solace to Jamaicans stranded overseas and some have been transported home. A first batch of soldiers left only this week to aid **Dominica.**

However otherwise, there is little news about our showing care for the hundreds or thousands if not the millions; many of whom do not have pure water to drink; or the families of the hundreds who have died, and may be still



70:

Rev. Trevor Hylton
October 4,

Mr. Alex Hayden
October 5.

**BOULEVARD'S
BLOOD DRIVE**

BLOOD DRIVE

Boulevard United Church, as part of its 50th anniversary activities, invites you to support their **BLOOD DRIVE** on **Saturday, October 7 at the Church from 9 am-4 pm.**

The Blood Bank will be present to manage the process.

Please give your support to the church & community in this life-saving event.

A SHOW OF COMPASSION

buried under the rubble caused by the earthquake in **Mexico**.

'Maria' came ashore in Puerto Rico early Wednesday last week, as a powerful Category 4 hurricane with 155 mph winds -- the first Category 4 to hit the island since 1932.

The storm wiped out the island's power grid and dumped 20 to 30 inches of rain in 24 hours, with some areas seeing 40 inches locally.

At least 24 people have died in the storm, including 15 in Dominica, seven in Puerto Rico and two in Guadeloupe.



Damage in Puerto Rico, where they are now dealing with the possible threat of additional flooding from a breached dam. Thousands have been forced to flee to higher ground. Nearly 8,000 people live in the areas that could be affected.



Damage to Turks and Caicos islands.



Dominica: The damage on the ground is unspeakable.

The task seems too large, but if we can save one life or help even **one family to be rehabilitated**, we would have made a contribution.

It is against this background the UCJCI through the **Cayman Region** is making contributions to the Matanzas Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cuba, which suffered significant damage. In **Jamaica** we continue to encourage congregations to have **'walk up' offerings** for the rest of **September** towards relief efforts for those affected by the hurricanes in the islands of the Eastern Caribbean, as a needed **gesture of compassion!**



(National Geographic photo).. Dominica from the air. Devastation in Rouseau,

DO YOUR PART TO EASE THE PAIN OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR SISTER CARIBBEAN ISLANDS:

Please remit amounts to bank account:

United Church NCB (Cross Roads)
A/C # **234297392**



Seminario Evangelico de Teologia, Matanzas, Cuba