



# UCJCI UPDATE

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THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

*Congregational Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian*

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

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## PRAY FOR:



*Rev. Stottrel Lowe,*

*Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler*

*Rev. Astor Carlyle and his family,*

*Rev. Dr. Clinton Smith who is in hospital*

*Rev. Ashley Smith*

# CWM IS FORTY!

**T**he room was beautifully decorated, blue being the predominant colour. The programme was descriptive of its 40 years of achievement, and the audience contained many who could testify of the benefits they had received from the generosity of the Council for World Mission (CWM), which went far into the history of its antecedents.

The mission of CWM, was however what was celebrated on **Sunday, March 26, at 4:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of Hope United Church.**

Master of Ceremonies was the **Rev, Kraig Deleon Deidrick** and CWM Caribbean Mission Secretary, **Mrs. Karen Francis**, extended a warm welcome to attendees. Opening addresses were given by the **Rt. Rev. L Christopher Mason** Moderator of the UCJCI, as well as Chairman of the Guyana Congregational Union (GCU), **Rev. Noel Holder**. Rev. Mason in his address spoke of his joy of being a part of CWM's anniversary, celebrations which he described as a great organization whose mission is being expressed



*Mrs. Karen Francis, Mission Secretary, CWM Caribbean*

**through the partnership in mission of the 32 member churches.** It is a good way he said, to mark the various ways in which it exercises **its own mission** of sharing its resources of money, people, skills **and insights** globally, to carry out **God's mission.**

**The missions, he noted, are all interconnected!**

Taking a historical look, the UCJCI Moderator noted that this mutually beneficially association extended even beyond the formal formation of CWM, into the era of the **London Missionary Society**, one of its foundation members, that had made significant contributions to the development of Churches in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean community.

This relationship, he noted had not only been sustained but even further escalated in very meaningful ways under the umbrella of the CWM.

The UCJCI, he said was particularly proud of the fact that a number of its members had participated in the **formation, direction and structure of the current CWM**, which was formed in 1977.

Such persons included, he noted, the late **Rev. Earl Thames**, **Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans**, **Rev. Dr. Roderick Hewitt** and the **Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan**, who is now CWM's General Secretary.

The UCJCI Moderator also listed a number of programmes including the Church's **Renewal and Transformation Programme** as well as its **Mission Support Programme**, and Training and Capacity building in Leadership Development as well as full and part scholarships which had benefited from the support of the CWM.

Rev. Holder in his opening remarks, also lauded the contributions of CWM to the Guyana Congregational Union;

*(Continued over-page.)*



**70:**

**Rev. Everton Brissett - April 2**

**Rev. Dr. James Gibbs – April 2**

**Rev. Khureen Wilson Bailey - April 4.**

## CWM CELEBRATES

and urged continued support for some pressing issues including those of the training of clergy as well as outstanding social issues.

Among these, he noted as most urgent the current alarming incidence of teenage suicides, which he said currently plagued his country, Guyana.

Among the guests, were others who gave testimony to the experiences that had shaped their lives through the programmes of CWM, including the Training in Mission Programme (TIM), the "Face to Face" Programme, and the "A New Face" programme.

**Mr. Roy McGregor, and Ms. Trishtana DeCunha**, dramatized their experiences gained through CWM's 'TIM' Programme. They shared what is called *Coconut Theology in the South Pacific* — describing the use of the coconut, called the "**Tree of Life**", as the elements for the Sacraments of the Lord's Supper:- The coconut meat representing the 'bread', and the 'water, the 'blood' of the Sacrament.

Equally dramatic, was the presentation by **Rev. Dwight Kelly**, whose topic titled "*Out of my Comfort Zone*", described his unique experience over a six week stay in the Fiji islands.

Impressive artistic presentations were offered by **Rev. Kevin 'Nana-Moses' Calvert**, using drum as well as original music from his musical "*Where is Mellissa*", created under the auspices of CWM and the **Lincoln Kirk United Church Small Group**.

**UCJCI General Secretary, Rev. Norbert Stephens** in a closing challenge on the continuing journey of the CWM, pointed to three '**Ts**'. which he said reflected the era in which CWM was formed, as well as three '**Ts**', which he also stated described its way forward.

The start of decade of the 70's, he said, was one marked by **Tensions**, two clear expressions of which were global conflicts – the Vietnam War and the Cold War both involving the USA, the latter with Russia. The 70's saw the end of both. Secondly, there was **Terrorism**., witnessed though a number of terror attacks including that of the Munich Olympics.

"We know well that terrorism seeks to achieve its objectives through two things, **fear** and the attempt to correct flawed perceptions through the use of **deadly force**," said the UCJCI General Secretary.

Thirdly, he said, there was the rapid advancement of **Technology**, evidenced by the birth of Microsoft and Apple driven by the development of the microprocessor. It was also the decade where **space exploration** continued apace, he noted.

Pointing to the fact these issues are still current, Rev. Stephens described what he called the three '**Ts**' as important signposts for the continuing journey.

He said that in the context of **tensions, terrorism and technology** as core to our ongoing mission, we need to affirm and reaffirm and communicate in clear ways the **Truth of our Theology about the kingdom of God**.

Secondly, in the context of tensions, terrorism and technology we need as CWM to demonstrate the **Test of our Temerity** to dare to hope for a better, more equitable and righteous future by continuing to work in the present.

**To push for justice at all levels - gender, social, religious, political, economic, ecological; to push for poverty alleviation rather than settling with poverty intervention; to stand in the gap for the other, to create the climate for better communities, by speaking to power, through advocacy and through protest.**

"Finally", he sated, "We are challenged on this journey to offer to this context of tensions, terrorism and technology, the **Tell-tale signs of Transformation**. This would challenge CWM to share, through connections and interactions within the existing programmes and activities, the success stories of transformative partnerships, interventions and advocacy. This would serve to inspire all within the CWM family to affirm the theology of the Kingdom of God, where all are offered the gift of life and to continue to pass the test of our temerity to dare to hope for the complete expression of **this fullness of life through Christ for all creation**", he concluded.

**A large 40th Anniversary cake was cut by both the General Secretary of the United in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, Rev. Stephens and the General Secretary of the Guyana Congregational Union, Rev. Valeska Austin. This cake was shared as part of the celebrations among the invited guests, including representatives from Guyana and Jamaica who mingled and shared pleasantries as the formalities came to an end.**

