



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

June 2, 2021

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BEYOND THE PULPIT
The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict

MINISTRY WITH
CHILDREN

MODERATOR'S
MOVEMENTS

Uniformed Groups
THE SEQUEL

VOLUME 7
ISSUE 22

Our Vision: Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ

Ministry with Children - The Sequel

Uniformed Groups—Girls' and Boys' Brigade



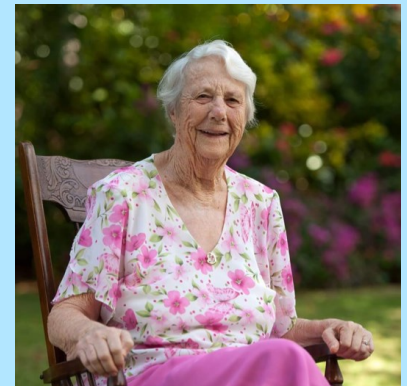
Girls Brigaders and leaders attended the service at the start of GB Week at Elmslie Memorial United Church.

Girls' Brigade in the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council has been active for 74 years and offers girls a safe, secure environment, which is supervised by adult leaders who lead within a Christian framework. This international, interdenominational Christian youth organization holds the aim 'to help girls to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and through self-control, reverence and a sense of responsibility to find true enrichment of life.'

There are five companies operating in the congregations of the UCJCI in the Cayman Islands.

Similar to the international movement, the programme of GB in Cayman focuses on the development of girls spiritually,

physically, socially and educationally and, is designed to be challenging, interactive, relevant and exciting. This allows the girls to achieve growth in all aspects of their lives. The commitment to faithful stewardship is demonstrated in the requirement that all leaders undergo Child Protection Training and police records are mandatory for leaders.



Mrs. Olive Hildah Miller, OBE, JP.

Sadly the founder, Mrs. Olive Miller, known by GB as 'Miss Olive', died on May 19, 2020. She contributed and participated in GB activities until her passing. Ms. Olive began the Cayman Islands Girls' Brigade (then called the Girls' Guildry) in 1946 and served in all areas of the organisation including at the international level. She was an International Vice Patron for Girls' Brigade. Miss Olive also served as the President for the Cayman Islands Girls' Brigade and in the past few years she was the Patron. Through her efforts she has raised several generations of godly women who are still in the ministry and serving the Lord.

Among GB annual activities is GB camp which took place during GB month in March 2021. Girls' Brigade Week concluded with an island-wide day camp with over 110 Girls and their leaders from companies across the island. The day offered the girls a colourful and exciting blend of arts and crafts, games, and presentations on topics which included 'Dangers of Social Media' and 'Healthy Eating'.



Girls and young women participate in art and craft at GB Day Camp in 2021.

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THE BOYS' BRIGADE MOVEMENT



Boys' Brigade band on display.

At a time when criminal and in other ways dysfunctional activities of males have been in the news, there has also been much discussion about interventions which will aid in the nurture of boys into honourable men. The Boys' Brigade is a movement which provides opportunities for children and young people to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment rooted in the Christian faith. The movement's partnership with churches to engage generations of children and young people with messages of hope rooted in Jesus is deliberate and one which UCJCI has taken seriously for many years.



Captain Easton Bailey receives the Badge of Honour for Outstanding, Faithful and Dedicated Service to the Boys' Brigade in Jamaica, at the National Honours and Awards ceremony in 2017.

reverence, discipline, self respect and all that tends towards true Christian manliness.

The first Boys' Brigade company in Jamaica was formed in 1894 at the Coke Methodist church by Rev. David Partner.

The two pillars of The Boys' Brigade are 'discipline through drill' and 'Christian education through Bible study'. Members are exposed to activities that are directed to meeting the object of the Boys Brigade which is the standard by which leaders and boys are held accountable.

Founded by William Alexander Smith in Scotland, in 1883, the object of the Boys' Brigade is 'The advancement of Christ's kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of obedience,

The Boy's Brigade movement pays special attention to Christian education which is essential to the organization. There are regular bible studies and boys are encouraged to be integrated with the Church community.

THE BOYS BRIGADE LOGO

The Boys' Brigade crest and motto were influenced by **Hebrews 6:19** in the King James Version of the Bible, "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast...".



National Programme Officer, Captain Easton Bailey, a veteran brigadier of 49 years, stated that the BB is creative in merging the interests of the boys with Christian education. Firmly committed to the movement and to the potential of the movement in shaping young men, he said, "Youngsters in community need role models and they need love". Stating that many do not have the examples at home or in their community, Captain Bailey said patience must be exercised in ministry with the boys. He appeals for leadership and deeper engagement of congregations in starting and supporting Boys' Brigade companies.



115 Jamaica Company—Webster Memorial United Church.

The leader of the only remaining UCJCI Company (Webster Memorial in Kingston), Captain Ainsworth Stanley, shares the importance of respect. "It is a fundamental objective of the Brigade. Our boys are taught the importance of valuing women. By allowing healthy socialization with members of the Girls' Brigade and the Youth Fellowship of the church, we are able to guide their approach to the variety of situations that accompany inter-gender relations. This includes conflict
(Cont'd on p.7)

Moderator's Movements

Mount Olivet Boys Home Dedicates New Building

Had another extremely pleasant and joyous experience today - presiding at the Blessing Ceremony of the new state-of-the-art building and facilities at the Mt. Olivet Boys' Home, an outreach Ministry of UCJCI which was established in 1967. The building and facilities have been sponsored by the Yohan Blake Foundation. A BIG, BIG, thank you YB Afraid Foundation and for your commitment to continue your support. The official opening will take place at a later date. Many others (organizations, churches and individuals) have partnered with the UCJCI over the years in this very critical ministry. We salute you friends and partners. There was a strong appeal from the Director, Mr. Newman, for mentors, especially men, to help the boys grow into wonderful men.



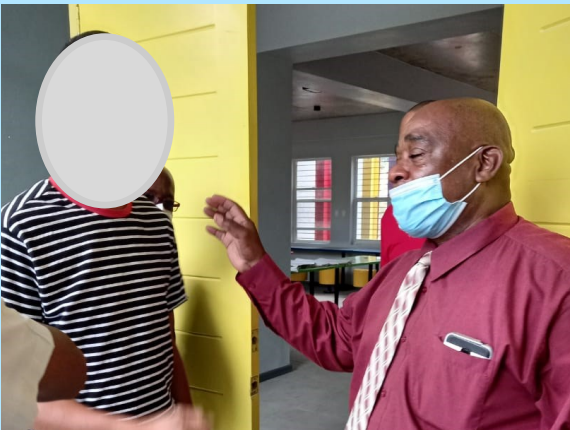
The new multi-purpose building.



Mr. Conway Chambers, Chairman of the Board of Management addresses the group.



Moderator, Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott brings words of commendation.



Mr. Anthony Newman, Director of the Mount Olivet Boys' Home (right) relates to one of the young men at the home.



Mr. Timothy Spencer, Chairman of the Yohan Blake Foundation (right) shows the Moderator (centre) and Rev. Norbert Stephens, General Secretary (left) features of the building.

Moderator's Movements



The Moderator visited congregations in Hanover recently.



Lances Bay United Church



Moderator presided at the interment of Rev. Lloyd Reid—faithful servant of the United Church.



Santoy United Church.



Revs. Kimberley Hines, minister of Negril charge of United Churches (left) and Rev. Trevor Hylton, minister of Riverside charge of United Churches (right)



Egg project at Santoy.



Moderator and Elder Rita Smith, one of the movers and shakers at Santoy.

Send comments and news about your congregation to:

BEYOND THE PULPIT

The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict

“This brief article seeks to initiate discussion, to reeducate and create a more balanced and just perspective.”

I cannot think of any other issue on the global stage that can conjure up strong emotions that can result in death, persecution, family division, fear and conflict than the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. I will even predict that some readers of this article may respond with hatred towards me for the simple reason of “not towing the line”. But for this sensitive issue neutrality is not an option. Indeed both Israel and the Palestinian have suffered immense trauma from their ongoing conflict. However, being a follower of Jesus. I stand with those who are experiencing eviction from their home from colonial and settler oppression. The God of life and peace opposes weapons of war and death and works toward restoration of life and hope.

Jamaican evangelical Christian culture has created over the years a blind and uncritical support for the State of Israel in its conflict with the Palestinian people since the beginning of the 20th century. As a people we have wrongfully linked the modern state of Israel formed in 1948 as “God’s preferred and chosen people”, who are the modern heirs of biblical Israel and are therefore absolved from any wrongs committed in their colonial quest of ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people from the land of Palestine. This brief article seeks to initiate discussion, to reeducate and create a more balanced and just perspective.

The recent Palestinian Israeli conflict that resulted in over 256 people killed in Gaza and 12 people in Israel. Among the dead were 65 children from Gaza and 72,000 Palestinian displaced because of their homes being bombed. This conflict started because of a court decision to evict four Palestinian families from their homes in East Jerusalem community of Sheikh Jarrah. This was followed by the provocative act by the Israeli police in storming the Holy site of al-Aqsa Mosque. The response to Israel’s unjust actions in East Jerusalem triggered the resistance groups in Gaza under the leadership of Hamas to unleash retaliatory actions in firing hundreds of missiles nightly into Israel. Their despicable and morally reprehensible use of civilians as cover in promoting their ideology of resistance has placed the Palestinian people in a catch 22 position. Any way that they turn has proven to be increased suffering.

The European Connection

A more informed understanding of the conflict requires a brief historical overview. The creation of the modern state of Israel in 1948 had its roots in political and economic conflict between European nations. The post-World War I actions of the British and French maritime interests sought control of the Mediterranean Sea and the Suez Canal sea way that would lead to India and the East to facilitate trade. The presence of the Ottoman Empire’s navy in the area necessitated that they divide up the Ottoman-Syrian province into a number of countries.

In the historic Sykes-Picot agreement between the British and French, the French took control of the Northern area (Syria) and created an additional country that had not existed before, called Lebanon. The British in response to the rise of Saudi-Arabia facilitated the emergence of two nations: Iraq and Trans-Jordan, a divide and rule strategy to control the region. The other side of the Jordan was called Palestine which, in reality, was part of the same ethnic group of people that lived in the new country called Jordan.

Powerful political and economic interest sacrificed the Palestinians

In addition to a small number of ethnic Jews who had been part of Palestine for centuries, European Jews had migrated and lived in the region called Palestine since the 1880’s rule of the Ottoman Empire. They were part of the Zionist movement dedicated to create a Jewish State in the region. But this was no unoccupied or empty land that God gave the Jews to settle in. There were a large number of indigenous people that lived and worked on the land. The European Jews purchased lands from unscrupulous wealthy absentee Egyptian, Syrian and Lebanese land owners. This began their systematic process of strategic settlement of Palestine that dispossessed the local people to this day. For the Jewish people, their understanding was that they engaged in a fair and just business deal in purchasing the land and they were therefore the legitimate owners. This commercial real estate transaction resulted in the local people being disposed and expelled from the land.

NEXT ISSUE: Enter the United Nations.



Professor Roderick Hewitt is President of the International University of the Caribbean and a Minister in the UCJCI.

(Cont'd from p.2)

resolution which can mitigate the incidents of gender-based violence.” He said the boys are exposed to opportunities and lessons which they may not be afforded outside the scope of the Brigade.

Some of these activities include:

Music education- they learn and hone skills in the marching band..

Swimming- learning to swim, which is a necessary life skill on an island that is often burdened by instances of young boys and teenagers drowning.

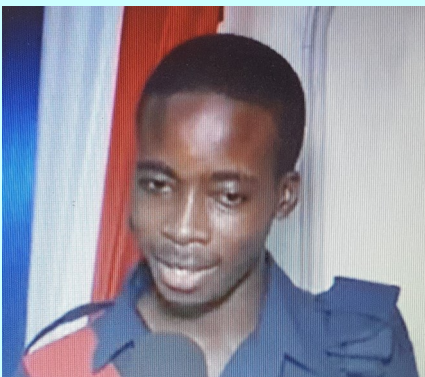
Camp craft/ outdoor survival- This includes fire starting, tent building, and outdoor cooking.



A weekly brigade meeting.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme- Members who are over the age of 14 years are allowed to participate. The programme has four main areas of focus: Volunteering, Skill Training, Physical Activity and Expedition/Adventurous Journey. Through this programme our “boys” are able to appreciate the importance of giving back while benefiting tremendously from self-development opportunities provided by the programme.

Jahnick Fagan highlighted teamwork as a significant point of learning for him as he valued the combined work of all in accomplishing tasks.



Jahnick Fagan of Shortwood United Church received his Duke of Edinburgh Award at the Gold level in 2015.

NORTH-EASTERN RMC WELCOMES NEW DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY



Mrs. Rose Wedderburn is the new Deputy General Secretary in the North Eastern Regional Mission Council. On May 1, 2021, Rose took up her new post after serving for 12 years in the Southern Regional Mission Council. She has been a leader in the Church for over 30 years serving 19 years as Deputy General Secretary (Personnel and Administration) .

Remember to wear black on Thursday. Take a Stand! Work for a world without violence.

UPDATED COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR JAMAICA



The Government of Jamaica, yesterday June 1, 2021, announced a number of provisions under the Disaster Risk Management Act. These provisions are for the period June 3 to June 30, 2021.

- **Public gathering limit** - Remains at **10 persons**.
- **Curfew on Sundays** – begins at 2 p.m.
- **Church services** – the number of persons allowed in the sanctuary has increased from 30 to **50 persons**.
- **Funerals** – the ban will continue until June 30, 2021.
- **Burials** will be allowed for 30 minutes on weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm with a total of **15 persons**.
- **Memorial services** (no body/casket allowed) will be permitted under the terms as church services (a total of 50 persons).
- **Weddings** – the gathering limit has increased from 15 persons to **50 persons**.

We invite you to comply with these provisions.

Rev. Norbert Stephens
General Secretary, UCJCI

Upcoming Events

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA
AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

VBS 2021

Coming this Summer
Theme: *Riding in Hope*

Bible Study & Activities for Ages 4-6, 7-9,
& 10-12

SEE YOU SOON July 26-30

Statistical Institute of Jamaica

POPULATION & HOUSING CENSUS 2022
YUH COUNT, MI COUNT, ALL A WI COUNT!

The Statistical Institute of Jamaica is currently in the field conducting a **pilot** for the 2022 Population and Housing Census
(April 19, 2021 - June 11, 2021).

You are encouraged to participate if your community is selected.

The information you share is:

- Confidential
- Secure
- Protected by the Statistics Act
- Only used for statistical purposes

To find out if your community is among the areas selected visit:
www.statinja.gov.jm

YUH COUNT, MI COUNT, ALL A WI COUNT!

PRAY ♦ PRAY ♦ PRAY PRAY

UCJCI responds to the COVID-19 pandemic as a community of faith

A Call to Prayer

**Every Wednesday
12 noon—1:00 pm**

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by **prayer** and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Philippians 4: 7 (NIV)

LET US BE DILIGENT IN PRAYER

*Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face
always.- 1 Chronicles 16:11*

- ♦ Rev. Sylvan Hinds and family. Rev. Hinds has lost his mother.
- ♦ Rev. Delroy Harris whose sister had surgery.
- ♦ Social workers and counsellors who work with persons in situations of struggle.
- ♦ Children all over the world facing important examinations..
- ♦ Persons challenged with decision-making about taking the COVID 19 vaccine
- ♦ Families and communities broken by tragedy and violence.
- ♦ Members, leaders of the United Church and the wider communities in Cayman and Jamaica who have experienced bereavement
- ♦ Persons struggling with the impact of COVID 19 on personal, family, community and work levels.

LITURGY FOR HOUSE WORSHIP

This coming Sunday...

June 6, 2021



United in Purpose...

Be careful not to be distracted or derailed in doing God's work.

1 Samuel 8: 4-20; Psalm 138;
St. Mark 3: 20-35

Next week...

June 13, 2021



Growth that you can't see...

Whether we are able to see growth or not, be assured God is at work.

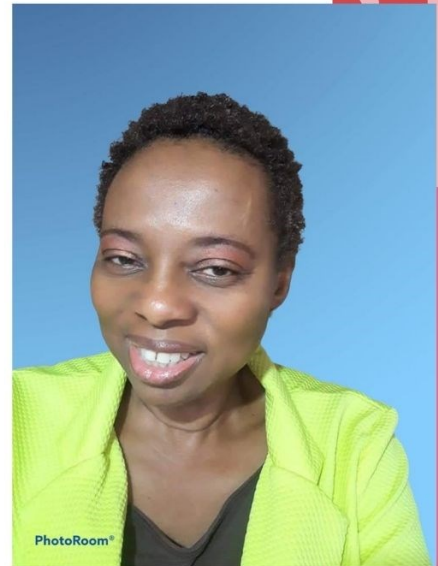
1 Samuel 15: 34- 16:13; Psalm 20; St.
Mark 4: 26-34



REV. NORLENE JACKSON

June 2, 2021

Happy Birthday



REV. MARGARET DOWNER MESSIAS

June 5, 2021



REV. DR. RALPH HOYTE

June 6, 2021

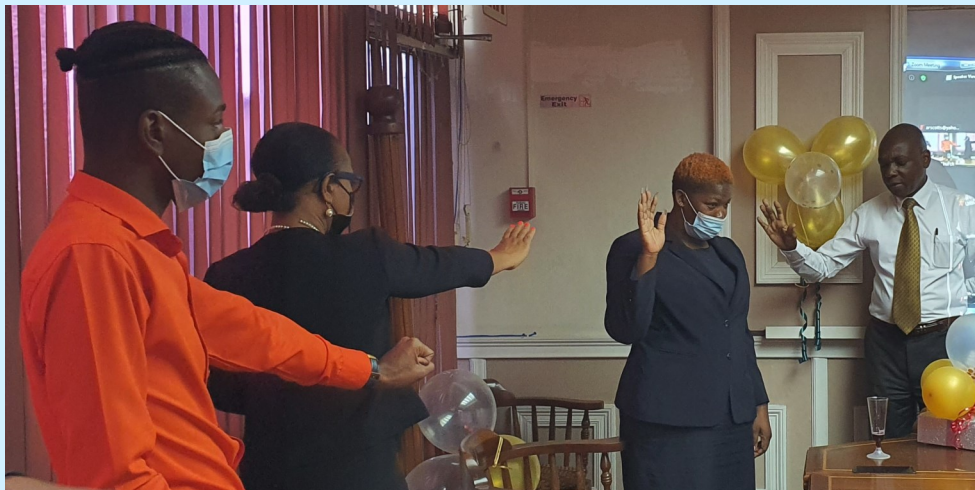
DR. JANE DODMAN

June 8, 2021

Farewell and Thanks to Synod Staff Member



Najahuldin Martin, Accounts Clerk in the Finance Department said goodbye to the Synod Staff at a recent Farewell event held in her honour. Fondly known as 'Najah', she served UCJCI for 10 years. The Synod team gathered virtually and physically across regions, offering parting blessings to Najah as she takes on a new journey. Following tributes by colleagues, Najah reflected, "I have been in a place where I have been blessed. You have shown me love."



UCJCI VALUE S

The UCJCI Value Statement

“The United Church represents a people called by God, to love and worship God as Creator, Jesus the Saviour, and the Holy Spirit the Comforter; to make a difference in people’s lives by actively loving and serving those around us; to bring the good news of the Gospel to all people; to nurture each other in faith; to pursue God’s justice and peace in all areas of life, so that ‘God’s kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven.’”

IN THE COMING ISSUE...

**Celebrating our Partnerships
CANACOM**

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Congregational, Disciples of Christ ,Presbyterian

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10

Tel: 876 926-8734

E-mail: synod@ucjci.com ♦ Website: www.ucjci.com

Moderator

Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

General Secretary

Rev. Norbert Stephens

Regional Deputy General Secretaries

Cayman Regional Mission Council
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield

Southern Regional Mission Council
Rev. Norbert Stephens (Interim)

North Eastern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

Western Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Mauleen Henry

SYNODICAL THEME:

“Rooted, Resilient: Responding in H.O.P.E. (Health - Opportunity - Peace - Evangelism)”