



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands Weekly Update

August 3, 2022 || Volume 9 Issue 31

*Are we going backward, moving forward or standing still?
Are we truly Independent or Emancipated?*

The thought-provoking words of Professor Rosalea Hamilton at the 29th staging of the Churches' Emancipation lecture, on Sunday, July 31, were wrapped in an impressive cultural package.

Upon arriving at Meadowbrook United Church, the guests were greeted with a historical display of various items that sent them reminiscing on the ole days. Items such as enamel crockery, coconut brush, coal iron, pestle and mortar, and pressing iron were on display. Appealing to the taste buds of the familiar and the new was a delectable buffet serving dishes such as saltfish and mackerel run down with roast breadfruit and cultural treats such as cornmeal pudding.

The tamarind balls issued assisted the audience in digesting the sweet and sour truths highlighted in Professor Hamilton's lecture on the 60 years of lessons and legacy as she invited us to wrestle with the questions:

*Are we going backward, moving forward or standing still?
Are we truly Independent or Emancipated?*

In her presentation, she took us on a journey from before emancipation, to independence to now. She unveiled to many some hard truths to reignite the movement of freedom as she engaged our minds.

She explored mental slavery and mental resistance, in an effort to loose us from the notion that conformity is the only manifestation of an enslaved mindset.

One could argue that Professor Hamilton sent many to define and describe freedom, individually and as a nation, as she shared on phenomena such as the entitlement and rejection mindset and the inferiority complex that continue



THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
SYNOD REPARATIONS TASK FORCE
Emancipation Series
FROM LAMENT
TO
RECONCILING ACTION
With Presenters

Jul. 31
An Evening of Lament for Our Children

Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan
Immediate Past General Secretary-Council for World Mission (CWM)
Aug. 2

Mrs. Jennifer Martin
Chair- NERM
Aug. 3

Rev. Raymond Coke
Retired Minister Former Moderator
Aug. 4

JUL. 31
7:30 PM
AUG. 2-4
6PM

via YouTube @UCJCI

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to have a hold on us.

Repeating the words of one of our National Heroes, Marcus Mosiah Garvey, she reminded us that “while others can free our bodies, none but ourselves can free our minds”.

A timely reminder, as she rolled back the curtains to compare the political and socio-economic conditions in 1834 when slavery was abolished granting emancipation leading to the period of apprenticeship, and our current climate, strongly encouraging us to read the Constitution.

This assessment brought to the forefront the honored work of our forefathers but, with a story and a duty that continues, laced with some ignorance and the pretense that the freedom fight has been won.

With much of the Constitution undoubtedly unknown to many, the country and its political parties’ failure to exercise true democracy, crime and violence, and how we treat each other, Professor Hamilton concluded with two mindboggling questions that all should ponder:

What does it mean to be human?

Do we see ourselves as owning Jamaica or do we see ourselves as squatters or tenants and somebody else owns it?

The hosting churches, Bethel and Boulevard Baptist churches, Meadowbrook United, Webster Memorial United and Hope United churches, and the United Theological College of the West Indies, along with the Nexus Performing Arts Company provided rhythm to the evening’s proceedings with vibrant enriching performances.



Nexus Performing Arts Company



Presenter Professor Rosalee Hamilton, CEO of LASCO Chin Foundation, Chair of Caribbean Philanthropic Alliance.



Vanna Lawrence, Chair, Churches’ Emancipation Committee 2022.

Concluding Remarks

- **Is Jamaica going backwards, moving forward or standing still?**

✓ Jamaica is **moving forward**, but in contradictory ways

WORLD CLASS ACHIEVEMENTS | GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

PERSISTENT COLONIAL LEGACIES | HUMAN TRAFFICKING
EPIDEMIC HOMICIDE RATE



- **OUR FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS!!!**

✓ **Technological changes** and **climate change** are surging ahead, creating a whole new world with new opportunities as well as new challenges, in addition to the old ones.

- We can choose the **conforming path** relying mainly on others
- We can choose the **self-reliant path** increasingly relying on our capacity to find solutions... **path to self-determination & freedom**

✓ *This is the same choice ahead of us for our **REPUBLIC***



"If you have no confidence in self, you are twice defeated in the race of life"

"With confidence, you have won before you have started"

Marcus Mosiah Garvey



"Better to die fighting for freedom than be a prisoner all the days of your life"

Bob Marley

PRAYER CORNER

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

Thank You for your presence in the world.
You touch our pain and warm our hearts with hope.

Fill us with the joy of your Spirit and make us faithful messengers of your Gospel.

Amen.

Prayer Request

- Dr. Auma Folkes and family as they mourn the death of one of her sons, Albie Folkes.
- Rev. Ranford Hewitt who is recuperating from illness
- Mrs. Rose Wedderburn who lost a relative
- Rev. Rohan Kong, his wife Stephanie and their son, Joel Kong, who is back in the hospital
- Rev. Wendell McKoy and family as they mourn the sudden passing of his brother-in-law
- Miss Lorraine Howell and family
- The family of Rev. Dr. Gilbert McKenzie, former minister of the UCJCI, who passed recently
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID-19
- Victims and perpetrators of crime and violence in Jamaica and the security force and government as they respond

UCYAAAM
CONFERENCE
2022 | **AUG. 18-21, 2022**
50th Edition
Madge Saunders Conference
Tower Isle, St. Mary
ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY
LIMITED SPACE

CIRMC 2022 SUMMER CAMPS

JULY 10-15 (CHILDREN)

JULY 17-22 (TEENS)



The theme for Summer Camp 2022 was 'A.N.E.W. Season'.

In the daily Bible Study sessions, the letters of this acronym invited the campers to consider the implications of being

- Anchored (we are called to be anchored/rooted in God),
- Nurtured (we need to nurture our relationship with God so that we may grow in Christ),
- Empowered (we must call on the Holy Spirit of God to empower us to walk in the ways of Christ and be the light in the world of darkness) and to
- Witness (we are called to share the Light of the World (Jesus Christ) with others, through actions and words). Other camp activities included morning physical exercise, breakfast and lunch duties, praise time, creative activities, involvement in Mission Outreach, participation in radio broadcasts and Sunday morning worship services at the Savannah United Church, and special concerts at the Elmslie Memorial UC, showcasing the talents of the campers. Both the Children and Teens Camp was filled to capacity.

Now that the CIRMC 2022 Summer Camps are over, the children and teens returned to their favorite vacation-time pursuits and will try to make the most of what remains from their summer break. The camp leadership team and the host of volunteers who worked tirelessly deserve some rest. Spending two weeks from morning till evening with dozens of rumbunctious youth is no small feat. Attending to their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs and engaging them not only as a group but, more importantly, as individuals, listening to them, discerning what lies behind the façade and responding with love and understanding is a high call and requires total commitment, openness, and faith. May God bless richly our camp leadership team and all volunteers for their ministry!

A.N.E.W. Season - "To everything there is a season" (Eccl. 3:1) was the central theme of the 2022 Summer Camps. Now, that the camps are over, the ministry must continue to be there for the children and youth when their 'season' arrives, when the 'wind of the Spirit' blows in their lives. The results of Summer Camps, or any ministry, is not in

our 'power'. "The wind blows wherever it pleases," said Jesus to Nicodemus, using a metaphor to describe the work of the Holy Spirit who doesn't work by human will, capacity or control. There could be some in our Churches who wonder if our Summer Camps have any influence, long-term effectiveness, or lasting impacts. Conventional wisdom may suggest that any benefits fade quickly after the camps are over; that real, life-changing experiences are but exceptions to the rule. Rest assured that the events planned and held in our Congregations and RMCs, let them be Bible Study, Youth Group, Summer Camp, or any other activity, are much more than fun and games. Our youth leaders and volunteers know that providing a 'good time' for our youth is only a vehicle to achieve something much deeper and more important, namely, to lead them to Jesus Christ and journey with them as they grow and mature in faith. In addition, they are immersed in an environment conducive to their overall development: to grow in social skills, leadership, self-confidence, and receive personalized guidance to find their 'place' and ministry in the life of their Congregation.

The ultimate goal of a God approved Youth Ministry is assisting each and every young person to become authentic disciples of Jesus Christ, to help them discover the relevance of faith in everyday life, and to embark on a journey of life-long transformation to reflect more and more the image of Christ as an active participant in the life and ministry of a faith community.



You can listen to United In Faith episodes at your convenience on our Anchor F.M. Platform.

Click the link either in our Instagram bio or when it is circulated via WhatsApp on a Monday.

Thank You!

Dear Camp Personnel, Leaders, and Volunteers, all of you on the front line and behind the scenes,

We thank you for all you have done to make the CIRMC 2022 Summer Camp happen. We are truly blessed to have so many gifted and dedicated members in our congregations.

Thank you for being so generous with your time and talents, for your example in leadership and service. It is our hope and prayer that what God has planted in the hearts and minds of the campers through your ministry may grow and come to fruition.

May God bless you richly as you yourselves continue to be 'Anchored, Nurtured, Empowered and Witness' in your personal life and among those God has placed you.

From the CIRMC

SUMMER CAMP PHOTOS



Liturgy For Worship At Home

AUGUST: A CHURCH RESPONDING TO GREAT CHALLENGES			
Aug. 7 (Pentecost 9)	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8; Hebs. 11:1-16 • Luke 12:32-40	Responding With Sincerity & Faith	Isaiah chastised the people for insincerity and meaningless religiosity. What's required is righteous character and conduct, demonstrated as evidence of an authentic faith.
Aug. 7 Independence (JAM)	Psalm 32:12-22 Deuteronomy 7:7-9;	A Blessed Nation	
	Ephesians 6:10-20		

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian

Moderator: Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

General Secretary: Rev. Norbert Stephens

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- ◇ **Southern Regional Mission Council-**
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- ◇ **Western Regional Mission Council-**
Mrs. Maureen Henry

Contact Us

Address: 12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10

Telephone No: 876-926-8734 |

E-mail Address: synod@ucjci.com

Website: www.ucjci.com

YouTube: UCJCI's Channel || **Instagram:** @UCJCI