



UCJCI UPDATE

OCTOBER 11, 2023 VOL. 10 NO. 21

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



ON THE INSIDE

- BEYOND THE PULPIT - THE ISREALI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT
- NEWS FROM CAYMAN
 - DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS
- CELEBRATIONS
 - BIRTHDAYS
 - ACHIEVEMENT
- WORSHIP AND PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES
- FOR YOUR HEALTH
- UPCOMING EVENTS

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS CRISIS CENTRE PARTNERS WITH WILLIAM POUCHIE UNITED CHURCH IN CAYMAN TO ADVANCE DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS. READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 5.

UCJCI UPDATE

UPDATE IS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS. THE PUBLICATION PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT THE DENOMINATION, NEWS OF HAPPENINGS IN REGIONS, MATERIAL TO FACILITATE WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY, ACTIVITIES FOR PARTICIPATION AND PRAYER, AND SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES ON ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN.

FEATURE ARTICLE

DOMESTIC ABUSE RUNS DEEP IN MANY SOCIETIES. UNFORTUNATELY IT IS A FEATURE OF CARIBBEAN LIFE AS IT IS GLOBALLY. IN CAYMAN, TIME IS BEING TAKEN TO FOCUS ON DOMESTIC ABUSE DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. IT IS AN ISSUE WHICH DEMANDS OUR ATTENTION AND EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED AT THE HAND OF ABUSERS. HERE IS AN INVITATION TO BREAK THE CYCLE. THIS CAN BE DONE IN MANY WAYS SUCH AS EDUCATION, INTERVENTION AND PRAYER. WHILE SOME MAY ARGUE THAT THESE ARE NOT ENOUGH, (AND MORE IS ALWAYS NEEDED) THESE ARE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES TO DOING NOTHING WHILE PEOPLE SUFFER. (PAGES 5 AND 6)





BEYOND THE Pulpit

The Israeli Palestinian Conflict Pt. 1

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by Rev. Dr. Roderick Hewitt

This article series was published in UCJCI Update in June 2021. It followed the killing of persons in Gaza and Israel. This represents a perspective on the conflict which hopefully, in light of current conflict, will initiate discussion.

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.

Increased Suffering

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 Palestinians 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. *(cont’d on page 3)*



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.

Unjust and Unethical Action of the United Nations

However, the fundamental shift happened after World War II with changes in the geopolitical landscape of the region. The mass movement of people who survived the European holocaust migrated to the region. This was further complicated by Syria's claim that the nations of Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine were integral parts of its national sovereignty and was against any part becoming independent. The action of the European and American nations through the United Nations to create a homeland for the Jewish People resulted in an unjust division of the land in which the minority got the majority of the land and the majority became refugees in their own land.

After the end of the British Palestine mandate in 1948, the Jordanian monarchial regime indirectly supported the formation of Israel as a buttress against the competing independent Palestinian State. Historically, none of the three – Jordan, Egypt and Syria – supported the creation of an independent Palestinian State.

Sibling Rivalry Made the Problem Worse

The historic competition and antagonism of these Arab nations against each other's interests also contribute to the current Israeli Palestinian problem. On one hand they need Israel as an enemy in order to demonstrate to their people that they are giving support to the Palestinian cause, but on the other hand, they have demonstrated very little pro-active tangible support to facilitate the creation of an independent and strong Palestinian nation. Therefore, the Palestinian problem is not only an Israeli problem, but also an Arab problem. The various wars that have been fought in the region since 1948 have caused the Palestinian situation to move from bad to worse.

Support for Israel based upon questionable Biblical interpretation

To understand why many Evangelical Christians in Jamaica give such uncritical support to the Jewish State of Israel, one must attempt to identify and then deconstruct the myths that have been intentionally nurtured over decades. This religious addiction to advance the cause and agenda of Israel has resulted in political enslavement. Each time a conflict erupts between Israel and the Palestinians, the church takes side with Israel. Sadly, it does so, not on sound data that is presented, but emotional, non-critical attachment and appeasement to the political agenda of conservative and fundamentalist

Cont'd on page 4

The Israeli Palestinian Conflict Pt. 1

Cont'd from page 3

American Evangelical Christians and the Zionist Christian alliance with Israel. These groups use the Bible in an ideological way to fit their agenda that Israel must not give up one inch of the covenant land that God promised and gave to Abraham and his descendants that have been captured or occupied.

The second of this 2-part series will be published in next week's UCJCI Update...*Fullness of Life for All*



PARTICIPATE IN THURSDAYS IN BLACK

TAKE A STAND

Wear black on Thursday signifying your stance against violence. Take the opportunity to start a conversation on the topic with someone by explaining why you are wearing black



NEWS FROM CAYMAN

Domestic Abuse Awareness in Cayman

The Cayman Islands Crisis Centre recently launched the Domestic Abuse Awareness Month at a church service held at the William Pouchie Memorial United Church on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

At the beginning of his sermon, Rev. Forrester shared some statistics that are not limited to the Cayman Islands but are used globally:



Left to right: The Hon. Jay Ebanks – Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing & Infrastructure, Ania Milanowska – Director of CI CrisisCentre, Rev. Forrester, Mariasha Spencer– Outreach Coordinator of CI Crisis Centre, Livia Siqueira – Children and Youth Coordinator of CI Crisis Centre and The Hon. Isaac Rankine, Minister of Border Control and Labour.

IMPORTANT STATISTICS

- **1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of domestic abuse, whether physical, sexual, verbal or emotional.**
- **1 in 7 women and 1 in 25 men have been injured by an intimate partner.**
- **1 in 10 women has been violated/ raped by an intimate partner.**

They not only have to endure abuse personally but also witness abuse in the home between parents or loved ones. Furthermore, in certain instances, the Church has been complicit in justifying the abuse using biblical arguments, particularly concerning matters of power and control used to dominate others. However, God calls the Church not only to speak out against domestic abuse but also to minister to both the abused and the abuser.

Using the text from Hebrews 13: 1-7, Rev. Forrester encouraged the congregation to break the cycle of Domestic Abuse in two ways: first, to Pursue Brotherly Love (philadelphia) by showing hospitality to everyone, and Guard Brotherly Love in intimate relationships such as marriage and to be content with what we have. *(Cont'd on page X)*

Two of the most unfortunate things about Domestic Abuse are its impact on children and the role of the Church. Firstly, children are also victims of Domestic Abuse.

REMEMBERING TO BREAK THE CYCLE

We remember those who are imprisoned by fear, compulsion, secrecy, and silence.

We remember survivors and families who have lost members due to domestic abuse, and who carried the secrets of their abuse silently in their hearts.

We remember those who were made the scapegoat; who said, "No!" but to no avail; who thought the abuser would hear their cries; who carried the secrets of their abuse silently in their hearts.

We remember mothers, who had few choices; who did what they had to; who resisted sometimes quietly, sometimes loudly; and who carried the secrets of their abuse silently in their hearts.

We remember neighbours, whose cries we heard in the night, whose bruises we saw in the day, and who fought back and paid the price; who carried the secrets of their abuse silently in their hearts.

We remember those who were not believed; and who carried the secrets of their abuse silently in their hearts.

We remember friends, who spent so much time at our house, not wanting to go home; whom everyone thought were just



shy and quiet; who carried the secrets of their abuse silently in their hearts.

We remember ourselves, who may have tried to tell but were ignored; who were not protected by anyone; and who carried the secrets of our abuse silently in our hearts.

We remember and mourn the loss of childhood; the loss of creativity; the loss of vocation; the loss of relationships; the loss of time; the cost of resources required for healing; who carried the secrets of their abuse silently in our hearts.

We remember and mourn those who have not survived; whose lives were taken by someone's violence; who died in despair never knowing justice.

WE WILL REMEMBER! WE WILL BREAK THE CYCLE!

(Excerpt from sermon by Rev. Rohan Forrester)



**MODULES
2 AND 3
BEGIN IN
NOVEMBER**

TRAINING LAY LEADERS - A NEW BEGINNING

UCJCI LAY LEADERS CERTIFICATE COURSE - MODULES 2 AND 3 COMING

The Training of Lay Leaders for specialised ministries in the United Church will be advanced through the addition of Modules 2 and 3 to the offerings of UCJCI Lay Training Institute in November 2023.

Modules 2 and 3 will begin in November 2023. It is planned that both will run concurrently with the early topics in Module 3 being those without a corresponding pre-requisite in Module 2.

Topics will include Ministry with Children, Evangelism and Discipleship; Ministry with Youth and Communication. Both modules will include periods of practicum.

Module 2 will end in March 2023 and Module 3 will end November 2024.

For more information

Email:

ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com

MINISTERS AND LAY PASTORS

LET'S SHARE RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Can we work together to bring the Word to those who are thirsting for it?

Let's reach beyond our communities by sharing the links to our online bible studies, with **DATE, TOPIC, TIME, LINK**

Ministers and Lay Pastors, if you want to participate, please send information to ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com

MEADOWBROOK UNITED CHURCH WEEKLY WEDNESDAY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

FOCUS: THE BOOK OF ACTS

6:30 P.M.

JOIN VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 882 3148 7638

PASSCODE: 028540

OR VIA MUC YOUTUBE CHANNEL

RIDGEMOUNT UNITED CHURCH WEEKLY WEDNESDAY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY



TOPIC: THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN

5:30 P.M.

JOIN VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 894 9305 3068

PASSCODE: RIDGEMOUNT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Rev. Dave Spence
OCTOBER 11



Rev. Donovan Myers
OCTOBER 12

OCTOBER 13

Rev. Novlyn
Hanson

Rev. Noel
Murray



Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis
OCTOBER 16

Congratulations



REV. NIGEL PUSEY

on successful completion of study

Master of Arts (Theology)

**The University of the West Indies and The United
Theological College of the West Indies**

*We rejoice with
you!*

OUR HOMES ARE PLACES OF WORSHIP



**Rooted and Resilient:
Re-ignited
by the Spirit to
RE-IGNITE**

**Theme song:
'Light the fire'**

OUR HEROES HELP US RE-IGNITE

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

Philippians 4:1-9

Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23

Our Heroes help us Re-Ignite: We cannot help but recognize that God often intervenes through humans - our heroes in society as well as heroes of our Faith. As such, we ought to affirm and celebrate their roles in the rekindling process, while recognizing that God is the flame that keeps us burning.

Let us pray for:

- Ms. Annisea Bremmer (Human and Mission Resource Manager) whose aunt, Ms. Jackie Reynolds, has died.
- Mrs. Debesha Grant Roberts (UCJCI ministerial student at UTC) whose father has been hospitalised.
- The family, friends and members of the Salem charge at the death of Rev. Hyacinth Edwards.
- Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson who is unwell.
- The lives impacted by the heightened conflict between Israel and Palestine

For Your Health



The early detection of breast cancer is often key to successful outcomes. But do you know what to look for or when to see your doctor?

Different people have different symptoms of breast cancer, while some do not have any signs or symptoms at all. It is important to know how your breasts normally look and feel to be able to recognize any changes that may occur. While knowing what to look for is important, regular mammograms and clinical breast exams are crucial, as these tests can help detect breast cancer before symptoms show.

Signs of breast cancer may include:

- Lump in the breast or underarm (armpit)
- Swelling or thickening of all or part of the breast
 - Dimpling or skin irritation of breast skin
- Redness, scaliness, or thickening of the nipple or breast skin
 - Nipple discharge (other than breast milk)
- Any change in the size or shape of the breast
 - Pain in any area of the breast

EVENTS PAGES



SUPPORT WITH PRAYER AND PRESENCE

The following pages carry notification of events. Please send your posters and flyers in pdf, j-peg or png format to citc@gmail.com for promotion in UCJCI Update.

DOES AI HAVE A PLACE IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY?



UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OF THE WEST INDIES
UCJCI STUDENTS' DENOMINATION SEMINAR

THURSDAY OCTOBER 12, 2023

PRESENTER: REV. ROSALENA ROBINSON
ASSOCIATE PASTOR, BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

COULD AI BE
AN
OPPORTUNITY
FOR
EVANGELISM,
WORSHIP,
DISCIPLESHIP?

IS AI A MEANS OF
UNDERMINING THE
WORK OF MINISTRY
AND THE VALUE OF
PEOPLE?



JOIN
VIA
ZOOM
6-8
PM

MEETING ID: 81137896747
PASSCODE: 574014

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT UCJCI WARDEN REV. DR. DAVE HAZLE 876 7920871 OR
UCJCI ASSOCIATE WARDEN, MRS. KAREN FRANCIS 876 4327057



WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

WOMEN'S *Conference*

21
OCT



START
4PM

WHEN ROOTS RUN DEEP

COME & BE ENCOURAGED BY TESTIMONIES
AND WHAT THE WORD SAYS ABOUT YOU

Our Speakers



REV. EVON
BLAIR



MRS. DANELLE
PINNOCK



MRS. ERICA
MACDONALD

Our Host

MS. CLOVER
ANDERSON



53 HALF WAY TREE ROAD, KINGSTON 10

SEE YOU THERE!

YOUTH NEWS

Lincoln Kirk United Church Youth Fellowship Presents

YOUTH CONVENTION 2023

Under the theme

"TEK IT TO DEM"

October 22, 2023 9am - 9pm

3 Sessions for the Day

Morning Worship Midday Praise Evening Gospel Service

Refreshments and Lunch will be on sale

For More Details

1-876-468-7143 - 1-876-848-5209



HELLSHIRE UNITED CHURCH

30TH

ANNIVERSARY

HARVEST Concert

STARTS AT
5:00 PM

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 29, 2023

VENUE :

HELLSHIRE UNITED CHURCH
379 BOULDER CRESCENT
UPPERMOST "B"
HELLSHIRE
ST. CATHERINE

ADULTS: \$2000.00
CHILDREN: \$1000.00



**MARKLAND
EDWARDS
MASTER OF
CEREMONY**



**FEATURING
JAMAICA
CONSTABULARY
FORCE BAND**

An Evening of Praise



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SYNODICAL THEME:
Rooted, Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit
(Return, Reconnect, Realign, Re-ignite)

OUR VISION

*Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation
through Christ*

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
(Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian)

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Tel: 876 9268734; ♦ E-mail: synod@ucjci.com ♦ Website: www.ucjci.com

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