



UCJCI UPDATE

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



PROFESSOR ELIZABETH THOMAS HOPE, PROFESSOR EMERITA, UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, ADDRESSES THE 30TH CHURCHES EMANCIPATION LECTURE.

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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

IN 1993, TWO CHURCH LEADERS SUCCESSFULLY ENVISIONED THE COLLABORATIVE WORK OF CHRISTIANS IN JAMAICA IN BRINGING TOGETHER THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE BY CALLING THE NATION TO COMMEMORATE AND EXPLORE EMANCIPATION OF ENSLAVED PERSONS. WHAT EMERGED WAS AN ANNUAL EMANCIPATION LECTURE WHICH DISCERNED THE LESSONS AND LEGACY OF THAT IMPORTANT TIME IN THE LIFE OF FORMER BRITISH WEST INDIAN COLONIES. THE NUMBER OF COLLABORATORS HAS GROWN AND THIS YEAR'S TOPIC PLACED THE SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING. READ **PAGES 2 AND 3**



EMANCIPATION - THE LESSONS AND LEGACY P. 2

Human Trafficking

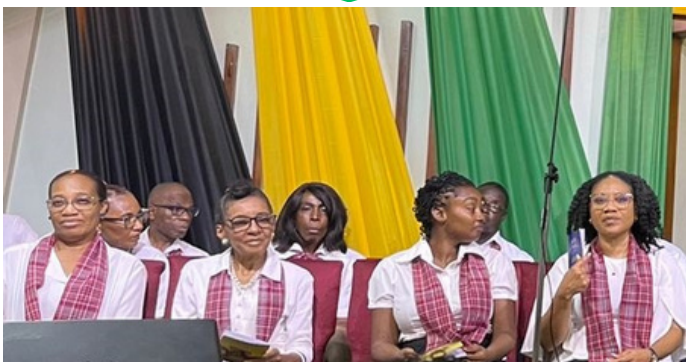
A Recent Chapter of an Old Story



PROFESSOR ELIZABETH THOMAS HOPE, PROFESSOR EMERITA, THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES.

A LEGACY OF ENSLAVEMENT

- Today there are 50 million persons in Modern Day Slavery also referred to as human trafficking.
- Estimated profits from human trafficking worldwide is 150 billion USD per year.
- 12 billion USD are generated in the Caribbean and Latin America.
- 2/3 of the profits are generated by forced sexual exploitation
- In the Caribbean, human trafficking includes trafficking within and between countries which are source, transit and destination points.
- Sexual exploitation is the primary purpose of human trafficking in the Caribbean.
- 30% of persons trafficked are children.



A SECTION OF THE COMBINED CHOIR

INSIGHTS FROM 30TH ANNIVERSARY CHURCHES EMANCIPATION LECTURE

A LESSON OF EMANCIPATION

"The most powerful lesson of emancipation is that it became a reality because of the combined actions of three major forces:

- The enslaved people rebelling against a situation they could no longer tolerate
- The British colonial government led by Member of Parliament William Wilberforce along with other abolitionists generating a rising tide of support abroad and in the Caribbean
- The churches with missionaries on the ground, in the Caribbean in the early 19th century

This coalition brought emancipation in 1838 to an end; a system which was legally enforced, ethically normalized and socially accepted.

A powerful coalition of forces now - people representation through civil society, global government commitment, and churches here on the ground could be the catalyst for change in this recent chapter of an old story of enslavement".

These were among the stirring words of challenge issued by Professor Elizabeth Thomas Hope, presenter of the 30th Anniversary Churches' Emancipation Lecture on July 30, 2023 at Bethel Baptist Church.



SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCE

"You thought slavery had ended. The story continues but in different forms." So said Professor Thomas Hope, noting a significant difference and two similarities between the old and new chapters. One difference is legality. Transatlantic slavery was legalised evil, modern day slavery is illegal. The purpose of "generating huge profits and the extent of greed and cruelty people are prepared to carry out to earn the profits" are ghastly similarities between both chapters.

STATE OF PLAY

The speaker outlined the state of play in June 2023 – Jamaican women and children are trafficked for sex in nightclubs, streets, hotels and private homes. The locations are both rural and urban including among the upper middle class. Children and adults are forced to work in domestic servitude, beg on the street, engage in criminal activities as couriers, armed gunmen, and look-outs.

POTENTIAL VICTIMS

The lecture provided a helpful profile of victims. According to Professor Thomas Hope, the victims are recruited voluntarily but are exploited by their contexts of vulnerability – Poverty (usually accompanied by poor education), a high level of sexual abuse and domestic violence (according to statistics, nine out of ten girls trafficked had been sexually abused), and the practice of children being sent to 'stay with' a relative or other associate of the parents face transactional sex as payment for looking after them. Limited opportunity for work in Jamaica also contribute to victim's vulnerability.

ACTION TAKEN AND ACTION NEEDED

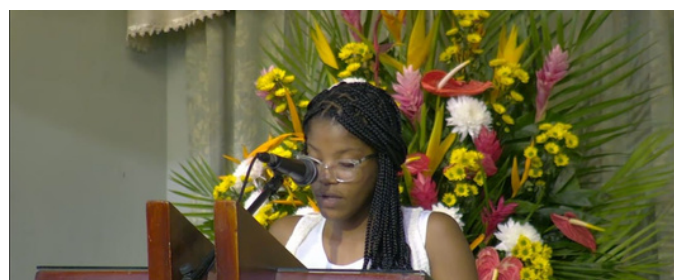
Professor Thomas Hope turned to the current global strategy which focusses on crime,

punishment and migration control. Proposing that the design of protocols treats the symptoms and not root causes – poverty and inefficient labour migration systems. Professor Thomas Hope suggested that a new approach is urgently needed. She said, "... if there were no vulnerable victims there would be no traffickers". Until the structural framework that empowers the powerless is the focus of international strategy, the vulnerable will remain vulnerable while the profiteers will continue to profit and corrupt aiders and abettors will continue to inflict or cover up abuse and death".

Referencing Nelson Mandela, Professor Thomas Hope suggests recalling the terrible past, forgiving where necessary without forgetting, "...to ensure that never again will such inhumanity tear us apart."



PASTOR LUCIEN REID OF MEADOWBROOK UNITED OFFERS PRAYER.



ELIZABETH HURDLE OF HOPE UNITED READS A LESSON.

SYNOD STAFF MEMBERS REFLECT ON 'EMANCIPENDENCE'



The UCJCI Synod Staff reflected on social issues in 2023 Jamaica through the lens of Emancipation and Independence. The team headed to the hills of Hollywell in St. Andrew for a time of worship, refreshing and reflection dubbed Emancipendence Fellowship. As they looked at emancipation and independence and the issues which are celebrated as the nation of Jamaica, the team members chose also to reflect on some issues which challenge the country. The reflection was titled: One People, One Nation, Reignited by the Spirit. The team was divided into groups which focused on:

1. Equal opportunity
2. Education
3. Indiscipline and disorder
4. Scamming

Groups were then invited to an integrated conversation in which one person presented a perspective on the issue in Post-Emancipation and Independence Jamaica. The second speaker began with 'And' adding his/her own perspective, different from the previous one. The third speaker began



SOME UCJCI SYNOD STAFF MEMBERS PAUSE FOR A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP.

with 'But' providing another consideration on the issue and finally the last speaker beginning with 'Anyway', suggesting a way to rally around the issue of nation-building.

Teams were comprised of different levels of staff who presented their views in ways which were meaningful and relevant to the times, while demonstrating awareness and alertness to the pressing issues.

Discussions were rich on how formal education does or does not contribute to an individual's thriving and meaningful contribution to nation-building, the consequences of personal decisions about disorder and indiscipline, to seizing the opportunity to counsel youth on poor choices for scamming as a credible response to poverty.

The chosen methodology provided opportunity for a community approach to problem-solving with everyone in various roles in the team benefitting from shared perspectives and contributing to resolutions. Additionally, team members were opened to exploring how they can influence the spaces in which they interact.

A staff member reflects on the methodology noting it was an opportunity to be honest, open and be heard. "The conversation relay", said the staff member, "felt like a round-table discussion with openness to agree or not and to consider someone else's perspective".

THE CAMP EXPERIENCE

Over the years, UCJCI's camp ministry has been a meaningful way of evangelising and nurturing young people in the faith. Many have come to faith, challenged to serve in various ways in the church and community. This is a story of one camper's experience in 2023.



JORDIS PRENDERGAST

Webster Memorial United Church
North Eastern Regional Mission Council

I am Jordis Prendergast and I attended this year's Pacesetter's Teens Camp which took place at the Madge Saunders Conference Centre in St Mary with a focus on the theme "Deepa Inna Christ, Firmer Inna Faith, Resilient".

My experience this year can be summed up with the word fulfilling. Camp gave me and others the opportunity to fellowship, focus on physical and mental health, learn basic life skills and, most importantly, grow in faith. Sessions with camp aunties and uncles, our chaplains Rev. Blair and Rev. Kong, and special guest speakers helped me to understand more about how I can be rooted in Christ and remain firm in Him.

Family activities provided a fun way of showcasing our talents and skills while using the theme to come up with creative ideas. My family, ANCHOR, was an acronym for Ambitious, Noble, Christ-Like, Honourable, Obedient and Resilient; words we associate with our walk in faith as we strive to remain anchored in Christ.

Every year it is said that people find their husbands or wives at camp, but recognition also needs to be given to the long standing friendships that are developed. Camp led me to meet new Christians and make friendships with people that can help me grow as a Christian and whom I can also help to grow. And of course there were many other fun activities, like banquet and beach day but the most touching part of camp for me was the evangelism, where we went out into Ocho Rios to minister to people. What stuck out to me most in that experience was not someone that was willing to listen, but a lady who said she did not have the time. Our group, as we left, said to her have a good day and God bless you and you could see on her face how much she appreciated the kind words.

I believe even in the moments when people turn away, showing kindness and Christ through you can cause a lasting impression on someone and is a form of evangelism in itself.

My camp experience was amazing - winning camp girl, being able to meet the friends I made, the cool aunties and uncles, the sessions that made me think more about being rooted in Christ and, of course, the food. I would 1000 times recommend anyone to go to camp.

A CHILD'S BLESSING FOR CAMP

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25: 40 (NRSV)

TOUCHING LIVES ACROSS COUNCILS

On Mother's Day, Daniel Vernon and his mom Ms. Carlene Larmond worshipped at the Savanna la Mar United Church, with their Grandmother and mom respectively. On hearing the announcement about Camp Sunday, Daniel expressed later to his mom that he wanted to give a third, of his prize money that he had received from the Junior School Challenge Quiz, to send a child to Camp. And this he did!

On May 31, they attended church again and Daniel's mom Carlene shared that, because of Daniel's commitment, other persons were motivated and made donations that will cover camp fees for five more children.

Their efforts and financial blessing will make it possible for six children to attend Camp 2023. Cash donation of \$63,000.00 plus toiletries for Camp were received.



DANIEL VERNON, YOUTH PHILANTHROPIST, DONATES PRIZE MONEY TOWARDS CAMP FEES.

The Children and Youth department at Savanna la Mar United Church are grateful to Daniel and his mom for their unselfish involvement and support given for their attendance to Camp this year. Daniel believes that we can make an impact; no matter how small. His action touched our lives in so many ways.

Contributed by Ann-Marie Wright
Church School Superintendent
Savanna la Mar United



**UNITED CHURCH YOUNG ADULTS
ACTION MOVEMENT**



UCYAAAM CAMP CONFERENCE 2023

THEME

**ALIVE! CHRIST CENTERED, LIFE
FOCUS, LIFE GIVING**

COST:

Adults - \$10,000.00

Children - \$6,000.00

Private Rooms - \$13,000.00

Daily Rates Are Available

Register Online

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17-20 AUGUST 2023

**VENUE: Madge Saunders Conference Center
Tower Isle St. Mary**

Congratulations!



REV. NORLENE JACKSON COMPLETES MASTERS STUDIES



We celebrate Rev. Norlene Jackson on her achievement of a Master of Arts in Religion (Practical Theology) and a Certificate in Black Church Studies and Reformed Studies.



We celebrate with Rev. Icylyn Parkinson on her recent marriage to Leroy Williams on August 1, 2023.



Our Homes are Places of Worship



AUGUST – REALIGN THE HOME

Our fellowship with God enables our communion with others. What happens in the home affects the society, hence God in Jesus Christ must be the Head of the home in order for the family to dwell together in peace.

Theme this Week:

The Spirit Realigns the Home

Suggested Scriptures:

Matthew 14:13-21

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 17:1-7, 15

Romans 9:1-5

The Spirit Realigns the Home

- Jacob, as the leader in his home, is not perfect, and he wrestles again with God. This time, he has a family to lead, and God needs to transform his life to lead a nation as well.
- Matthew 14:13-21 -In the miracle of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, Jesus transformed a private homemade lunch into a public event. Can the things in our homes become blessings to others?
- The home, realigned by the Spirit is a safe haven not only for the family but for the community.

Let us pray for

- Rev. Hyacinth Edwards
- The family of Mr. McFarlane Conolly
- The family of the late Mrs. Helen Webley, widow of the late Rev. Stanford Webley. Mrs. Webley died on July 11.
- Mr. Mike Bowerman of CIRMC who suffered a stroke and for his wife Mary as she supports him.
- For vulnerable groups who are seriously impacted by the intense heat.
- The safety of children in our care through Camp ministry, Vacation Bible School and other summer activities.
- That all who choose to take time away from work during the summer will experience restful and refreshing times.
- Our preparedness and safety during the current hurricane season.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



REV. HARRY BODDEN

AUGUST 2

*May the blessings of the
Lord be on you*



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)

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10 Jamaica, W. I.
Tel: 876 9268734; ♦ E-mail: synod@ucjci.com ♦ Website: www.ucjci.com

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