



# UCJCI UPDATE

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

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THE UNITED CHURCH IN  
JAMAICA AND THE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS

*Congregational  
Disciples of Christ and  
Presbyterian*

12, Carlton Crescent,  
Kingston 10. Tel: 926-8734,  
email: synod@ucjci.com.  
Website: www.ucjci.com

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

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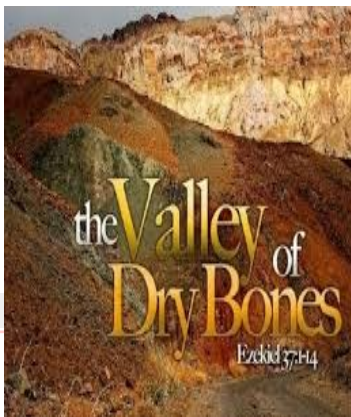
## PRAY FOR:



•**Rev. Bevis Byfield**  
who is not well.

•**Rev. Egbert Harvey**,  
whose mother, Mrs.  
Amanda Harvey passed  
on. Service of Thanks-  
giving will be held on  
April 21, 2018 at St. Pe-  
ter's Anglican Church,  
Wait-A -Bit, Trelawny at  
11 am.

# CAN THESE BONES LIVE?



## "Can These Bones Live?"

– Reflection Excerpts from  
the **Rev. Dr. Christopher Fer-  
guson**, General Secretary of  
the **World Communion of  
Reformed Churches (WCRC)**  
based on Ezekiel 37:1-10

"This last year has been hard in the life of our world. All of us in this Communion of over 100 million faithful have gone with Ezekiel and encountered an endless valley filled with the bones of broken bodies—those destroyed and uprooted by war, violence, climate change, poverty, hatred and discrimination.

Creation itself is wounded and in peril! Through our

prayers, we, like Ezekiel, have been led to valleys of bones, to broken places: to those pushed off their lands and denied livelihood; to those saying no to a culture of rape and violence against women; to those who struggle for life against a market economy that puts wealth in the hand of the few and bleeds the life from the many; to those who have simply lost hope and direction.

**The Spirit guides us to where life is threatened, where our churches seek migration justice for those forced to flee their homeland**, where churches struggle for non-military solutions to war and conflict based on dialogue and reconciliation rooted in justice, to where people of faith join with all those who struggle against racism, casteism, and white supremacy. And the God of Life in the midst of the valley presses us with the hardest question: **"Can these bones live?"** We call on God for that answer, but the Spirit—through those who are most violated, oppressed and excluded—answer back: "Prophecy to the

broken bodies. Breath will return, life will animate again that which has been put down."

But we must be part of the picture! **Life will mean joining bone to bone, body to body, mobilizing for life and transformation by the very ones most afflicted.** The women who went to the tomb to stand among the bones of the broken Jesus asked also and were also given a task: **"Go and tell."**

Remember—remember Galilee where there is still a struggle for life and land—Jesus' body joins with others to breathe life into the struggle for life. In this tough year the dry bones have received the gift of life within our family of churches and beyond.

We hear Dalits and Adivasi peoples make common cause with all those who battle against exclusion and domination. I saw the dry bones coming together and heard a rattling of life in a story from Florida, USA.

A family was trapped by currents in the ocean as they tried to rescue their sons who had been pulled out by a riptide. Each person trying to help was unable to do it alone.

**(Continued over-page)**

**CELEBRATIONS**




**70:**

**Rev. Clement Reid**  
April 9

**Rev. Alton Clarke,**  
April 11

**AD CORNER**

In Recognition of  
our 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



ANDREWS MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH  
Presents  
**A PRAYER BREAKFAST**


"55 Years of Building Communities...  
& Transforming Lives"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Norlene Jackson  
DATE: Saturday April 21, 2018  
VENUE: The Golf View Hotel  
5 1/2 Caledonia Rd., Mandeville  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Contribution: \$2,500 **016**

Come celebrate with us...in what promises to be:  
A Morning of Physical and Spiritual Nourishment!!  
Proceeds in aid of our Church Outreach Fund

ANDREWS MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH **016**  
A PRAYER BREAKFAST

**Youth**  
**QUAKE**  
**2018**



ANDREWS MEMORIAL UNITED  
SAT - MAY 5TH-2018  
START TIME: 8AM  
REFRESHMENTS ON SALE

Discipling Across Boundaries for Jesus  
**#DABforJesus**



THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

**CONVOCATION 2018.**  
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM, April 15

Theme: *"Discipleship for Life, Disciples of Peace"*

**SPEAKER: REV. ASTOR CARLYLE**



**MONTEGO BAY CONFERENCE CENTRE, ST JAMES.**  
**WEAR BLUE!**

Come, broker for PEACE, Worship, Fellowship, and Celebrate! - There will be fun activities for the children and empowering engagement for the Youth.

ADMISSION: FREE! - **SEE YOU THERE!**



**CAN THESE BONES LIVE?**

And worse, they themselves got trapped in the swirl and pull of the current.

A woman who was on the beach decided that she would go out and bring them back but knew that the disconnected bodies on the beach would have to come together.

She mobilized 80 people on the beach to join hands and link arms to form a human chain to wade into the water and rescue the family. She called the disconnected to reconnect to life.

Our Communion has received such a call.

**Called to communion, committed to justice, we are brought by the Spirit to the valley of the bones, sunk up to our neck in fear and then mobilized in hope by God's Spirit through the living power of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ."**

(The UCJCI is a member of WCRC)

**LUCEA BAPTISM AT SEA.**



**BAPTISM AT SEA:** A very special service of Baptism took place earlier this year at Watson Taylor Beach Park, Hanover. Officiating Minister was the **Rev. Glenroy Clarke**. The candidates were from 3 churches in the **Lucea Charge**; consisting of Lances Bay, Greenland, and Lucea United Churches.

**Eighteen persons were baptised including** 6 males and 12 females, all of whom were from the communities in which the churches are located.

It was felt that the Baptism ceremony was yet another way in which the positive impact of the church the surrounding communities was being clearly demonstrated. ■

## LEADERSHIP CORNER

### Developing Your Leadership Team

People are any organization's greatest assets. Systems become dated, buildings deteriorate, and equipment wear, but people can grow, develop, and become more effective if they have a leader who understands their potential value.

If you really want to be a successful leader, you must develop and equip other leaders around you. You must find a way to get your vision seen, implemented, and contributed to by your team. The leader sees the big picture, but he or she needs other leaders to help make their mental picture a reality. Jesus Christ built and equipped His team, then He gave them The Great Commission and sent them forth. Developing your leadership team is critical for the following reasons:

**1. An organization's growth potential is directly related to its personnel potential.** Grow a leader, grow the organization. We cannot grow without, until our leaders grow within. The strength of any organization is a direct result of the strength of its leaders. Everything rises and falls on leadership.

**2. Potential leaders help carry the load.** If the leader has an attitude of interdependency with others and is committed to win-win relationships, this kind of positive interaction will result in leadership development and a stronger organization. Instead of winning by competitiveness, this leader steers the organization into a winning position by cooperation.

**3. Leaders attract potential leaders.** Birds of a feather really do flock together. Any leader who has only followers around him will be called upon to continually draw on his own resources to get things done. Without attracting other leaders to carry the load, he or she will become fatigued and burnt out. Unless you want to carry the whole load yourself, you need to be attracting, developing, and equipping leaders.

**4. Equipped leaders expand and enhance the future of the organization.** They become invaluable in areas such as decision making, brainstorming, and

providing security and direction to others. As the leaders expand, the organization and its future expand. This was one of the examples set by Nehemiah as he and his team re-built the wall of Jerusalem, even as they faced adverse forces.

A leader's success can be defined as the maximum utilization of the abilities of those under her or him. In identifying leaders within your organization, remember that "most people produce only when they feel like it. Leaders produce even when they don't feel like it" (Melvin Maxwell).

The key is to find the best people you can, then equip them to become the best leaders they can be. Great leaders produce other leaders.



Source: Real Leadership: The 101 Collection" by John C. Maxwell