

# MCCA QUARTERLY

Issue 4  
January to  
March 2020

Connexional Theme

## Facing the Task Unfinished : Imagine

Ephesians 3:20 –21

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Covenant Services and 2020 District Councils/ Conferences have ended. During annual activities in the MCCA we were, at various times and in various ways, reminded that the work of God is necessary, diverse, and numerous. The activities provided opportunities for us to reflect on our accomplishments, shortcomings and the requirements for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Are you satisfied that you have been and are doing your best for the transformation of lives and the societies?

We urge every believer to be actively involved in the work of God and to be faithful as we fulfill our particular calling. We are not blessed with the same abilities, neither are we called to do the same duties and responsibilities. We are all different-unique.

Therefore, lets not be like Peter who, when Jesus gave him his assignments and indicated what the future held of him, asked: **“Lord, what about him”** (John 21:21) in reference to John. Instead, as a minister, Local Preacher, Class Leader, Sunday School Teacher, nurse, accountant, farmer educator, lawyer, landscaper, mason, joiner, engineer etc let us focus on what we have to do and do it to the best of our abilities.

Every blessing– read, enjoy and share our stories.



**THINK ON  
THESE  
THINGS**



### Lent- A Call to Come Away

**“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil”- Mark 4:1.**

In our walk with God, there are moments when we feel the need to “come away”. In those instances, where God’s Spirit spurs us on; the invitation could be for us to come and taste the joys of intimacy with God or even the endurance of trials in order to be strengthened by God’s grace.

Regardless of the motive, the beckon to “come away”, is necessary for our growth and life in Jesus. In Mark’s account of the temptation narrative, Jesus was summoned to “come away” (Mark 4:1) from the “everything” of life into an encounter, which held no signs of bliss or enjoyment, nor was it an escape from reality yet it was all worthwhile. The text reveals that he was physically depleted and in that state, was constantly bantered. In that state Jesus was able to overcome the tempter’s snare. Now, therein lies the bliss for us, because Jesus triumphed so will we, once we abide in him.

The account of Jesus’ wilderness retreat invites us to consider the value of such biddings to “come away” from the business in our own lives, especially during this season of penitence. The text records three occasions (v. 3, 6, 9) where the slander issued a series of demands, however, Jesus’s response in each instance demonstrated that in the call to “come away”, opportunities are there to **affirm God’s truth**. He didn’t flinch but remained steadfast on the foundation of the word of God. We are called to pattern Jesus’s example. Therefore, in moments when we are challenged to deny God’s standard, we should be better able to clarify and declare in our own life’s journey **“that we know that what we know concerning God, is true”**.

We see further that it is worthwhile to “come away” in light of Jesus’ experience because **evil is put to shame (vs;11)**. The tempter had no option but to leave, as that mission to disgrace the authority of God was cancelled. Once we put our trust in God and hold fast to God’s position on matters we encounter, we are assured that we will never be disgraced (Psalm 25:3). This lent, let us once again abandon all our urgent demands and respond in the affirmative to God’s offer to “come away”, we will not be disappointed.

**Hymn: “There is a place of quiet rest” #365VIP**

**Prayer: God, open our hearts we pray to receive your call towards deeper intimacy and character building. In Jesus’s name, we pray, with thanksgiving. Amen**

**Submitted By: Bishop T. Kofia Nials**



Connexional Officers for the 2019 –2021 triennium from left: Bishop Galbraith, Rev. Spencer, Mrs. Yonnette Greaves VP; Ms. Sara Hudson, IPV; Mr. Quincy Bourne Treasurer.

## CONNEXIONAL COUNCIL & STRATEGIC DIRECTION WORKSHOP

The Connexional Council extraordinary meeting and workshop was held at Four Season's Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica, November 6-9, 2019. This was the second meeting as we sought to develop a Strategic Direction for the MCCA. Participating were two Ministers in Training, a lecturer/warden at UTC, a representative from Investment Committee, MCCA Trust, MCCA Women, Young Adults, Men's Work, Youth Work as well as the Council members.

The facilitators were Dr. Maurice Adams and Mrs. Angela Zamaere Smith. Funding was provided by Church CAN, an agency of the Methodist Church in Britain.

Our deliberations were frank, intense and focused.



Andrew St. Hill M.D.

### Our fears included:

- **That things will remain the same.**
- **Another talk Shop**

### Our Expectations included:

- **A well defined plan of action**
- **A clear strategic development plan**

### Our Hopes included:

- **There will be collective agreement and enthusiasm**
- **Renewed focus for the MCCA**

**There were lectures, devotions and group activities**



**Bishop Gooden Benguche and Rev. Henry said thanks to Dr. Adams and Mrs. Smith**



The gathering was unanimous in its conclusion that we need to do somethings differently if the MCCA is to move forward as a viable and sustainable force for the Kingdom of God in the region. We are aware that some changes will also requires changes to our Constitution and Discipline. When the opportunity arises be deliberate and diligent in making your contribution.

## VISION STATEMENT

**English:** A Christ centered, visible, sustainable church actively transforming the whole person, system and societies.

**Dutch** *Een op Christus gerichte, zichtbare, duurzame kerk die de hele persoon, het systeem en de samenleving actief transformeert.*

**Papiamento:** Un iglesia ku Kristu den sentro, istema, sostenibel i aktivamente transformando e persona kompleto, e istema i e siedad.

**Spanish:** Una Iglesia Cristo céntrica, visible y sostenible que está activamente transformando en su totalidad personas, sistemas y

**French:** La EMCA: Une Eglise centrée sur Jésus Christ, visible, viable, travaillant à transformer de façon intégrale toute personne, tous systèmes et toutes sociétés

## MISSION STATEMENT

**English:** The MCCA is a Connexional body of believers of Jesus Christ who is linguistically, geographically, and culturally diverse. We proclaim the gospel of Christ, equipping God's people for witness and service and work to holistically transform the lives of all

**Dutch:** De MCCA is een samenhangende groep gelovigen van Jezus Christus die taalkundig, geografisch en cultureel verschillend zijn. We verkondigen het evangelie van Christus en rusten Gods volk uit voor getuigenis en dienst en werken om de levens van alle mensen in het Caribisch gebied, Amerika en daarbuiten holistisch te transformeren.

**Papiamento:** MCCA ta un kurpa di kreyente den Kristu Hesus ku ta linguístikamente, geográfikamente i kulturalmente diversifiká. Nos ta proklamá e bon notisia di Kristu ekipando Dios su hendenan pa testiguá, sirbi i traha pa holístikamente transformá bida di tur hende den Karibe i Amerika i mas ayá

**Spanish** La Iglesia Metodista en el Caribe y las Américas es un cuerpo conexional de creyentes en Jesucristo que son diversos, lingüística, geográfica y culturalmente. Proclamamos el Evangelio de Cristo edificando al pueblo de Dios para el testimonio y servicio; y trabajamos de manera integral, para transformar las vidas del pueblo en el Caribe, las Américas y del mundo entero

**French:** L'Eglise Méthodiste dans la Caraïbe et les Amériques (EMCA) est un Corps Connexionnel de croyants en Jésus Christ diversifié tant du point de vue linguistique, géographique que culturel qui proclame l'Évangile de Jésus, qui équipe le peuple de Dieu pour le témoignage et le service et qui travaille à transformer de façon intégrale la vie de tous les peuples de la Caraïbe, des Amériques et d'ailleurs.

**The next workshop will be in Belize June 2-4, 2020.**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO METHODIST LAY MEMBERS

### WORLD FEDERATION NORTH AMERICA AREA

The World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women North America Area Seminar convened at the Hilton Northbrook Hotel, Illinois during the period October 3-6, 2019. The MCCA Women President Dr. Lois Grant Hector and Secretary, Mrs. Pat Newell-Pennant represented the Caribbean Region.

Activities commenced with the Weaving Together Programme (WTP) on Wednesday October 2, 2019 with World President,

Alison Judd officiating and leading the devotion with a Reflection on 'Messengers of Joy'. Angels being messengers of peace. The importance of spreading the 'Good News'

Isaiah 52 'How beautiful are the feet that bring good news'. At the end the WP gifted everyone with a woven angel as a reminder of being Proclaimers in this world.



*Dr. Lois Grant Hector receiving the North America Area VP Medallion from the World President, Alison Judd. North America Area President, Dr. Sandra Gadson looks on.*

The President of MCCA Women, Dr. Lois Grant Hector was confirmed as Area Vice President. In her acceptance of the post as Area Vice President of the North America Area, Dr. Lois Hector expressed how thankful she was to be appointed to the VP position.

She encouraged the women to pray daily about the ongoing work and especially the devastation experienced in the Bahamas. She expressed her concern about young women not joining the Women's group and will be looking at programmes that will encourage youth to participate.

The official opening was on Thursday October 3, with VP Dr. Lois Grant Hector leading devotions. Her reflection focused on the act of "Giving thanks". Each President then gave a short history on their respective Unit; namely CME, AME, MCCA, UMC and AMEZ. A Worship and communion service conducted by Rev'd Ruby Miles of the AME Zion brought the Seminar to a close Oct. 6, 2019.

**MCCA Women 7th Quinquennial Assembly is scheduled for the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Centre in Trinidad and Tobago July 22-27, 2020.**

**Sis. Karishma Ann Marie Jeebo, RPh., AS(Pharm.), B.Pharm., PharmD,** is a registered pharmacist with close to 15 years community pharmacy practice dispensing medicines and providing compassionate patient care.



Currently she lectures in the areas of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacotherapeutics to final year pharmacy students at the University of Guyana (UG) and is Head of Department of Pharmacy at the University of Guyana.

Dr. Jeebo began her academic pursuits at Queen's College. After graduation she attended the UG completing an Associate Degree in Pharmacy 2003 and a Diploma in Marketing in 2004. She completed the Bachelor's Degree in Pharmacy at the University of Technology, Jamaica in 2010. Later she successfully pursued the Post Graduate Diploma in Education at the UG. In June 2019, she graduated from the University of Toronto, Canada with a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree and thus currently she is the only person in Guyana with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

She serves as a member of the Pharmacy Council of Guyana, executive member of the Guyana Pharmacists' Association; and is a member of the Caribbean Association of Pharmacists.

She has received several academic and professional awards: The Caribbean Community Pharmacist of Distinction Award 2016; The Caribbean Association of Pharmacists Pharmacy Practice Pioneer Award 2012; The Most Outstanding Post Diploma Pharmacy Student at the University of Technology, 2010 and The Caribbean Association of Pharmacists' Youth Leader Award 2005. In 2019 she received the Caribbean Pharmacist of the Year and the Guyana Pharmacists' Association Recognition Award for the PharmD degree.

In all her achievements and academic pursuit Dr. Jeebo has remained an ardent, active and committed member of the Methodist Church in Guyana. She serves at various levels in the areas of Health and Family Life; and Christian Education, particularly, youth and young adults work. She also serves as a Congregational Steward

She is extremely passionate about contributing to the growth of the pharmacy profession in Guyana and the Caribbean; advancing the delivery of compassionate pharmaceutical care and a staunch promoter of evidence-based medicine. She is on a journey to train exceptional pharmacists; to see this type of care expanded through collaborative practice and fully integrated into Guyana's health care system to positively impact lives.

She loves nature and the outdoors; volunteering with various medical teams across Guyana; investing in the lives of young people at her church and sharing the love of Christ; and enjoying a good movie with friends.

To God be the glory and all praise, for the great things He has done and continues to do in her life!

## HAPPY 75th ANNIVERSARY CURACAO CIRCUIT



The members of the Curacao Circuit not only welcomed the delegates on their arrival at the airport, they made sure that the first LI District gathering in Curacao in the Circuit's 75 years history was a memorable one. Thank you Curacao!!! Since the introduction of District Councils smaller circuits are able to host District meetings and this is a good thing for our Church. To God be the glory!!!!

### A BOOK

#### COME LET US PRAY -

Children, Youth and Young Adults

*by Sis. Petra Matthew*



This book was first written in Guyana in 2001. The second edition, with additional prayers, was written in St. Kitts in 2019. The Prayers in the book were written for children, youth and young adults. However, it is not age specific but can be used by people of all ages.

The Prayers can be used for different purposes and are arranged under the following headings: Adoration, Confession, Morning Prayers, Prayers at Mealtime, Evening Prayers, Prayers in time of Sickness and Prayers for Help at School and Work.

You are encouraged to use this Book as the Prayers. According to the Author, "the title of the Book is calling you to a life of prayer in the Name of Jesus". We are urged to pray without ceasing.

The Book can be carried easily and is a good gift for every boy and girl, youth and young adults, and is recommended for use at Sunday School, Day School, Youth and Young People's Organizations, Confirmation Class etc. The Book is available and can be ordered from :

Mrs. Petra Matthew  
Seaton Street  
P.O.Box 141  
Basseterre , St. Kitts

You can also call or WhatsApp: 1 869 668 5948 The Book costs ECD 30.00 or USD 12.00. An additional cost will be included for postage.

## HAPPY 206th ANNIVERSARY TO METHODISM IN THIS REGION

### 1760-2020 -The Story Continues....

The year 2020 will mark 260 years since the Methodist Movement commenced its journey through the Caribbean, South and Central America. The witness began at Gilbert's Estate, Antigua, by a lay man Nathaniel Gilbert ably supported by three ladies: Mary, Sophia and Bessie. These ladies who had limited theological education or Bible knowledge were most instrumental in the development and advancement of Methodism.

Tribute must be paid to the many lay men and women, past and present, throughout the region who championed the cause of Christ and the Methodist witness over these 260 years.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the missionaries and their families for the indefatigable efforts to strengthen, expand and develop the work. Many cemeteries in the region tell the amazing stories of love, service and sacrifice by those who came and kept on coming. To God be the glory for those who went before us.

The Movement faced painful and distressing persecution but the Methodist soldiers of the cross, lay and clergy, marched on with determination, fortitude and faith in Our Faithful God. 260th year and the work continues, maybe with greater challenges, but we are no less determined.

During the second attempt at autonomy in 1967, the first having failed in 1903, Rev. Hugh B. Sherlock wrote in one of his hymns: "Lord Thy Church its task unfinished seeks Thy wisdom, grace and power."

In 2020 we face the task unfinished as we seek to serve the present age and work to ensure the sustainability of this great Church.

The Church has had to respond to the technological advancement and developments of every generation in its history. We are now facing a technological revolution the likes of which has never been seen. Every effort must be made to embrace and utilize the technology of today to do the work of God.

Years ago the Methodist Movement was centerstage and in some cases out-front in the anti-slavery campaign, in the fight against the enslavement of persons from Africa, in the campaign for justice at the workplace and the formation of Trade Unions, in the drive for the education of the masses, in the rights of women and the protection of children.

Some of these dehumanizing experiences are still with us in different forms. The virtual disintegration of the Trade Union Movement and collective bargaining has been replaced by Contract Working arrangements which provide no job security, low wages, no health insurance and inhumane working conditions. The voice of our church needs to be heard in these matters. The church needs to speak to the injustices being carried out by the banking sector where those who suffer most from high fees and closure of accounts are those who are poorest and can least afford to lose their little savings.

In this our 260th anniversary the MCCA needs to find a platform to seek work for the transformation of our current societies. God is depending on us. Let us not be complacent but imaginative and prophetic.

**HAPPY 260th!!!!**

**SOLDIERS OF CHRIST WHO ARE GONE BEFORE US**



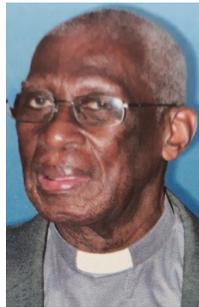
Rev'd Ruperto Enrique McEachron, Local Presbyterian in the Distrito Panama/Costa Rica entered this world on September 26, 1928 and transitioned from this life on December 9, 2019 . He was laid to rest on December 18 2019 after a service of thanksgiving at Iglesia Metodista Trinity. He was a very faithful soldier of the cross who willingly gave of himself to the work of God. As long as he was able he was willing to labour in the vineyard. Rest in peace brother Ruperto. You have done well!!

**AROUND THE CONNEXION**

Rev'd Nicolas, Rev'd Gabraith, Rev'd Anderson after an evening of fellowship in Panama. Dr. Anderson was in Panama to on the occasion of his 80th birthday.



Rev'd Desmond George Mason was an Itinerant Presbyterian from the South Caribbean District who also worked in The Bahamas/Turks and Caicos and Leeward Islands Districts. He arrived in this world on 7th September 1924 and departed on 3rd January 2020 after a service of thanksgiving at the Castries Methodist Church in St. Lucia. He served the church well always trusting in the Lord with all his heart. Rest in peace Bro. Desmond. Well done!!



During the Haiti District Conference the ministers assembled on the steps of the District Office for the traditional Conference Photographs



*Sis. Helen Ivor Elizabeth Lyder, went to her eternal rest on February 3, 2020 and laid to rest on February 13, 2020. She was the widow of the late Rev'd Deryck Lyder and the daughter of Rev'd Cuthbert Pilgrim. We thank God for her long and faithful life and service to our Church and the Kingdom of God. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, even so says the Spirit for they rest from their labours". May her soul rest in peace*

Ministers in the Guyana District pause during their Annual Staff and Leaders Retreat the Guyana District Staff paused to capture the moment.



**DEATH**

In one of his books, [Christian Theology in Plain Language, page 208](#), A.M. Hunter, the New Testament scholar, relates the story of a dying man who asked his Christian doctor to tell him something about the place to which he was going. As the doctor fumbled for a reply, he heard a scratching at the door, and he had his answer. "Do you hear that?" he asked his patient. "It's my dog. I left him downstairs, but he has grown impatient, and has come up and hears my voice. He has no notion what is inside this door, but he knows that I am here. Isn't it the same with you? You don't know what lies beyond the Door, but you know that your Master is there."

John Wesley's last words were, "The best of all is, God is with us!"

Panama/Costa Rica District Treasurer, Carlos Gordon, says thanks to our Vice President Mrs. Yonnette Greaves. She was the 2020 Connexional Representative to the Panama/Costa Rica District Council.



Sisters in Christ Durene Tavares from Jamaica and Tiffany Liburd from St. Kitts are also members of the Members of MCCA Youth Executive. We thank God for MCCA Youth and the good work they are doing to build the Kingdom of God as they encourage one another and seek those being lost.

## U.T.C.W.I.

Rev'd Dr. Oral Thomas has been appointed the 10th President of the UTCWI. His appointment was effective 1st August 2019. UTCWI Board Chairman, Rev'd Dr. Kofi Nkrumah-Young, presides at the installation of Dr. Thomas on December 4, 2019. We congratulate our brother and wish him well as he leads this regional noble institution.



Rev'd Dr. Novelle Josiah has been appointed Lecturer/warden to replace Dr. Thomas. Dr. Josiah is married to Hyacinth and is the father of two sons. We pray God's blessing on him as he proceeds to UTCWI in August 2020.

Rev'd David Goff, Rev'd Glenna Spencer, Rev'd Otto Wade all graduates of UTCWI. By the grace and mercy of God many good and faithful servants of God have journeyed through the "Holy Woods". We thank God for who are there now and who will be in the future.



An Ecumenical Moment- Bishop Lawrence Nicasio, Roman Catholic, Bishop Philip Wright, Anglican, Rev'd David Goff and Bishop Moses Benguche, Methodist. Taken



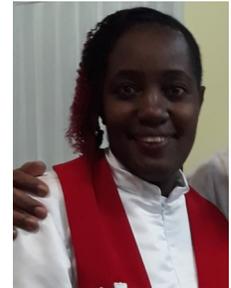
after an Ecumenical Service for the Opening of the Legal Year on January 13, 2020. The Methodist Church will forever be a champion for togetherness in the Body of Christ.

## ORDINATIONS

Praise God for the ministers who were ordained this year. Four were Deacons and two Presbyters. We pray that God will bless them as they serve the people of God.



JD. Rev'd Alison Iton (D)



JD. Rev. Charlene Burton L.P.



SCD. Rev. Anne Yarde (D)



SCD. Rev. Greta St. Hill (D)



LID. Rev. Walton Charles (D)



LID. Rev. Othniel Daly (L.P.)



The Connexional President, District President, Secretary of the District Conference, District Candidate's Secretary, Ordinand's Superintendent, an ordained minister chosen by the Ordinand and a minister chosen by the Connexional President, in consultation with the District President, lays hands on ordinand.