



UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH
IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

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OUR VISION: "Touching
Lives, Nurturing Disciples,
Seeking Transformation
through Christ"

SYNODICAL THEME:
"Renewal and Transfor-
mation: Discipleship for
Life"

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PRAY FOR:



Jamaica and Cayman, which have seen 621 and 187 confirmed cases, respectively, of the **coronavirus**; and against the further spread of the disease.

The people of the U.S.A. in their **struggle against racism**.

Volume 6: Issue 23

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

"Let Nothing Be Wasted"

“Jesus said, *“Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted”*.”

If anyone understands the current challenges of our lives and land, it is Jesus. This well-known story in St. John 6 shows a very high point in Jesus’ ministry. People were following him in great numbers, latching on to his manifes- to.

But in this story we see a predicament. Jesus’ budget can’t meet the demands. The people come in droves; they have needs, but the resources available cannot meet the needs. Isn’t that what Phillip says? *“Eight months wages would not be enough to feed this crowd”*.

Jesus nevertheless takes what is present, feeds the crowd, and then utters some of the most profound words ever spoken: *“Let nothing be wasted”*. I believe these words were not for the disciples alone, but for all who were present that day. It was a statement for the individual but it was also a statement for the

gathered community. It is a message for you and me.

As a people facing this COVID crisis, we need to heed these words, *“Let nothing be wasted”*. A household bombarded by financial constraints must take these words to heart, *“Let nothing be wasted”*.

A person strapped by economic realities needs to govern life by these words, *“Let*



nothing be wasted”. In the words of Jesus, I hear the voice of my mother: *“Willful waste makes woeful want”*.

So as the disciples scramble to fill the baskets with the left-overs, let us see what Jesus is calling us to through this statement, *“Let nothing be wasted”*.

He is calling us to: **DISCIPLINE**. Listen friends, to survive in this impending

economic tight-place will require an ordered, methodical, systematic, disciplined approach to living.

It calls for the curbing of our appetites...an understanding that our tastes ought to be within the ambit of our resources and not above. *“Don’t hang your basket where you can’t reach it”*.

“Let nothing be wasted” is a call for disciplined use of our resources. Permit me to ask you: *What are some methods that you will employ in cutting back on costs? Will you unplug your deep freeze at nights? Will you unplug your electronic gadgets when they are not in use? Will you turn off lights when they are not needed? Will you support the Jamaican economy by buying Jamaican products.*

Jesus, in His statement, is encouraging us to understand that disciplined action begins with small simple steps. Jesus said, *“Let nothing be wasted”*. **He is calling us to a DISCIPLINED lifestyle.**

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CELEBRATIONS!

70:

Rev. Dr. Gordon Evans**June 20****UCJCI OVERSIGHT****The Synod**

All Ordained and Commissioned Ministers in Councils and Delegates appointed by each Congregation, constitute the Synod, the highest decision-making group in the Church. It is responsible for setting Church policy and objectives, and the framework within which the membership functions.

The Central Mission Council

The Central Mission Council (CMC) acts on behalf of the Synod in between Synod gatherings. Through the Regional Mission Councils and the Standing Committees of Synod, the CMC ensures that the Synod Agenda is carried out. It has been given authority by the Synod to implement decisions made, and receive reports from the Standing Committees, and be accountable to the Synod for all actions.

Regional Mission Councils

These are geographical groupings of congregations. Each is administered by a Council Executive comprising a Chairperson, Deputy, Secretary, Treasurer and other Officers. In addition, each congregation is represented at Council by delegates (2 representatives for the first 300 members of the congregation and 1 representative for each additional 100 or part thereof).

“Let Nothing Be Wasted”*(Continued from Page 1)*

He is (also) calling us to: **DISCERNMENT**. The statement, “*Let nothing be wasted*” is one that asks us to consider our needs versus our wants. It is interesting to note that when St. Mark told of Jesus’ feeding of the 5000 in chapter 6 of his gospel, he placed it immediately following the banquet that Herod kept in his palace. He did this not only to show the lavish lifestyle of the few in Herod’s palace versus the poverty of the masses feeding on fish and bread, but also to show that one doesn’t need to live like a King in order to truly live.

The point, my friends, is that half of what we think we need, we don’t! The point is that there is much wealth and life and joy in simplicity! And when Jesus said, “*Let nothing be wasted*”, He is challenging you and me to determine need versus want and distinguish between the essential and the extravagant.

COVID-19 has created a uniquely wonderful opportunity for us parents and guardians to sit with our children and work out the household budget with them...take them to the backyard and show them that you really don’t have a money tree...instill within them a sense of thrift and fiduciary responsibility. Teach them the maxims of old:

“*Cut your coat to suit your cloth*” - that will help them to manage debt.

“*Everybody pot nuh ready the same time*” - don’t want what others have, work diligently and creatively and wait your turn.

“*Rain come down yuh neva set bucket, nuh badda when dew a fall*” - don’t wait until it is too late to make use of your opportunities. Be discerning and use the resources at your disposal to further your life...and do it now!

(He is also calling us to) **DEPENDENCE**. Discipline and discernment are good, healthy, and wholesome approaches to living in days like these. But it takes the undergirding element of dependence on God that brings the supernatural into the affairs of men. This is the essence of the story.

Although the little boy brought lunch for himself and rationally it could not feed all who were present, he knew that if it reached Jesus’ hands something wonderful could be done with it. In an act of sacrifice, this child risked not receiving anything for himself, by committing to a cause bigger than himself. I hope you will agree with me that the tightness in the economy will require us sharing resources with each other. It will require an open heart and a giving hand. This boy saw himself as a steward of God, and though his gift was miniscule in comparison to the need, he was convinced that as long as it left his hands and entered Jesus’, something wonderful would happen. *Isn’t that what dependence on Jesus is about? Faith...trust...assurance that he will take care if us? Isn’t that what dependence is about? That He who made the earth and everything in it...He who gives us breath and strength, and supplies all our needs...will forever be faithful? Isn’t that the story of our faith? That this Jesus who died and rose again has brought us into an eternal covenant with the God whose resources are inexhaustible? God is for us! God will take care of us!*

My prayer for you today is that, as we face these challenging days, we will experience the miraculous presence of **El Shaddai**, “**The God who is more than enough**”...My prayer is that, as you look at the cupboards of your life, like that little boy, you will avail yourself so that, through you, others may live...“**Let nothing be wasted**”; “**Let nothing be wasted**”. Amen.

- Contributed by: Rev. Astor Carlyle, Minister of the Webster Memorial Charge of United Churches.

Send comments and news about your congregation to: ucjciupdate@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Transfer the Vision

Let's say that you're doing a good job leading effectively. You're modelling the way. You're developing relationships with your people and building them up. You've trained them. You're developing them and plan to continue doing so. *Now what do you do?* You aim at the bull's-eye. In the area of leadership, that means *transferring the vision*.

If you are the leader at the top of the organization, you will be transferring your own vision. If you are a leader in the middle of the organization, you will be transferring what is primarily the vision of others.

Leaders in the middle are the crucial link in that process. The vision may be cast by the top leaders, but it rarely gets transferred to the people without the wholehearted participation of the leaders lower in the organization who are closer to them. Though leaders in the middle may not always be the inventors of the vision, they are almost always its interpreters.

So how does a middle leader interpret the vision in a way that fires up the people and sets them off in the right direction? If you include the following seven (7) elements, you will be well on your way to hitting the target.

CLARITY. If the vision isn't clear, the people aren't clear. They just can't figure it out. You have to put all the pieces together for them to help them "get" it. When preparing to cast vision, ask yourself: *What do I want them to know, and what do I want them to do?* And once you know the answer, keep communicating and filling in the blanks until you can sense that most of your people get it—not just the quick ones.

CONNECTION OF PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE. A leader who casts vision and neglects to tie in the past and present is really missing an opportunity.

Talking about the past gives no hope for the future, so you certainly don't want to put your focus there. But if you ignore the past, you fail to connect people to the organization's history.

If you show that you value what has gone before and honour the people who laid the foundation to get you to where you are today, you validate those people who have worked hard and sacrificed to build what already exists. You also give the people who are new to the process the added security of knowing they are part of something bigger. When people are able to touch the past, they will be more inclined to reach for the future. Anytime you can show that the past, present, and future are unified, you bring power and continuity to your vision casting.

PURPOSE. Although vision tells people where they need to go, purpose tells them why they should go. Not only does that help people to make sense of what they are being asked to do, but it also helps them to stay on target. It helps them to make adjustments, improvise, and innovate as they encounter obstacles or experience other difficulties.

GOALS. Without goals and a strategy to achieve them, the vision isn't measurable or attainable. A leader needs more than hope when it comes to figuring out how to get to the destination. Hope is not a strategy. When you give people a process, they realize that the vision is realis-

tic. And that increases their confidence in you and the vision.

A CHALLENGE. Just because you make the vision realistic doesn't mean you can't make it challenging. In fact, if vision doesn't require people to stretch, they may wonder if it is worthy of their dedication. Some leaders seem to be afraid to challenge their teams, but a challenge makes good people want to spread their wings and fly. It fires up the committed people and fries the uncommitted ones. You will accurately define your people if you ask them to stretch.

STORIES. If you want to put a human face on a challenging vision, then include stories. They make the vision relational and warm. Think about people who may have been involved in the advancement of the organization so far. Tell about their struggles and victories. Praise their contributions. Make it personal. When you do that, you make the vision and the process identifiable to the average people who are wondering, *Should I be a part of this? Can I be a part of this? Can I make a difference?* A story helps them to see that even though they may have to reach to help achieve the vision, it is within their grasp.

PASSION. If there is no passion in the picture, then your vision isn't transferrable; it is just a pleasant snapshot. Who's going to work hard, put in long hours, fight through obstacles, and go the extra mile for that? The wonderful thing about passion is that it is contagious. If you are fired up, then they will get fired up, and they will need that fire to keep them going.

Source: "The 360-Degree Leader" by John C. Maxwell

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS FEATURE

UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

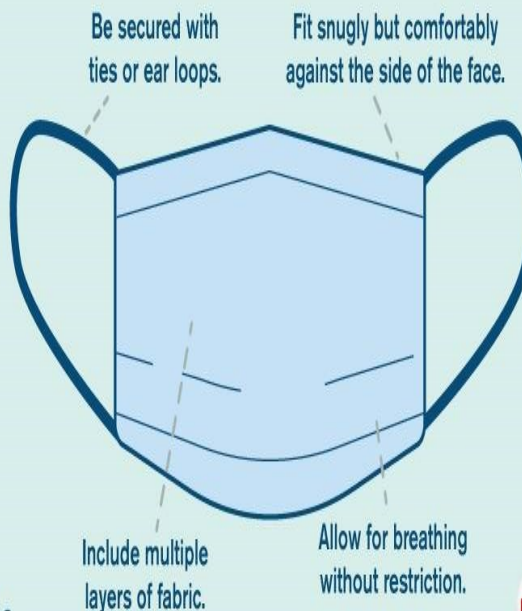
Individual Prayer:
Every Wednesday
from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

(2 Timothy 1:7)

POINTS FOR PRAYER

- * A stop to the spread of the disease.
- * Healing for those who are infected with the disease.
- * Strength, comfort and peace for the loved ones of persons who have died from the disease.
- * Encouragement for the children who are confused and fearful during this time.
- * That persons will draw closer to God, and families draw closer to each other, during this time.
- * That all persons will take this matter seriously, and responsibly take the necessary precautions.
- * Support for our healthcare systems and workers who are on the frontlines.
- * Safety of all elderly persons and those with co-morbidities.
- * Provision for the needy and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- * Our local and world economies.

What to know about face coverings.



Therefore encourage one another
and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Source: CDC

