



DECEMBER 2017

## NEWSLETTER



### *From the MCCA Women President's Desk*

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).

It is indeed a blessing to behold the beauty of God's creation for another year. As women we tend to possess a caring persona to ensure calm and tranquility. This is one aspect of our calling to proclaim the peace of God in a world of turmoil rocking the cradle that will rule a world of peace. According to Mother Theresa (1910-1997) “A smile is the beginning of Peace”. Give a smile of comfort in your corner even providing a moment of peace means so much in place of mayhem.

The year 2017 had its share of excitement and fear. Excitement of successes and closer relationship with God. Fears of natural disasters, threats of climate change, issues of

health care for maternal and childcare with continued threats of Chikungunya and other diseases, affordability of education and training to meet needs of society and domestic violence resulting in fatality.

In 2018 let us endeavor to be more active in community service. First keep peace with yourself, then you can bring others to know and practice peace (Thomas a Kempis 1380-1471). While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart (St Francis of Assisi). God will prosper you and keep your soul safe from danger because He chose you to proclaim the wonders of His love of peace, joy and hope.

Go forth with the words “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:27).

A blessed New Year to you and your family. Continue to pray for the members of the MCCA Women Executive and all upcoming activities for God's Divine intervention that His will be done on Earth.

Yours in Christ

*Lois Grant-Hector*



## MEDITATION

Have Faith: God is our Strength and our Provider Luke 12 Verses 22 – 28

“Consider the Ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, and God feeds them.” Luke 12: 24

The theme chosen for the 2018 District Conference in the Belize/Honduras District was “Grounded in the Faith: Connected to God through Prayer.” As the different groups in the church met to make plans to reflect on this theme, several avenues were explored to bring the message over forcible to all. Words from the youth song chosen: “I Will Follow Him Through Faith” written by Janice Kapp Perry”, were well received and was indeed forceful. One verse of this said song states: “The Lord has blessed me with simple Faith. If I pray for help He will give me strength. I will do His work, I will gladly serve. I’ll follow Him in faith.”

If we keep these thoughts in mind we will find it so easy to be happy and would be able to confront our challenges.

Luke reminds us that we need not worry about what we shall eat or what we shall wear. The birds have no store houses or barns and still they eat every day. One televangelist once asked the question: “Have you ever heard of a bird that died or

got sick because of high blood pressure brought about by worry?”

As we seek to grow in relationship with God we deal with challenges and we do not always get it right. The apostle Paul nevertheless encourages us as believers to continue to increase our faith in God. The Christian journey requires persistence, we cannot give up.

Mark’s gospel tells of the story of the woman whose daughter was possessed by demons. Not only did she beg Jesus for healing but she was persistence and relentless with her request. She was rewarded. When she returned home she found her daughter well. Christ gives us power to persevere.

The author of Psalm 18 reminds us that God alone is the source of our strength and that we gain strength by waiting upon the Lord. We can all learn this from our own different experiences and own encounters with God.

But for all this to be possible we must be grounded in Christ and also must realize we need the support of strong roots. One writer compared life with God to the roots of the cypress tree. Some of its roots are tightly wound around the tree while others grow out from the tree. Still others seem to sprout from the trunk of the tree itself. Many seem tangled together. The root system of the cypress tree can be a guide to live by realizing that we need many types of support to stay strong and connected to God.

If we then are to live a spiritual and faithful life we must be connected to God our strength and our provider. It will be difficult

to do this on our own but through prayers He will direct our thoughts and minds to be able to interact with Him. We are reminded of the Anglicans prayer system. They have daily morning prayer, afternoon prayer and evening prayer. If we follow their system, prayer will become a normal way of life and be easy to do.

As we become Grounded in Faith we will be able to share with the words of Johaan A. Rothe as translated by John Wesley:  
Now I have found the ground wherein  
Sure my soul's anchor may remain –  
The words of Jesus for my sin  
Before the world's foundation slain,  
Whose mercy shall unshaken stay,  
When heav'n and earth are fled away.  
Fixed on this ground will I remain,

### **GUYANA DISTRICT Prayer Breakfast**



**Object:** *To foster relationship with women from other denomination and to assist women attending Caribbean seminars*

This annual event, under the theme **Woman on Fire for Jesus** was held on CARICOM DAY - July 3, 2017 at District Outreach Centre and chaired by Sis Hazel Moses-Walrond. Sis Omodelle John, an Accredited Preacher, and Young Adult, delivered a dynamic address. Other highlights were: a video presentation on A short History on Methodism done by Rev. T Kofia Nials;

Though my heart fail and flesh decay,  
This anchor shall my soul sustain,  
When earth's foundations melt away.  
Mercy's full power I then shall prove,  
Loved with an everlasting love.  
Prayer: Gracious God in the quietness of this session we thank You for Your great love, compassion and faithfulness toward us. Lord we know that at times have strayed from You. But Your love and compassion are overflowing. towards us. You are our health, strength and sustainer and we can depend always on You. We thank You for Your love and compassion and ask for help to continue in Your service. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

**Mrs. Jennifer Smith - Vice President**

singing of the Jubilee Celebration Hymn "God is Faithful" and a prayer done by Rev'd Mervyn Austin.

### **Women at the breakfast**

A large number of over one hundred and thirty-five (135) persons attended and participants from other denominations were impressed by the rich history of our Methodist body. The breakfast was a balanced meal and well received.

### *Guyana District Women's Convention*



**Object: To stimulate spiritual growth of women and provide an opportunity for social interaction**

### **March of Witness**

Three Workshops were held on Leading in (a) Bible Study by Bishop Glenna Spencer, (b) Power of Prayer by Sis Loucia French and (c) Praise and Worship by Sis Naomi Williams. Approximately eighty (80) persons participated in the day's activity, they shared their experiences about the awesome presence of the Holy Spirit during the joint Workshops on Power Prayer and Praise and Worship. The Bible Study session provided insight into the importance of exegesis and

The event was held on August 12, 2017 at Friendship Methodist Church, was chaired by Sister Monique Jack.

The keynote address was presented by Sis Cheryl Forde under the Theme: **Woman on Fire for Jesus**. The methodology for presenting using the Hook, Book, Look, Took approach.

### **HAITI DISTRICT**



*Lois Grant-Hector (President of the MCCA Women), Rev Serna Samuels (Caribbean Regional Missionary with United Methodist Women) and members of the Executive MCCA Women in Haiti District.*

Rev'd Samuels and Lois Grant-Hector met with the members of the MCCA executive

during their annual General Assembly. A rich and fulfilling experience including spiritual, social issues and craft,

The visit to the Haiti District at their Assembly was a fulfilling experience. Women from the various circuits gathered for three days for empowerment. There was rich vibrant singing and worship services. The sessions include health, Social Issues and Art and Craft. Highlights of Lois Grant-Hector session included modern-day problems that require Divine intervention calling for judges and prophetesses like Deborah to fight against:

1. Poverty
2. Domestic violence
3. Injustice
4. Climate change

These are issues related to the United Nations sustainable development goals affecting every single country. Tell your stories, plan and act on resolving these problems.

Reverend Serna Samuels was also present encouraging the women to be strong and be positive in spiritual growth.

### **LEEWARD ISLANDS DISTRICT Hurricane Report**

Bahamas Turks and Caicos had considerable structural damages in Turks and Caicos.

Leeward Islands District: The British Virgin Islands, Dominica and other Leeward islands structural damages and loss of lives.





**Craft session at Vacation Bible School.**

The Mission team craft session was led By Sister Charlene American and was ably assisted by the Ministerial staff and people of Haitian who came out to help in the teaching ,sharing and caring of the children.



**The Theme: “Heritage and Mission: Celebrating God’s Faithfulness – Claiming God’s Future”.**

These are pictures of the Leeward Islands Women during the mission in Haiti. The following projects were done over a 10 day July12-22, 2017.

The construction of a Car Park at Frères’ A Training Seminar with the Haitian Women and Men on Money Matters and You and your Health, Vacation Bible School, Health services held at the La Saline Health Centre and visit to the Boys Home.

Men and Women at the Conference Centre Methodist Church Haiti





The La Saline Health Centre Visit

Nurse Edwards and Reverends Andrine Joseph and Janetta James doing some clean-up of the dusty shelves and presenting the donated medicals to the Doctor and nurses at the La Saline Clinic.



A visit to the Methodist Boys Home and presentation of gifts of stationery and other needed supplies which to the House Father on behalf of the boys.



### **BELIZE DISTRICT**

#### **Annual Women's Retreat**

The annual women's retreat for the Belize/Honduras District was held in the Toledo Circuit under the theme "A Chosen People: Called to Proclaim". The sessions were held at the Church and the women were accommodated at the Joyful Garden Hotel owned by a young Methodist woman.

Women travelled across the seas from Honduras to participate in the retreat. They actively participated in the sessions and willingly shared their experiences of the work among women in their circuits. The group from Honduras included young women.

Topics discussed at the retreat included ageing and the family, Health and Wellness and an update on the activities of Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas Women (MCCA). Presentations were made by women from the various circuits attending the retreat including Rev. Elswith Clare and Rev. Tanya Welcome who facilitated the bible studies.

The youth of the host district made an

interesting presentation on the use of technology focusing on cell phones. There were a number of questions from the floor on the different features of the cell phone. This session was very much needed for participants became knowledgeable of how to use some of the basic features on their phones.

### Sunrise Service:



The highlight of the annual women's retreat is the sunrise service. Women gathered at the waterside in Punta Gorda to participate in the service and witness the rising of the sun. Participants always look forward to this spectacular event and below are some pictures of this activity.

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The Belize-Guatemala differendum is an



issue of grave concern among the citizens of Belize. The women were excited to travel to Jalacte which is a village on the Belize/Guatemala border. On the Belize side of the border, there is an outpost constructed where the Belize Defence Force soldiers are posted to protect and secure the border. The pictures above tell the story, and this was a great experience for all who attended.

The sessions were held in the Punta Gorda Methodist Church. Pictures above with participants attentively listening to the presentations. The Mafredi congregation hosted the women for lunch after the tour.

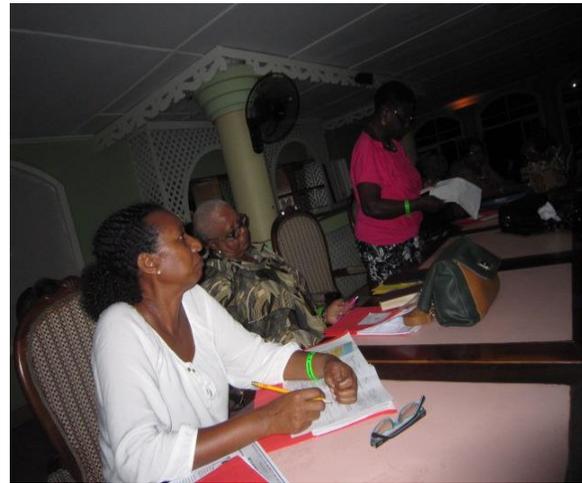


## JAMAICA DISTRICT

The Annual Holiday with a Difference hosted by MCCA Women Jamaica District was held at the Club Ambience, Runaway Bay in the Parish of St. Ann from Thursday August 10 to Sunday August 13, 2017; under the Theme "Still I Rise". Twenty (20) sisters attended representing Zones 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.

The fellowship experience and accommodation were good. Revd. Michael Llewellyn was the Bible Study Leader and the sessions were very well received.

There was an Art and Crafts session led by District Commission Secretary, Pastor Dale Gopie. The group worshipped at the Hoolebury Methodist Church on Sunday August 13, 2017.



*Participants at the Annual Holiday with a Difference*



*Participants displaying the finished product*

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Caribbean Regional Seminar - Antigua - 18-23 July, 2018

North America Area Assembly – Trinidad & Tobago  
October- November 2018

World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church  
Women Quinquennial Assembly Trinidad & Tobago –  
July 2020

World Day of Prayer Service - First Friday in March  
(March 2, 2018)

MCCA Women Lord's Day - Fourth Sunday in June  
(June 25, 2018)

Word Search: Find the names of all the MCCA Women Presidents

B	B	C	H	R	Z	O	A	D	G	R
A	V	A	N	D	E	R	P	O	O	L
B	C	D	I	S	A	N	B	T	L	N
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MCCA Women Presidents since its inception.

1. ....
2. ....
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6. ....
7. ....

1. Circle the eight MCCA Districts on the map.
2. Name those that include more than one nation territories and name the territories.
3. Can you name the Districts which hosted (i) Seminar year/s  
(ii) Assembly year/years
4. Which District will host the (i) 2018 Seminar?  
(ii) 2020 MCCA Quinquennium Assembly?
5. Who is the Helen Kim Scholar for the North America Area
6. Which district is the Helen Kim scholar from?
7. (a) Do you know the name given to the type of cross on the MCCA Women pin?  
(b).Can you tell the symbolic significance of the cross on the MCCA Women’s pin?

### Caribbean Map

