



# THE METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS MCCA WOMEN NEWSLETTER



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## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT, MCCA WOMEN

To God be the Glory, great things He has done.

The MCCA Women Executive Committee met in St Maarten, Leeward Islands District in March of this year. I thank each one for taking seriously a commitment to serve as an Executive member of the MCCA

Women. When we accepted the call, as servants, we must honour those we are, and why we have made the decision to serve. I welcome and congratulate all of the Officers and the Members for the next quinquennium. Let us promise to both **MAKE** and **BE** the difference as we live our Motto "In Service For CHRIST."

We must face our future and decide what we will do with the opportunity to serve God in the positions that we have accepted. To serve God faithfully, let us adopt the strategy as told in Isaiah 54 : 2 - "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes." The list of problems facing us is endless - wars, rampant contagious diseases, idolatry, family instability, violence against children and women, increased crime and disrespect for human dignity, escalation of murders, drug and human trafficking, for example.

Of immediate interest to us is the plight of our Sisters and Brothers in Haiti who are still trying to pick up the pieces and rebuild some sense of family. There is a lack of proper shelter in parts where there was much destruction by the earthquake. There are orphans, and there are parents who have lost children. With God's help we will mobilize a plan to assist them, beginning with the Orphanage. Continue to pray for all people around the world who have been victims of natural disasters.

We are a Sisterhood, a connection, a family, but our purpose is to first make a difference within ourselves as members of the MCCA Women, and genuinely pledge ourselves to BE the difference that would allow MCCA Women to grow in Mind, Body and Spirit. The seeds have been sown but there is much work to be done as we use our gifts to fulfil our Mission. Ephesians 4: 16 - GIFTS - "When each part is working properly, the body is stronger as it builds up itself in LOVE."

## OUR GOALS :

- Encourage women to develop an holistic approach to the growth of the body, mind and Spirit.
- To sensitize women to provide incentives and support mechanisms for community building while assisting persons who desperately need help, with special emphasis on those who are active older adults and young people.
- Encourage District Commissions to be creative in providing support to their Members.
- Programmes should be implemented to assist and support on a needs basis when requested by the Circuits. Priority should be given to the empowerment of women to sustain a satisfactory standard of living for herself and her family.
- Encourage District Commissions to share ideas and partner in the use of resources to assist each other in creating community projects and programmes.
- Create opportunities for people from different socio-economic backgrounds to work together to achieve a common goal.
- Encourage Economic Empowerment:: cottage industries, Sewing cooperatives, use of natural resources to make items for sale, training programmes as needed to boost entrepreneurship e.g.. recycle nylon stockings to make items for sale .
- Promote practical Christianity. What we do and how we do it speak volumes and can be more effective in winning Disciples for Christ.

Finally, let us pray that our Sisters who are so led by the Holy Spirit, may accept the Call to be Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

May we go forward in FAITH, anchored in Christ .

Blessings

Dorothy L. Goldsmith  
President  
MCCA Women



**Devotions: by Lois Hector  
1st Vice President**

**Topic: Women of Faith Anchored in Christ.  
Readings: Psalm 1 and Matthew 8: 43- 47**

Any strong tree must have strong roots to keep it anchored in the ground to withstand all forms of elements in the environment including storms. As women of God in our daily walk with Christ we encounter all sorts of storms to destroy our relationship with Him. Psalm 1 reveals to us the delight of the Lord to meditate on His word day and night so we can be like the tree planted by the river that bringeth good fruit in its season.

Growing in Christ may result in one being entangled by weeds of deception, rejection, parasitic twines of abuse and overwork because others do not share the work in the church resulting in lack of fertilizer, water, and sunshine (lack of praise, laughter and motivation). Insufficient time is spent on nurturing, grooming appreciating others for their worth. However, because of our faith in Christ we too like the woman with the issue of blood can touch the hem of Jesus' garment by faith and be healed spiritually, emotionally, or physically. We must seek God's guidance to know His will for our lives. God calls us to be of service in the small things. Like a mustard seed the small acts of faith grow into large deeds for Christ.

The story is told of Jane whose community had no park for little children to play. She went to the Parish Council to ask for a plot that was in the centre of the community to create a park for children. The officer told her that was the area reserved for the community park but they had no funds allocated to build it. With bright glossy eyes at the age of 12 Jane indicated she could build the park. The officer smiled and told her she was too young and was not able to take on such challenge. Everyday Jane went to the plot stacked the stones to create a design and pull weeds. Children who began playing in the park helped Jane to complete cleaning the park and planting flowers. The adults, impressed by the work of the children, started to build benches, slides and swings. The churches in the community got together and built the fence around the park to keep it secure.

The woman with the issue of blood had exhausted her funds. All she had left was to act on her faith by touching the hem of Jesus' garment and be healed. Likewise Jane without funding acted on her faith believing if she started to clear the land one day at a time children would have somewhere to play.

Her act of faith not only developed a park but brought an entire community together. May the hymn "Have Faith in God" be our prayer.

Have faith in God when your pathway is lonely.  
He sees and knows all the way you have trod;  
Never alone are the least of His children;  
Have faith in God, have faith in God.

Have faith in God when your prayers are unanswered,  
Your earnest plea He will never forget;  
Wait on the Lord, trust His word and be patient,  
Have faith in God. He'll answer yet.

Have faith in God in your pain and your sorrow,  
His heart is touched with your grief and despair;  
Cast all your cares and your burdens upon Him,  
And leave them there, oh, leave them there.

Have faith in God though all else fall about you  
Have faith in God he watches over his own;  
He cannot fail though all kingdoms shall perish.  
He rules, he reigns upon His throne.

Refrain:

Have faith in God, He's on His throne,  
Have faith in God, He watches over His own;  
He cannot fail, He must prevail,  
Have faith in God, Have faith in God.

**CALENDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 2011** July 4th-11th: **The Leeward Islands District Women's Commission Meeting and Seminar will be held in the B.V.I. Circuit.**
- Aug. 10th-15th : **WFMUCW 12th World Assembly in South Africa ..**
- 2012:** **WFMUCW - North American Area Seminar**
- 2012 :** **District Women's training seminar to be held in Barbados.**
- 2013:** **Caribbean Regional Seminar.**
- 2015:** **MCCA Women 6th Quinquennial Assembly.**

*Help Yourself to Happiness*

Everybody everywhere seeks happiness, it's true,  
But finding it and keeping it seems difficult to do,  
Difficult because we think that happiness is found  
Only in the places where wealth and fame abound—  
And so we go on searching in places of pleasure  
Seeking recognition and monetary treasure,  
Unaware that happiness is just a state of mind  
Within the reach of everyone who takes time to be kind—  
For in making others happy we will be happy, too,  
For the happiness you give away returns to shine on you.  
Helen Steiner Rice

## AN OUTSTANDING MCCA WOMAN STILL INSERVICE FOR CHRIST



**Vernice Haynes**

Vernice Druscilla Haynes born in Calliaqua, St. Vincent. She attended the Calliaqua Methodist Church in St. Vincent from childhood and was received into membership at an early age. From teenage she became a member of the choir, a Sunday School teacher and President of the Girls' League. She served as a Congregational-Steward, Class Leader for many years, and as the Organist and Choir Director of the Calliaqua Methodist Church for over 35 years.

She enjoyed serving in her church. At the Circuit level Sis. Haynes served as Circuit Steward, Secretary of the Quarterly Meeting and other committees. She was also the President of the Circuit Women's League. She served in several training workshops on Leadership, Programme Planning etc. As President of the Women's League of her church for many years she organized annual concerts and fund raising events.

Sis Haynes was appointed as the District Women's Work Sub-secretary and in that capacity she attended District Conferences and visited the circuits of Port-of-Spain, Tobago, Grenada and St. Lucia and conducted workshops with the members of the Women's Leagues.

In 1995 Sis. Haynes attended the WFM&UCW World Assembly in Brazil, S.A., and also attended the North America Area Seminars in Atlanta, Fort Walton Beach and Pennsylvania; and in 2001 led a delegation of 16 persons from St Vincent to the World Assembly held at Loughborough, England.

Over the years Sis. Vernice served on the Executive of MCCA Women as Secretary, as Correspondent, and was serving as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President responsible for producing the Newsletter when it was first introduced.

Sis. Haynes worked in the St. Vincent Public Service for 37 years, and served with the Cabinet, the Parliament, Ministry of Agriculture, the High Court, the Treasury, and was the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications and Works when she retired in 1987.

Sis, Vernice liked dress-making, and in earlier years, made gowns for over twenty brides, and for graduation and pageants for many friends and family - without charge.

Currently she leads a Women's Fellowship which meets at the Calliaqua Methodist Church fortnightly. It started 6 years ago with 8 members and now has a membership of 30.

### PLAQUES AND CERTIFICATES RECEIVED

Sis. Vernice was awarded several plaques and certificates from many

organizations. Some of these include:

Plaques from: -Calliaqua Methodist Church  
-Women's Council of Methodist Church  
-Methodist Church Kingstown/Chateaubelair Citcuit.  
-The Calliaqua Methodist Womens League .  
-The National Insurance Services  
- MCCA Women .

Certificates from: -The Potential Steel Orchestra of Calliaqua.  
-The 'Villagers'. In appreciation and recognition for outstanding service, and dedication. .

### PERSONLIZE YOUR SOCIAL EVENING

*Having a Social Evening and want to please everyone? Why not try a Help Yourself Fruit Salad?*

*Serve each fruit in a separate dish and accompany them with a jug of single cream. Fruits may be fresh, or tinned.. The following are some examples of fruits that can be used: Mangoes, Diced Pineapple mixed with red cherries, Melon, Guava, Paw-paw and any other fruit in season.*

### PROMISES

"GOD'S PROMISES ARE LIKE THE STARS: THE DARKER THE NIGHT, THE BRIGHTER THEY SHINE."  
David Nicholas

1. "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12: 9
2. "Trust in the LORD, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security". Psalm 37: 3
3. "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change". James 1 : 17
4. "Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD". Psalm 31:24
- 5 "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5: 5

All texts taken from the NRSV of the Bible

## NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT

### Leeward Islands District

**The Cane Garden Bay Women's League in the British Virgin Islands Circuit in the Leeward Islands District** celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday, 15 May, 2011.

A Service of Thanksgiving was held to mark the auspicious occasion. Present at the ceremony and bringing congratulatory remarks were Rev. Moreland Williams, Superintendent Minister; Rev. Gesner Louis-Charles, Pastor of the Congregation; and Sis Rosemarie Flax, President of the Circuit Women's Commission.



A number of women and men organizations from around the Circuit were also present and rendered inspiring

selections at the Celebration.

The Theme of the Celebration was "We've come this far by Faith". The Speaker was Sis. Brenda L. Vanterpool, immediate past President of MCCA Women. Sis. Vanterpool in addition to congratulating the group told the packed congregation that this was an opportunity to give thanks to Almighty God for His infinite Grace and Mercy who, sustained, nourished and nurtured the League over the past fifty (50) years.

She further stated that with Faith in God miracles will happen as with the Canaanite woman and the woman who had a haemorrhage for 12 years. She encouraged them to hold on to that Faith in God. He did not fail them in the past and He will not fail them in the present nor the future.

Sis. Vanterpool reminded the group that we live in challenging times, and it was important therefore that the programme of the League should include outreach work in the Community. She challenged them to have a special ministry to the youth, especially the boys, and to lean on God and He will be their Helper. The members of the group were honoured for their dedication to the group, and that was conducted by Sis. Yvonne Dawson, President. Reverend Yvonne Nibbs - Flores, the Pastor responsible for Women's Work in the Circuit gave the Closing Prayer and Benediction.

The MCCA Executive joins with the Leeward Island District to express gratitude to Rev. V. James for her tremendous contribution made to the Leeward Islands District.

### South Caribbean District

**The Kingstown/Chateaubelair Circuit in St. Vincent** held



its 10th Annual Recognition Service for women who had attained the age of sixty five, and who had served in the Women's League for many years.

The service was held at

the Arnos Vale Methodist Church on 3rd April, 2011. Those honoured were Sisters Shirley Howard, (Circuit President), Cecelia Jones, Diana Leigertwood, Elise Quow, Carmel Browne, Monica Charles, Hannah Edwards and Maggie Cyrus.

**The Barbados National Women's Rally** was held on Monday 13th June at the Ebenezer Methodist Church. The Rally was ably conducted by President, Sis. Carol Taylor. The guest speaker was Rev. Roslyn Harper - Johnson. The acronym "FAT" used alongside "Women" was skillfully used to represent Faithful, Available, and Thankful Women. The newly elected Executive comprises President - Cheryl Bourne, Vice President - Pamela Freeman, Secretary - Bonita Wharton, Asst. Sec. - Wendy Phillips, Treasurer - Heather Lovell, and Asst. Treasurer - Maureen Mapp - Harris.

#### Know Your Area Reps.

- Bahamas/Turks and Caicos** - Rev. Julis Williams, Sis. Joy Sargent
- Guyana** - Sis. Cheryl Isaacs, Sis. Victoria Hamilton.
- Panama/Costa Rica** - Sis. Gyannie Browne, Sis. Nelda Machore
- Haiti** - Rev. Maude Hypolite, Sis. Bolorne Lazarre
- Jamaica** - Sis. Sonia Polack, Sis. Dale Gopie
- Leeward Islands** - Rev. Janetta James, Sis. Romualda Hyacinth
- Belize/Honduras** - Sis. Jennifer Smith, Sis. Josefina Nelson - De Arias.
- South Caribbean** - Sis. Marcilia Nelson, (Barbados ) Sis. Valarie Edwards ( Trinidad)

#### HOUSEHOLD HINTS

1. Keep your stainless steel and facets sparkling without scratches. Rub with a damp sponge with baking soda, then wipe with a damp Cloth...
2. Use window cleaner to clean and polish the exterior of appliances.
3. **Deodorize your microwave** - Chop half a lemon into four Pieces Put them in a small bowl with one cup of water and a few whole cloves. Boil for five minutes. Let stand for a short while.

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