

JAMAICA CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY

REPORT to 149th SYNOD

INTRODUCTION

The Jamaica Church Missionary Society (JCMS) is in its 158th year as the missionary agency of the Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Notwithstanding its period of existence, the Society is conscious that a wide cross section of our communion is still unaware of the functions of the JCMS, and the role each member must play in advancing the mission of the Church. The symbol of identity seems to be the tins with the red labels – a once a year collection of money. The JCMS has throughout 2018, wherever and whenever possible, tried to promote a greater appreciation for the challenges confronting our missionary endeavour.

As we continue in the period of Intentional Discipleship, in addition to financial and infrastructural requests from missions, the Society continues in partnership with the Education and Youth Department and the Church Army, to facilitate persons live Jesus shaped lives. In addition to the established outreach programmes, the focus of budget 2019 is still geared towards the development of mission projects, education and evangelism. The provision for the training of lay leadership signals the Society's support for an empowered laity to take on the leadership role in our missions.

REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS

The quarterly meetings of the JCMS provide the basis by which collectively the Diocese is informed of the activities in the various Deaneries, and give support and assistance where challenges exist. The gathering, blessed with the expertise of those present, provides opportunities for the sharing of ideas with respect to the evangelistic thrust being employed by some Deaneries. Most importantly, it is the platform for participation in the decision making process of the Diocese.

Unfortunately, some Deaneries have not been afforded the opportunity due to the irregularity in attendance of some of the representatives. The JCMS is asking that Deans brief prospective appointees as to the role and responsibilities of the position and their willingness to serve thereon.

Additionally, some representatives have been reporting on the lack of support of some Churches and Missions within their Deaneries, and that in some cases, in contravention of Canons XV, Missionary services are not being held. It is in this regard, that a resolution will be moved at the Synod.

DIOCESAN MISSIONS

There are three (3) Diocesan Missions – Missions not directly attached to a Cure.

I. Discovery Bay

The Discovery Bay Mission (DBM), consisting of a core group of eight (8) persons, has extended its ministry and in July 2018 started an outreach programme in the Old Folly community. The main objective is to develop a ‘Home Relation Association’, rather than a ‘Church Attendance Association’; DBM has implemented a ‘every other Wednesday’ visitation programme – house-to-house, shop by shop, bar, cook-shop and passer-by. With the support and generous assistance of the community administrators, Services are now being conducted on the third Sunday of each month from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the multipurpose community centre. The DBM has identified the potential for a vibrant Sunday School, and a programme, with the support of the parents is being developed in this regard.

In supporting the initiative the JCMS participated in one of the evening services, and provided Bibles and evangelistic material for distribution. We are heartened with the demonstration, that ministry belongs to the whole people of God and not only to the ordained and commissioned workers of the Church.

The DBM, although part of the Deanery of St. Ann, is not aligned to a Cure, but gets oversight from the clergy of the Brown’s Town and Ocho Rios Cures. The Mission which has been in operation for approximately thirteen (13) years, continues to meet on Sunday evenings at 4:00 p.m. at the Roman Catholic Church in Discovery Bay, and for weekly Bible studies in homes.

II. Spot Valley

The missionary activities in the Spot Valley community are on hold, with the Archdeacon of Montego Bay having direct oversight for the maintenance of the Diocesan property. A decision was taken for the Property Advisory Board to assume responsibility for the property.

III. Longville Park

A. Mission House, Olive Road

The two (2) major projects earmarked for 2018, the Homework Center, and the Parenting Programme were implemented. The Mission is indeed grateful to the Food for the Poor and the JCMS for providing the Center with five (5) computers, school supplies and folding chairs respectively. Only one parenting seminar was conducted

during the year, this facilitated by Dr. Karen DaSilva, a member of St. Gabriel's Church, May Pen. This very interactive session was well received, and members of the community have expressed the desire for the continuation of these sessions.

Lenten Programme

Sister Norma Thompson, retired Church Army officer led the study on Intentional Discipleship. There was an average attendance of seven (7) persons. The Lenten season supported by the Church of the Holy Spirit, Portmore, ended with a March of Witness through Phases 1 and 2 and an open air service.

Visitation/Walk Through

As they have been doing since 2016, the Church of the Ascension, Mona, as part of their Missionary Sunday activities, participated in house to house visits throughout all three (3) Phases of the community.

Longville Park Expo

The Mission along with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew (BSA) and the Mothers' Union (MU) participated in the Heritage Jamboree Street Parade Float and Expo on National Heroes Day, October 15, 2018. The Expo provided the opportunity to remind the residents of the Diocesan presence in the community, and the involvement in different areas of ministry. The Sunday School showcased its work and was part of an interview which was aired by Power 106.

Sunday School

The Sunday School was the most consistent and active area of ministry during the year, which began with fifteen (15) students on roll, but had increased to twenty-four (24) by March 2018. Although not specifically determined there could be some correlation between the attendance and the operations of the Homework Center which began in February 2018. Sister Alvarine Roberts has however raised the concern that the lack of persons to provide supervision has negatively impacted the numbers and the operations of the Center. Noticeably, since October 2018, there has been an increase in the number of boys attending Sunday School, an average of twelve (12) boys and eight (8) girls. This is directly attributed to the **'Futsal Competition'** started by the Education and Youth Department.

Other activities during the year involved the participation in worship with Sts. Michael and George, Freetown, on their Patronal Feast Day and on Education Sunday; and a Child Month treat at a farm in New Longville owned by a member of St. Gabriel's Church.

The children participated in the Vacation Bible School July 9 -13, 2018 which was held at Sts. Michael and George Church, with approximately twenty-five (25) children in daily attendance. Lunch and transportation were funded by the JCMS. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to Grace Kennedy Limited and the Mothers' Union of St. Gabriel's for the tremendous support to the final day's activities. The children also participated in the Regional Youth Rally, where they were winners in their category of the Futsal Competition, and were in attendance at the service for Cathedral Sunday.

The Mission ended the year with a Christmas Treat on December 22, 2018 for approximately thirty (30) persons at the Mission House, and the annual Carol Service and Prize-giving on December 30, 2018. Due to the inability for the numbers to be accommodated at the Mission House, the service was held at Sts. Michael and George.

It should be noted that in targeting the adults, attempts were made to have evening services during the year. Three (3) services were held. The adults/parents indicated that the timing of the services presented specific challenges as it conflicted with preparation for the work and school week. The Steering Committee will need to examine how this concern will be addressed, in light of the lack of personnel to conduct morning services.

The Society places on record its sincere thanks to the Steering Committee chaired by Mr. Fitz Carty, Archdeacon Thomas, the BSA and the Mothers' Union of St. Gabriel's for the tremendous support and guidance that they continue to give in this development.

Last but in no way least, the JCMS commends Sister Roberts for the boundless energy and her commitment to this ministry. The Society endorses her appeal for increased assistance from the wider church family wherever possible, and in particular, mentorship for the increasing number of young men. The Society also commends those congregations that have and continues to support this evangelistic thrust, and encourages others to extend their missionary endeavours to this mission field.

B. Lot 859 Juniper Road, Longville Park, Phase 111

The Diocese has taken possession of the property, and a Diocesan sign has been installed establishing ownership and the intent to construct a church and multi-purpose building. The JCMS is highly appreciative of the unhesitating response of Surrey Paving and Aggregate Company Limited to our request to clear and establish

an entrance into the property. In light of the fact that the numbers are currently outgrowing the space at the Mission House, a container was sourced for storage and to facilitate activities on the site. In this regard, the Society also expresses thanks to Kingston Wharves Limited for the contribution and delivery of the 40' container to the location.

The Steering Committee has had meetings with members of the community in order to establish involvement in the project and determine the way forward. The Steering Committee will shortly be submitting draft plans for discussion and subsequent approval. In the interim, there are plans to undertake fund-raising events and outreach programmes on site, and to have an open air meeting at the site during Lent 2019.

RECLASSIFICATION / INDEBTEDNESS OF MISSIONS

In light of the fact the chief objective of the JCMS is the establishment, maintenance and extension of missions throughout the Diocese, the General Committee is particularly concerned with the status of our Missions, and the increasing number of applications for reclassification. There were fourteen (14) applications for reclassifications during the year- eight (8) from Missions to Chapels of Ease, five (5) from Settled Congregations to Missions, and one (1) from Settled Congregation to Chapel of Ease. There was an overall appeal for the assessment of our Missions to determine the viability and what if any assistance or intervention was needed. It was the opinion of the Committee that it would be irresponsible to reclassify congregations just in order to address the financial predicament. There was a call for a review which should focus not only on the financial matters, but on the overall status and ministry of the Missions. Archdeacons have been asked to review the status of Missions within their respective Regions, and submit recommendations for action. The reports and analysis thereof will inform the decisions with respect to the way forward. Total indebtedness of Missions at the end of 2018 stood at \$20.45M.

Each year an allocation is made to assist Missions that are having serious financial challenges. Applications for support, outlining the challenges and subsequent inability to pay, must be supported by the respective Deanery and Regional Councils, who have the responsibility of investigating and recommending each case. During 2018, St. Augustine, Churchill, in Hanover received assistance in the amount of \$350,000.

MISSION ACTIVITIES

There have been increased reports of door-to-door visits, and a number of Deaneries have been reaching out to youngsters and parents through Vacation Bible Schools and Back to School services and programmes. Study of the Lenten Intentional Discipleship booklets was pursued in

a number of Deaneries and this has promoted an increase in Bible studies throughout the year. While there has been no report of missionary activities in some Deaneries, the Society has been heartened by some innovative methods been employed to take the Gospel to the wider community. The following are highlighted:

- ***St. Martin's Mission, Bull Bay, St. Andrew:*** The Mission of approximately twenty-five (25) persons, through their participation in the Intentional Discipleship studies, extended their witness by leading the St. Boniface Cure in crusades in the Bull Bay Square, the Harbour View community and St. Peter's Church, Port Royal.
- ***St. Jude's, Stony Hill:*** The quarterly movie nights on the grounds of the church, where persons are invited to come in and watch has reportedly been quite effective.
- ***The Anglican Togetherness Group (Church of the Ascension/ University Chapel/ Church of St. Margaret's):*** The group participated in the matriculation process for new entrants on the UWI and UTECH campuses, sharing information regarding places of worship and other activities within the community.
- ***Christ Church, Vineyard Town:*** The creation of 'Parent Place' to facilitate parenting skills. The church has adopted twenty-five (25) children from Clan Carty High School – Grade 7 - 8, and will be journeying with them through High School.

CHURCH /SCHOOL SIGNS

The Society continues to promote the installation of identification signs at our Churches, Missions, and Schools. The signs not only help to identify the presence of the Diocese in the community, but also provide information on the various activities. A number of Churches and Missions accessed the facility during the year.

Effective August 1, 2018, the prices exclusive of General Consumption Tax are as follows:

One (1) two-sided Standard Sign - 48" x 34" is Forty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$48,000.00)

One (1) two-sided Standard Sign - 48" x40" is Fifty One Thousand Dollars (\$51,000.00)

Requests in writing with the preferred wording are to be submitted to the JCMS office along with a 50% deposit. The balance becomes due and payable at the time of collection. ***The JCMS assists by underwriting 50% of the cost of one sign to Missions.***

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

The following is a summary of the income statement for the financial year ended December 31, 2018:

Summary Income Statement			
J\$M			
	Actual 2018	Budget 2018	Actual 2017
Revenue:			
Investment Income	0.18		0.24
General Purposes	6.06	6.67	5.28
Total Revenue	6.24	6.67	5.52
Expenses:			
Personnel Expenses	0.90	0.94	0.97
Ministry Expenses	0.28	1.10	0.66
Admin. Expenses	1.25	1.23	1.34
Grants	2.23	3.00	2.64
Total Expenses	4.66	6.27	5.61
Net Income (Loss)	1.58	0.40	(0.09)

The statement reflected an overall net income of \$1.58M, an improvement on the loss of \$0.09M at the end of 2017. This position was due mainly to the reduction in operating expenses by approximately \$1M.

Total Revenue of \$6.24M although less than the approved quota of \$6.67M by \$0.43M, reflected an increase of approximately \$0.72M on the 2017 contributions. Deanery contributions of \$6.06M although falling short of budget, reflected a significant improvement on collections of \$5.28M for 2017.

Expenditure (Appendix 1)

Reduction in Ministry Expenses of \$0.81M and Grant: Development Projects were the main contributors to the overall savings in expenditure of \$1.61M.

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

The following Projects/Institutions were recipients of disbursements during the year:

		\$
a)	Longville Park Mission Operations	- 758,399
b)	St. Augustine Mission, Churchill	- 350,000
c)	St. Monica's Children's Home	- 90,000
d)	The Wortley Home for Girls	- 90,000

e)	Clifton Boys' Home	-	250,000
f)	Intentional Discipleship Programme	-	200,000
g)	Broughton Primary School	-	50,000
h)	St. Michael's, Clarks Town		
	Evangelistic Programme	-	50,000
i)	Bible Society of the West Indies	-	60,000
j)	Bibles – Auchtembeddie & Old Folly	-	<u>12,000</u>
TOTAL			<u>1,910,399</u>

Responding to a request from the Education and Youth Department, the JCMS facilitated accommodation for Broughton Primary School, one of the finalists in the TVJ's Junior Schools' Challenge Quiz, which was won by Mount Airy All Age. Both Schools, situated in the Deanery of Westmoreland, are Anglican Schools.

It should be noted that the statement, reflects requests that were submitted and approved by the JCMS, and is no indication of the extent of the evangelistic work being pursued in the Diocese, as a number of our Deaneries have engaged in activities without the financial support of the JCMS. We congratulate and commend the initiatives. The JCMS however, would appreciate being advised on the activities, so that we could facilitate the promotion of these ministries.

Details of projected expenditure for 2018 are contained in Appendix 1.

GENERAL PURPOSES CONTRIBUTION *(Appendix 2)*

Total Deanery Contributions of \$5.96M fell short of the budget of \$6.67M by \$0.71M. The JCMS acknowledges the improvement in contributions, and offers special commendations to the Deaneries of Portmore, St. Andrew and St. Mary of the Kingston Region, and the Deaneries of St. Ann, St. James and Hanover of the Montego Bay Region, who contributed to the Montego Bay Region exceeding its target of \$2.45M.

Deanery Contributions for 2018

Top contributions per Deaneries are as follows:

		\$
St. Andrew	-	1,169,428
St. James	-	1,129,991

St. Elizabeth	-	570,794
St. Ann	-	565,244
St. Mary	-	405,096

Church Contributions for 2018 (*Appendix 3*)

For the fourth consecutive year, Church of the Holy Trinity, Westgate, Montego Bay, is the top Church contributor. The five top contributors are as follows:

	\$
Church of the Holy Trinity, West Gate	653,400
St. James Parish Church, Montego Bay	303,315
St. Andrew Parish Church	210,000
St. Ann Parish Church, St Ann's Bay	169,900
Church of St. Margaret, Liguanea	168,036

Thanks to the Deaneries who have increased their efforts in submitting their contributions in a timely fashion. This has facilitated timely reconciliation where necessary, thereby increasing the accuracy in the accounting processes. The collective cooperation has afforded the JCMS the ability to extend itself to meet the increasing demands.

The JCMS continues to appeal for Attorneys to ensure that deposits for General Purposes are so indicated on the deposit slips, and asks that the slips be submitted as soon as possible after the transaction. In order to ensure timely credits to your respective accounts, copies of the deposit slips must be submitted to Church House offices by December 31.

The contributions from the respective Deaneries for 2018 and the proposed Deanery quotas for 2019 are contained in Appendix 2

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES

- CMS-Africa, our sister organization, celebrated its 10th birthday during October 2018. JCMS extended our congratulations and conveyed our blessings and solidarity on their mission.

CMS-Africa certainly has much to celebrate. Their vision is to transform the continent through deep, whole-life discipleship training programmes. In their first

10 years, they have provided transformational training to more than 10,000 people, resulting in changed lives and communities throughout Africa. We praise God for this remarkable achievement.

- JCMS expresses sincere thanks to LIFEWORDS, Poland who continues to provide booklets for evangelistic programmes. The demand has increased for these booklets for distribution at missionary services.

CONCLUSION

This was indeed a busy year, but none of the achievements would have been possible without the support of our members. The General Secretary in particular, would like to say thanks for:

- the cooperation, encouragement and support from the fraternity during the year
- the suggestions and questions that could not be answered immediately, but which revealed varying possibilities.

The Society also expresses thanks to members of the General Committee who gave of their invaluable time and expertise during the year. We look forward with renewed energies as we march into the mission field, serving as we have been called.

Rt. Rev. Robert Thompson
Chairman

Sis. Claudette Marshall
General Secretary