

JAMAICA CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY

REPORT to the 150th SYNOD

OVERVIEW

The Jamaica Church Missionary Society (JCMS) is in its 159th year as the missionary agency of the Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, which this year will recognize its 150th year of the disestablishment of the Church in Jamaica. Notwithstanding the recognition of dates, the missionary work of the Church has and will always be the focus, as it was in response to the Great Commission which led to the establishment of the first Church over 2,000 years ago

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28: 18-20],

Times are changing rapidly, and if ever there was a need for the propagation of the Gospel, it's now. If we are to fulfil the Great Commission, we will have to develop new marketing techniques - we will have to look at new ways of doing the same work. While the product will remain the same, the packaging may have to change. Changing times have calls for changing methodologies, and we have long recognized that it cannot be business as usual. The Society commends those Deaneries that have been employing innovative and novel methods of evangelism, and encourages us all to embrace the challenge.

During the year under review, we tried to increase awareness throughout the Diocese of the work and functions of the JCMS. This was achieved through visits to churches, messages, and the distribution of literature; the feedback has been good. The Society also gave support to the Church Army with Zones of Spiritual Operations (ZOSO), a pilot mission project which was undertaken in the Kingston and St. Andrew Deaneries. The report from the Kingston Deanery is that this was very effective and they have requested a follow-up intervention this year.

For the second consecutive year, budget 2020 is 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. We encourage our members to make use of training opportunities where possible as we empower ourselves to take '***God's Church to God's World***'.

MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Robert Thompson was appointed Chairman of the Society for the ninth consecutive year. The other members of the Committee are:

Most Rev. Dr. Howard Gregory	Archbishop
Rt. Rev. Leon Golding	Suffragan Bishop, Montego Bay
Ven. Winston Thomas	Archdeacon of Mandeville
Ven. Patrick Cunningham	Archdeacon of Kingston
Ven. Justin Nembhard	Archdeacon Montego Bay
Mrs. Jacqueline Mighty	Diocesan Secretary
Rev. Canon Abner Powell	Bishop's Nominee
Rev. Whitson Williams	Bishop's Nominee
Very Rev. Charles Manderson	Bishop's Nominee
Sister Molly Walton	Bishop's Nominee
Dr. Trevor Hope	Bishop's Nominee
Mr. Lincoln Tomlinson	Bishop's Nominee
Miss Sandra Berry	Bishop's Nominee
Rev. Delroy Coley	Representative, St. Catherine
Rev. Don T. Lewis	Representative, St. James
Miss Pamiel Scott	Representative, St. Mary
Rev. Sedley Gooden	Representative, Portland
Mr. Miguel Thomas	Representative, Kingston
Miss Edna Fisher	Representative, St. Thomas
Rev. Khan Honeyghan	Representative, St. Andrew
Rev. Opal Beharie	Representative, Westmoreland
Mr. Arvell Miller	Representative, St. Elizabeth
Rev. Judith Atkinson-Linton	Representative, St. Ann
Sister Alvarine Roberts	Representative, Clarendon
Mrs. Tiffany Grant-Smith	Representative, Hanover
Mrs. Jasmine Hewitt	Representative, Trelawny
Sister Claudette Marshall	General Secretary

Five (5) meetings were held during the year, and we thank the members for the energetic participation. The Deanery representatives create the link between the congregations and the JCMS and hence we are highly dependent on their attendance and participation. The JCMS again implore the Deanery Councils to brief prospective appointees as to the role and responsibilities of the position and seek the assurance of their willingness to serve.

DIOCESAN MISSIONS

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

I. Discovery Bay

The Discovery Bay Mission (DBM) continues to minister in the Old Folly community. The ministry has now been extended to include a Wednesday evening Bible School. The children have been turning out for this and hence the Diocesan Sunday School curriculum is being used. The JCMS has supported the programme with the donation of Bibles and copies of the Prayer Book for Children, publication of the Education and Youth Department. It is important to note that the ministry is being performed by committed lay leaders. The Mission continues to get oversight from the clergy of the Brown's Town and Ocho Rios Cures. Services are held on Sunday evenings at 4:00 p.m. at the Roman Catholic Church in Discovery Bay. Weekly Bible studies are held in members' homes.

II. Spot Valley

The missionary activities in the Spot Valley community have been suspended. The Archdeacon of Montego Bay currently has direct oversight for the maintenance of the property.

III. Longville Park Mission

The missionary work continues under the leadership of Sister Alvarine Roberts with most of the activities taking place at the Mission House. We continue to appeal for persons to assist in carrying out the mission. The lack of human resources has contributed to the suspension the activities of the Homework Center and the Parenting Programme. There is increased energy and focus on the construction of a Worship/Multi-purpose Center at the proposed Church site.

A. Mission House, Olive Road

Renovation work was completed at the Mission House during the year. External work with respect to the levelling of the grounds at the back of the premises was completed as well as the procurement and installation of a water tank. A major challenge has been that of getting the involvement of parents and other adults in the adult Sunday evening programmes and services.

Lenten Programme

The Intentional Discipleship Study was conducted by Sister Norma Thompson, retired Church Army officer. Seven (7) members of the community participated in the study. Once again, supported by Rev. Michael Elliott and members of the congregations within Portmore, there was a March of Witness on Palm Sunday

through the community which culminated with an open-air service on the proposed Church Site.

Sunday School

The Sunday School continues, albeit with reduced numbers of nineteen (19) students [2018:24]. This however is the most consistent and active area of the LPM ministry. Apart from the Sunday evening services, during the year the children were in involved in :

- *Child Month Fun and Fellowship Day*: This was held on the farm of a member of St. Gabriel's Church
- *Diocesan Summer Music Camp*: Two (2) students participated in the camp held between July 8 -18, 2019 and have expressed their desire to return. One of the participants shared her experience on the 'Think on These Things' radio programme.
- *Vacation Bible School*: This was held at Sts. Michael and George Church, Freetown over the period July 22 – 26, under the theme '***Everyone Deserves to Hear about God: Tell Them***'. Twenty-seven (27) children were transported to the venue from Longville Park. A debt of gratitude is extended to Grace Kennedy Foods Limited for their contribution to the programme.
- *Youth Rally / Futsal Competition*: LPM participated in the Regional Youth Rally held in Mandeville and as defending champions entered a team in the Futsal Competition. They were the second place winners this year.
- *Carol Service & Sunday School Prize-giving*: The Service was held on December 29, 2019 on the proposed Church site at Juniper Road. The children shared their talent in the presentation of songs and dance. The message entitled, '*The True Meaning of Christmas*' was given by Master Ronald Allyson, a member of the Sunday School. Both parents and visitors commended the children on their presentations. The after Christmas Treat also included a movie compliment of Mr. Peter Brown, a member of the Anglican community. Support was also received from the Brotherhood of St. Andrew (BSA) and the Mothers' Union (MU) of St. Gabriel's Church, May Pen.

While the JCMS provides funding for the operations at LPM, special thanks must be expressed to sister Alvarine 'Gem' Roberts who continues to fan the flame, the LPM Steering Committee and the BSA and MU members of St. Gabriel's Church. Special thanks also to the Portmore congregations who have been consistent in their support and the Society encourages other congregations to consider getting involved in this ministry

Lot 859 Juniper Road, Longville Park, Phase 111

The LPM Steering Committee has been actively pursuing the construction of a multi-purpose facility for the site. Two meetings were held in this regard during the year – the latter held on October 27, 2019, was specially called with members of the Anglican community to garner their full commitment and support to the planning process and the growth of the ministry. With regards to the development of a building, there are currently two (2) options on the table:

- (1) A construction design from the Food for the Poor made from T1-11 plywood siding
- (2) A design utilizing two (2) forty-foot containers as the main framework.

The General Committee is currently in discussion regarding the decision to be taken.

As already indicated, an Open-air service was held on the site following the march of witnesses on Palm Sunday, as well as the Sunday School Carol Service and Prize-giving as part of the Christmas celebrations.

INDEBTEDNESS OF MISSIONS

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. There were no applications during 2019.

Total indebtedness of Missions at the end of 2019 stood at \$36.4M.

MISSION ACTIVITIES

The General Committee has been focusing on the evangelistic thrust being employed in the Deaneries. Each Deanery representative is responsible for reporting on the status of the churches in their Deanery, physically, financially and spiritually. With the continued emphasis on Intentional Discipleship, the Committee has been heartened by some of the initiatives been taken and the positive results being reported.

- ***Westmoreland:*** Sports evangelism, music ministry and special incentives for children have resulted in an increase in the number of children in attending and actively participating in church activities. Based on the demand for increasing seating for the children, the JCMS was able to procure through Food for the Poor additional chairs and tables for the missions in the Deanery.
- ***Portmore:*** The BSA initiated a Deanery football team which included young men from both the church and the community. Some of the young men now worship occasionally

at the Church of the Holy Spirit (CHS). The Deanery football competition held in July 2019 was won by CHS.

- **St. Andrew:** The Sunday School of St. Jude’s, Stony Hill sent video-taped Christmas greetings to the Sunday Schools of four other Dioceses in the Province. This was reciprocated and was well received by the congregations on Christmas morning.

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. There has been a noticeably increase in the installation of signs at a number of our schools.

Production costs 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 at the time of collection. *The JCMS assists by underwriting 50% of the cost of one sign to Missions.*

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Y/E DECEMBER 31, 2019

Summary Income Statement

J\$M

	Actual 2019	Budget 2019	Actual 2018
Revenue:			
Investment Income	0.08		0.19
General Purposes	6.58	7.62	6.51
Total Revenue	6.66	7.62	6.70
Expenses:			
Personnel Expenses	1.03	0.95	0.90
Ministry Expenses	0.27	1.05	0.40
Admin. Expenses	1.32	1.19	2.20
Grants	2.07	3.87	2.23
Total Operating Expenses	4.69	7.06	5.73
Net Income / (Loss)	1.97	0.56	0.97

The statement reflected an overall net income of \$1.97M, an improvement of \$1M on the 2018 outturn. It should be noted however that the reduction in operating expenses was due

mainly to the fact that the uptake for ministerial expenses such as education and evangelism were less than anticipated. Additionally, there were no applications during the year for current account support. These categories accounted for savings in the amount of approximately \$1.5M, which cushioned the unfavourable revenue variance of approximately \$1M.

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

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

		\$
a)	Longville Park Mission Operations	- 500,468
b)	U.T.C.W.I. – Summer Programme	- 220,000
c)	St. Monica’s Children’s Home	- 100,000
d)	The Wortley Home for Girls	- 100,000
e)	Clifton Boys’ Home	- 250,000
f)	Discovery Bay Mission (DBM)	- 140,000
g)	Spot Valley Mission	- 112,071
h)	St. Michael’s & All Angels – ZOSO	- 8,128
i)	St. Simon’s Basic School	- 150,000
j)	Bible Society of the West Indies	- 60,000
k)	DBM – Prayer Books for Children	- 6,000
l)	Scripture Gift Mission	- <u>41,779</u>
	TOTAL	<u>1,688,446</u>

The above are requests 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 these initiatives.

UTCWI – Summer Programme

The JCMS has over the years provided sponsorship for the seminarian summer program of the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI). As part of the theological and

ministerial training, students are assigned to Cures for approximately eight (8) weeks during the summer period. The program which aids and promotes ministerial formation provides exposure to the joys and challenges of ministry in rural communities and church management; and facilitates the development of leadership skills and self-confidence. Ms Monnecia Duncan and Mr. Kamar Prendergast were assigned to the Deanery of Portland for the period June 1 to July 31, 2019.

Under the supervision of the Very Rev. Fr. Vinton Greene, the Rural Dean of the Portland Deanery, and Rev. Fr. Rory Honeyghan, Rector of the Parish Church, the students were exposed to the life of the parish clergy, working with Churches and schools located in the Rio Grande Valley. The duties included the conducting and or participating in services and Bible studies, the visitation of the sick and interaction with the community, and participating in officiating of functions at the local schools. The churches assigned were All Saints, Fellowship, St. Luke's, Comfort Castle and St. Paul's, Moore Town. The general observations were:

- The Rio Grande community is deprived of economic activity with farming being the main income generator. This profession is not attractive to the younger generation and as a consequence there is the severe migration of young persons seeking more lucrative opportunities.
- A number of persons in the community have historical connection with the Anglican churches through parents and grandparents. However, attendance at worship services may vary between five (5) and ten (10) persons. Although there are a few young persons, relevant activities are needed to hold their interest.
- Notwithstanding the fact that the members are mainly elderly persons, it is noted that they are more responsive to the contemporary type of worship.
- Location and the lack of transportation provided serious challenges in carrying out the ministry.

Scripture Gift Mission (SGM)

SGM provides literature free of cost for distribution. These have been used not only at evangelistic missions, but have been in high demand by the Division of Schools and the Chaplains in our Anglican Schools.

Details of projected expenditure for 2020 are contained in Appendix 1.

GENERAL PURPOSES CONTRIBUTION *(Appendix 2)*

The budget of the JCMS is financed mainly through the contributions from Deaneries, and offerings from the Missionary Services. Regrettably, some churches, notwithstanding the Canonical requirements refuse to participate in this ministry. The contributions of individual churches and missions are reflected in *Appendix 3*.

Total Deanery Contributions of \$6.56M fell short of budget of \$7.62M by \$1.06M. Notwithstanding, it is noted that there is an overall improvement in contributions. We particularly recognize those Missions and Chapels of Ease for the first time in a few years have contributed to the missionary endeavors viz, St. Thomas, Thornton, St. John's Gayle, St. Thomas, Race Course and St. James, Gibraltar. Commendations are in order for the Deaneries of Kingston, Portmore, St. Mary and Portland of the Kingston Region, and St. James and Hanover of the Montego Bay Region, that surpassed the allotted targets. None of the Regions attained the targets for 2019.

Deanery Contributions for 2018

Top contributors per Deaneries are as follows:

	\$
St. James	- 1,353,529
St. Andrew	- 1,023,343
Kingston	- 554,915
St. Elizabeth	- 484,882
St. Mary	- 455,499

Church Contributions for 2018 *(Appendix 3)*

For the fifth 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	851,229
St. James Parish Church, Montego Bay	400,000
St. Andrew Parish Church, Half Way Tree	319,450
St. George's, Grand Cayman	234,315
Church of the Holy Spirit, Cumberland	197,750

We continue to implore the churches to make every effort to submit the contributions in a timely fashion. This will facilitate reconciliation where necessary, and the accurate allocation of deposits. The JCMS continues to appeal for Attorneys to ensure that deposits for General Purposes are so indicated on the deposit slips, and asks that these 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 2019 and the proposed quotas for 2020 are reflected in *Appendix 2*

CONCLUSION

The Catechism in the CPWI Book of Common Prayer states that the Church pursues its mission as: *“It prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace and love, and by its own transformation into the likeness of Christ, proclaims His transforming presence.”*

In these unsettling times it is important that we remain focused on these primary objectives since ultimately whatever we do, we need to remain a praying, mission focused community responding to God’s transforming presence in the community. On behalf of the JCMS I wish to say thanks to every member of the Society who despite personal challenges responded by partnering with us in our common mission and service. Finally the Society expresses deep appreciation and thanks to Miss Claudette Marshall, now in her third year as General Secretary, who with the assistance of Miss Korrine Fairweather continues to advance the work of the Society.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Robert Thompson
Chairman

Sis. Claudette Marshall
General Secretary