



MCCA WOMEN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

President's Message

Greetings,

"Come Thou Long expected Jesus" (Charles Wesley 1744) is one of the popular hymns sung frequently at Christmas. This is the time we celebrate the Good News of the birth of the Christ Child the Savior of the World.

We give God thanks that we are yet alive to see another Christmas. Indeed, we are grateful to God for the restoration process for those persons who were affected by the hurricane disaster, in the Bahama Islands. We extend great appreciation for the contribution made to The Bahamas restoration fund by the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women through the instrumentality of President Alison Judd at the North America Area Seminar. To God be the Glory.

This will be my last Christmas with you in my capacity as President. Please pray for God's direction for the success of the Quinquennial Assembly as well as for the nominations and electoral process for new officers to serve on the MCCA Women Executive for the period 2020-2025. Remember also in your prayers the present MCCA Women Executive, North America Area Executive, the WFMUCW Executive and those persons who are suffering abuse especially women and children.

May the PEACE of God prevail in the minds and hearts of everyone especially at this time, as we reflect on the true reason for celebrating Christmas. As you celebrate with your families, friends and church family this Christmas, endeavor to do something special for someone who is homeless or someone who has no family. **Share the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus with them.**

Blessings for Christmas and New Year (English)
bénédictions pour Noël et nouvel ane (French)
benediksiyon pou nwèl ak nouvo ane (French creole)
zegeningen voor Kerstmis en Nieuwjaar (Dutch)
bendiciones para navidad y año Nuevo (Spanish).

Yours in Christ Service,

Dr. Lois Grant Hector
President, MCCA Women

MCCA Women 7th Quinquennial Assembly
Theme: "Chosen People: Called to Proclaim"

July 22-27, 2020

Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Centre,
Port of Spain in the **Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.**

Visit the website for more information and registration details.

www.mccawomen.org.

Early registration closes Jan 31, 2020

The **14th World Assembly** of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

August 10th – 15th, 2021

Gothia Towers, Gothenburg, **SWEDEN**

Theme: "Go and bear fruit – fruit that will last" John 15:16.

Visit the website: <http://wfmucw.org/>

MEDITATION

Submitted by Jennifer Smith (Belize /Honduras District)

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

As we embrace another New Year, the words of the hymn written by Charles Horne comes to mind:

***“Sing we the King who is coming to reign,
Glory to Jesus the lamb that was slain,
Life and salvation His kingdom shall bring,
Joy to the nations when Jesus is King.”***

This King, where can we find him? During the children’s moment one Sunday in Church, the children were asked this question. Of course there were several answers. In a palace, on a throne and the list went on. Then one child said “In our hearts!” How true that is. This is the King on whom we want to reflect.

There are times when situations in our region appear chaotic and messy. There is violence on our streets, domestic violence in the homes, poverty, object morality, times when people do not seem to think positively of the Church as before and the negative list can go on and go on. But there is hope. The King that is coming to reign in our hearts is the Christ whose death and resurrection carries a clear path to heaven for us.

As we celebrate this time of the year, let us be mindful that Advent invites us to expect God to act. God continues to nurture and support us. No matter how dismal the situations appear God’s ray of hope is always shining. Like the shepherd, we need to look for God to ‘show up’. We need to look in unexpected places and ways.

The hymn continues:

***“All shall be well in His kingdom of peace,
Freedom shall flourish and wisdom increase.
Justice and truth from His septre shall spring
Wrong shall be ended when Jesus is King.”***

Wherever we go God is already there preparing experiences for us. Can we not be like Naomi and say

as Ruth “Wherever you go I will go and wherever you stay I will stay.”

Christ in our hearts brings a sense of peace through which we can be assured that Jesus as King will ensure that we will experience better days.

Let us reflect on the past positively and celebrate accomplishments. Let us not jump ahead too quickly thinking that things just seem to be going from bad to worst. The hymn writer ends his witness by saying:

***“Kingdom of Christ for Your coming we pray,
Hasten O Father the dawn of the day,
When this new song your creation shall sing,
Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King.”***

With Christ reigning in our hearts we can face the unknown with HOPE knowing that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who has been called according to His purposes. Romans 8:28

Prayer:



Heavenly Father, many days we are faced with situations that appear hopeless. Emotions like disappointment, confusion, and depression want to attach themselves to us.

Reach out to us and bring us thoughts of a good future. Lord, show us new possibilities. Help us to more clearly see our gifts, talents and the good things in our lives. Father, help us to believe that we are precious and valuable to you. Thank you that you have reminded us that we were born for a great purpose. We will choose to believe that you are bringing hope into our hearts today. Father, we will realize that hope has a name: Jesus.

Give us courage and strength today and everyday Lord. Help us to face everything with our head held high. May we be alert to your Spirit’s guiding as we journey onwards with you. We ask all this in your precious name. Amen.

District Highlights:

Belize /Honduras District:

The annual women’s retreat for the Belize/Honduras District was held in the Roatan Circuit from April 26 to May 1 under the theme “A Chosen People: Called to Proclaim”. For the first time there was a group from Utila North Coast which included young women.



Participants from Utila North Coast

The 2019 women’s retreat was another successful one with daily worship, sharing activities done by each group and making new friends, learning the Zumba, outing to a popular beach.



Participants doing the Zumba

The highlight was the spectacular Sunrise Service where participants gathered for worship early in the morning and witnessed the sunrise.



Sunrise in Roatan

Jamaica District:

PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Jamaica District MCCA Women held a prayer breakfast on Saturday July 6, 2019 at the Excelsior High School Auditorium under the District’s theme “**Spreading Scriptural Holiness to Reform the Nation ... Beginning with me**”.

Special prayers were offered for matters of major concern and vulnerable individuals and groups within Jamaica.

HOLIDAY WITH A DIFFERENCE

The Jamaica District MCCA Women annual Holiday with a Difference was held at the Frenchman’s Cove Resort in Portland, d August 8-11, 2019, under the theme: Chosen People: Called to Proclaim.

Activities included Bible Study, Workshops on Managing stress; Healthy eating habits; Estate Planning and Making a Will. The women also visited with some sick and shut in members who reside in the area.

Recreational activities included trips to the beach, games evening and talent show.



Bible Study led by Rev Charlene Burton

“What a wonderful thought it is that the best days of your life haven’t even happened yet”
Anne Frank

Message from WFMUCW President – Alison Judd



Chosen People: Called to Proclaim at Christmas.

During the last two years, I have had the enormous privilege of leading a Weaving Together Programme for Area and Unit leaders prior to the Seminar in each of our World Federation Areas. At these events, we have been able to form bonds of friendship and mutual support, share news of progress in our work towards achieving the Sustainable Development

Goals and we have used Ketso* to identify priorities for future action. We have worshipped together, prayed, danced, laughed and sometimes cried together. Best of all we have found encouragement and hope in the gospel story and proclaimed what God is doing in our midst now. Like the angels who announced the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, we share the good news of Emmanuel, God made man, living among us and bringing us the assurance that we are loved, forgiven, and part of the plan of

At each of these events, I have been able to distribute little knitted God's angelic messengers whose task was (still is?) to proclaim the hope to a people who were struggling. The idea of the knitted angels began a few years ago in the UK where they are left in public places around Christmas (libraries, bus stops and rail stations) with a message to the finder gift from their local church and receive a blessing in their message of hope.



us and bringing us the salvation for all creation.

angels, a reminder of greatness of God and bring angels began a few years (like shopping centres, to take them home as a



Who has made these angels? Most of the angels I have taken around the world were made by Jeanne Mallett from St James Road Methodist Church in my circuit. With some help from a team of other women, Jeanne has supplied me with more than 300 angels. That's quite an achievement! Thank you Jeanne!

The Weaving Together Programmes are over, as are all eight of the Area Seminars of this quinquennium. But the work of bringing hope to a struggling world continues. The message of the angels is needed still, perhaps more than ever. Let's keep on proclaiming the glory of God through our worship, our relationships and through engaging in social action. In this way, we too will play our part in building the kingdom of God.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and much reason to celebrate in 2020.

Your sister in Christ,
Alison

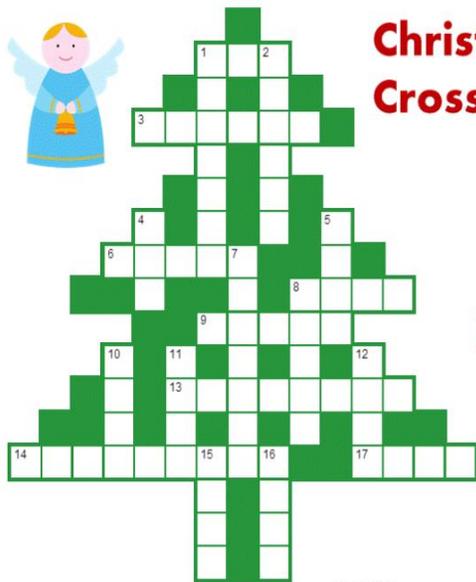
*www.ketso.com

A Fascinating fact about Mary the Mother of Jesus *She was foreshadowed in the Old Testament*

Mary's life and role in the history of salvation is foreshadowed in the Old Testament and the events of her life are recorded in the New Testament. The prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 speaks of the "Virgin-Mother of Emmanuel": "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel." Later in Isaiah, Emmanuel is referred to as the future Savior of His people. The prophet foretells an extraordinary future sign: that a virgin, without the cooperation of a man, would give birth to a child who will be "God with us". This child would remedy the great trials of division facing the people of Israel. Isaiah's prophecy predicts the Virgin of Nazareth and the birth of Jesus. <https://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/christianity/galleries/6-fascinating-facts-about-mary-mother-of-jesus.aspx>



Christmas Crossword



ACROSS

1. Pumpkin or mincemeat
3. Santa's ride
6. Celebration
8. Newborn
9. Northpole crew
13. Word of praise
14. Words on a Christmas card
17. It's opened on Christmas

DOWN

1. Alternative word to 17 across
2. Christmas drink
4. Christmas dinner centerpiece
5. Dec. holiday
7. Christmas warmer
8. "Jingle ____"
10. Christmas tree
11. O. Henry's "The Gift of the ____"
12. What carolers do
15. French Christmas.
16. Snow glider

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Impossible Pie: Try this lovely dessert!!

Prep Time: 5 mins	Cook Time: 45 Mins	Total Time: 50 Mins
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Ingredients

- 2 cups / 470 ml milk
- cup / 110 g Flaked coconut
- 4 eggs 1
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup /60 g flour
- 8 Tbsp butter melted
- 3/4 cup / 150 g sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg for top

Impossible Pie



Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 F / 180 C / Gas 4. Grease and flour an 8 - 9-inch pie plate
2. In a blender or mixing bowl, add all the ingredients and roughly mix together either on a short pulse if using a blender, or using a whisk by hand. Be careful not to over mix.
3. Transfer batter to the pie dish and sprinkle some ground nutmeg on the top (optional)
4. Place in the oven for around 45 minutes. The pie will have a slight wobble to the surface. That will set as it is cooling.
5. Allow to cool and refrigerate until completely chilled. For best results, chill overnight. The flavor settles over time and it is even tastier!

Why do some Methodist Churches in the Caribbean hold 5 am Christmas Morning Services?

“Dr Thomas Coke was in route to Halifax, Nova Scotia with three other missionaries ... when gale winds blew them off course and forced them to land in Antigua on **December 25, 1786**.

God's providence was further at work, when Coke set out in search of Baxter, and on enquiring of the first person he met on the street about Baxter, was told by John Baxter himself: **I AM HE- I AM JOHN BAXTER**. Baxter with his lantern and a party of persons were in route to conduct **Christmas morning service** at Tanner Street, the location of the first Methodist Chapel in the West Indies and built by Baxter.

The group made its way to the chapel which was packed to capacity and where Dr Coke, read prayers, preached and administered the sacrament... To this day, Methodists throughout the West Indies continue to hold **Christmas Morning worship service at 5 am** in commemoration of this historic Christmas morning encounter; and also as a reminder that our forefathers on the slave plantations were only free to hold religious meetings between sunset and sunrise, except on Sundays.”

<http://www.methodistchurchantigua.org/new/our-history/our-history-part-2>

Crossword Puzzle Solution

Across: 1- pie, 3- sleigh, 6- party, 8 – baby, 9- elves, 13- alleluia, 14 – greetings, 17- gift

Down : 1- present, 2- eggnog, 4- ham, 5- xmas, 7-yulelog, 8- bells, 10- pine, 11-magi, 12-sing, 15-noel, 16- sled