

Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands



Indoor Members Prayer Circle

September ~ November 2023

(A Leader) must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. She/He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that she/he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Titus 1: 8 - 9

Dear Friends,

At a MU gathering I asked that we pray for the MU Diocesan Presidential elections due soon. This led to a discussion on leaders and their selection. One moot point was that the Mothers' Union is an important organisation and that each new President, at whatever level, should present to the membership, her plans for the way forward for the organisation.

Arising from this, the theme for this issue is Leadership. We invite you to prayerfully approach each meditation/activity. Even though they may seem business focused, remember we are a Christian organization and we must allow Christ to guide us in all our discussions, especially the tough ones. One of my favourite prayers in the MU Service Book, is found on page 16, *For our Meeting*. The entire prayer is good but I will quote from the second paragraph,

"Give us courage to say what needs to be said and humility to accept decisions with which we do not agree; when we finish our meeting, enable us by your grace to go out and fulfil your purpose, doing what you want us to do; and to your name be the glory..."

We will never all agree on everything, but let us stand by the collective decisions. We don't have to pretend we are happy, but neither should we share our displeasure. And pray and pray and pray.

Pray not just for our Mothers' Union leaders but Leaders generally – Community Leaders, Spiritual Leaders, National Leaders – pray that they will allow God to lead them, to always strive to do the best for those they lead and not let their ego get in their way. **Amen**

September:

*Being Grateful and Thankful
Seeing God's Handiwork*

Recently, the focus for our Midday Prayers was Gratitude and it invited us to look at gratitude in several different ways. I invite us to focus on gratitude for the past.

Many of us are always trying to run from our past, and I am no exception. All of us who now serve Christ at some point had our own challenges, for we are all born in sin and shaped in iniquity. However, sometimes our past can help us to minister to others in ways that those who have not experienced a similar challenge cannot. Consider those of us who have been in abusive situations. As we have come out on the other side, we no longer style ourselves as victims, but as survivors. And having survived, we help others who are going through similar situations to not only survive, but thrive.

Telling someone who is being abused that they should see God's hands while they suffer may not be the best way to draw someone to God, but for those of us who have encountered many challenges in our lives, looking past the pain, we are able to ask God what plans He has for us, why He is allowing these things to happen to us, and open a discussion with God as to His purpose for our lives. It may be a test of our faith to endure. And so the next time that you experience a challenging situation, or you meet someone who is experiencing serious challenges, remind them of these words in Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever.

DJCI Wave of Prayer: September

September 2 – 8: Senior Citizens

September: Senior Citizens' Month (Ja)

September 9 – 15:

St. James/Hanover Deanery

September 16 – 22: Deanery of Kingston

September 23 – 29: Westmoreland Deanery

September 25: Founder's Day

DJCI Wave of Prayer: October

September 30-October 6: Portmore Deanery

October: Senior Citizens' Month (Cayman)

October 7 – 13: Deanery of Manchester

October 14 – 20: Deanery of St. Mary

October 21 – 27: Deanery of Clarendon

October 28 - November 3: St. Ann Deanery

DJCI Wave of Prayer: November

November 4 – 10: Parenting Programmes

November is Parent Month

November 11 – 17: Deanery of St. Thomas

November 18 – 24: Deanery of Trelawny

November 25-December 1: Portland Deanery

Victims of Abuse; 16 Days of Activism begins

Upcoming Events

- ✓ September 14: Holy Cross
- ✓ September 21: St. Matthew
- ✓ September 24: Montego Bay Regional Service & Meeting
- ✓ September 25: Margaret Williams' Day
- ✓ September 29: St. Michael & All Angels
- ✓ October 1: Kingston Regional Service & Meeting
- ✓ October 18: St. Luke the Evangelist
- ✓ October 22: Mandeville Regional Service and Meeting
- ✓ October 23: St. James of Jerusalem
- ✓ October 28: St. Simon & St. Jude
- ✓ November 1: All Saints Day
- ✓ November 2: All Souls Day
- ✓ November 26: Christ the King
- ✓ November 30: St. Andrew

Hymn: O Master Let Me Walk with Thee - Hymn 536, CPWI

The words of the hymn “O Master Let Me Walk with Thee,” were written by American Congregational minister Washington Gladden (1836-1918), and the hymn was first published in 1879.

Gladden was a controversial 19th century clergyman of the Congregational Church — a preacher unafraid of a good fight.

For a period of time, he served as editor of the New York *Independent* newspaper, and his editorials were credited with starting the investigation that sent a notorious gangster to jail.

Gladden was especially interested in labour disputes, and got involved in a number of strikes — not to encourage them, but to negotiate peaceful settlements. He sparked controversy when he opposed the acceptance of a \$100,000 donation to his denomination by John D. Rockefeller — “Tainted money,” he called it, because of Rockefeller’s business policies.

But there has been no controversy associated with Gladden’s hymn, “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee.” This hymn expresses in simple language what we all feel — a need to walk with God — to feel God’s presence — to have God guide us — to have God help us through the tough struggles of life. It is a hymn, but it is also a prayer. It asks God to give us a “winning word of love” that will make a difference in someone’s life. It asks God to give us patience — and hope — and peace. It then concludes by asking, “With Thee, O Master, let me live.”

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<https://sermonwriter.com/hymn-stories/o-master-let-walk-thee/>

October: Developing a Plan of Action

As we continue our thrust to Transform the Mothers’ Union here is a suggestion, especially for new Presidents to Transform our Branches.

Begin by assessing the health of your Branch. The SWOT Analysis continues to be an effective tool for sorting out the barriers and creating clarity.

- **Strengths:** characteristics of the Branch that give it an advantage over others.
- **Weaknesses:** characteristics that place the Branch at a disadvantage
- **Opportunities:** elements that the Branch & projects could exploit to its advantage.
- **Threats:** elements that could cause trouble for the Branch

Based on this analysis, the path to Transformation should now begin. It begins with a shared vision created through open dialogue of the members; therefore we listen closely to others, appreciate their hopes, and attend to their needs. You may begin with this four-step plan.

1. Determine your goals
2. Create and assign measurable action steps with a timeline
3. Verify progress by regularly reviewing the outcomes
4. Adjust the plan - repeat.

It looks easy but be mindful of two deterrents to change:

- (i) Those who don’t think a change is needed as “we’re okay”
- (ii) Those who recognise a change is needed but think it should be the other persons. People don’t always react well to change.

Ultimately, for Transformation to be effective, it boils down to commitment and accountability. Both are key attributes for us to achieve success.

November: Effective Leadership

“Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them” - Shakespeare. Leaders all share certain natural qualities which make them effective - confidence, optimism, discipline and responsibility – which allow them to influence the thoughts and actions of others. Christians leaders, influence the thoughts and actions of others to be pleasing to God. We develop our natural qualities by putting them into the service of the Lord, forming them around a Christian axis through the development of Supernatural Qualities which come from our relationship with God. As Christian leaders we must be living by **Faith** (Heb. 11:1) giving acceptance to the living personal God who is always with us and reflected in the witness of our normal daily life (Matt 17:20). We need to have **Hope** to believe in the impossible and to live as if it were a reality (I Corinth 1:18). Hope results in victory, as we trust in God and commit ourselves to lead others (Rom 12:12). We must **Love**, giving of self in service to others and touching their hearts as Christ would (Rom 12:10). Finally, we must be **Humble**, being aware that our ability to lead is a gift from God (Eph 2:8-10). This allows us to recognize God as our source and accept the responsibility to use God’s gift well. As Christians, we need to take on leadership roles for the service of the kingdom of Jesus Christ. We all have certain areas of influence where we can make a difference in the name of Christ. Let us transform the world by carrying the message of Christ with faith, hope, love and humility relying on Christ’s transforming love for us so that we may be instruments of Christ’s transforming love in our respective environments.

Leadership

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

I A E E C N E D I F N O C V C U M D W J
P K C E J N K H Z R G R Q P H N H K Y X
O E N R T N U S O A H E I D O L O F Z A
S Q E M H F K Q Z K C S S M P M N M Y F
I E I O D B D U N E P P E D E I E A T J
T X L T V H Y Y D I A E R S B B S E J H
I E I I F I D O T N B C V K F M T Z Z K
V H S V K A C F M T W T I U Y Y R Q L P
E P E A O O L O J E O F C J A Y E V X B
E H R T N A J N N G A U E U H O M Y R X
U U F E T V Z U O R C L U T T Z M U A M
O M K L P D Q Y D I O Q A Y W Y S P I G
S I A G E N S J M T W P G H U X D A V E
J L E N W X P G L Y M B O C E S A T A V
Y I T U X E I O X E X Q Q Z I N A I U O
R T Z H A P C B L A Q K X M Y E I E I L
T Y Y C V O O B L Q R Q C V C T S N U V
K P E T D F P X B E F H W Q B S U C A O
V W I P A E G A R U O C O U X I K E K I
R G R T Y C G X D A W F Q D Z L G I Y

Confidence	Humility	Peace
Courage	Integrity	Positive
Empathy	Listens	Resilience
Flexible	Love	Respectful
Honest	Motivate	Service
Hope	Patience	

Pray for:

- 🕯 Leaders
- 🕯 New School year- Students, staff, parents
- 🕯 Nomination of the New Diocesan President – elections in December
- 🕯 That our communities recognise and respond to our ministry as we act as God’s hands and feet

Let’s Hear from You

Is there anything you want featured? Send your questions, comments, contributions to us using one of the following methods:

WhatsApp: 876-865-6570

Email: munion@anglicandiocese.com

