

Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands



Indoor Members Prayer Members Circle

March – May 2022

***And I am sure of this,
that he who began a good
work in you will bring it
to completion at the day
of Jesus Christ.***

Philippians 1:6

Dear Friends,

In keeping with our 2022 theme 'Transformation Now', Sister Karen shares a study on Esther. Read the book of Esther with fresh eyes. Live in each moment with her: becoming an orphan, being raised by her cousin, taken into the King's harem, being made queen but not with much power, being threatened by death, redeeming her people. As I read I also thought of Joseph. Have a look at his story and compare. In each, recognise God's hands in the outcome. Then examine your life; which story do you want to share. You have them. Use them to encourage others. Share your struggles so those struggling will see they can overcome. If you only tell them about the victory, they will think it is unattainable.

The list of Upcoming Events is longer this quarter. Please pray intentionally for each. Keep in touch with your own community and pray for your neighbours, leaders, social workers, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security that tries to keep up with the needs of those who are struggling.

The Prayer list also requires serious intentional intercession but only do so if you are willing to play your part. Many times we limit ourselves and what God can do through us. He never asks you to do anything He is not able to equip you to do. The following prayer is adapted from that for Lady Day 2022.

Heavenly Father,
You hold all possibilities in your hands and nothing is impossible with you. Make known your will for each one of us, though we may ask, "Who, me?" Take us as we are, accept all we have and transform it to your glory. Let it be with us according to your word. Amen

Transformation of Queen Esther Esther 1 – 2: 18

International Women's Day is celebrated annually on March 8. It also takes place in the month of the Jewish Feast of Purim which celebrates the Jews being freed from certain death by a young girl named Esther. While many of us know the story of Esther I wondered how many of us have looked at Esther as using the challenges that she was experiencing and not only transforming her life but transforming the lives of her fellow Jews.

The Book of Esther begins with a feast being given by the King. The King, being drunk with wine, ordered his eunuchs to bring his wife to him. Queen Vashti refused. The King was embarrassed and angry and was advised to banish Queen Vashti. In addition, the advisors made the King proclaim that no woman in the land should ever disobey their husbands. Soon the King needed a new wife.

Historians tell us that at this time the kingdom stretched from India to Ethiopia and so the Jews were just a small fraction of the nations within this new kingdom. It was from a pool of women from across the kingdom that the King and his advisors chose his new queen. On advice from his counsellors, the King chose Esther, not only because she was beautiful but because she was young and so should be easier to control. This was a big step up for Esther who was an orphan being raised by an older cousin. From pauper to queen! What a transformation!

- How can we transform our lives using our own challenges and obstacles?
- Share a story of how you overcame obstacles. Use it to encourage others.

DJCI Wave of Prayer: March

February 26 – March 4: Deanery of St. Ann
March 5 – 11: Women who are victims of economic depression
March 8: International Women's Day,
March 12 – 18: Deanery of St. Thomas
March 19 – 25: Unwed Mothers;
Women's Centre
March 25: Feast of the Annunciation/
Lady Day
March 26 – April 1: Deanery of Trelawny

DJCI Wave of Prayer: April

March 26 – April 1: Deanery of Trelawny
April 2 – 8: Deanery of Portland
April 9 – 15: Deanery of St. Elizabeth
April 16 – 22: Deanery of St. Andrew
April 23 – 29: Deanery of St. Catherine
April 30- May 6: Children Homes
Child Protection and Family Services Agency

DJCI Wave of Prayer: May May is Child Month

April 30 - May 6: Children Homes
Child Protection and Family Services Agency
May 7 – 13: Diocesan Committee and Staff at
MU Office
May 6: Mothers' Day
Mothers who have been forgotten.
May 14 – 20: Deanery of St. James/Hanover
May 21 -27: Deanery of Kingston
May 28 - June 2: Deanery of Manchester

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Esther 2:19 – 10: 3

Esther is living an enchanted life. The Jews may have felt proud that one of their own was queen. But problems were ahead. There is bad blood between Mordecai, Esther's uncle and Haman, one of the King's close advisors. Haman feeling full of importance, wanted persons to bow down to him. Mordecai refused. Haman's anger makes him irrational. He decides not just to punish Mordecai, but destroy his whole nation. Talk about overkill!

Mordecai asks Esther to intercede for her nation. Esther was terrified. At first she hesitates and Mordecai tells her **"... who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"** Esther asks the Jewish nation to pray for her as going unbidden to the King could be punishable by death. Thankfully, Esther's interceding helped to foil the plot and ultimately save herself and her fellow Jews.

The Book of Esther institutes the Jewish Feast of Purim which is a celebration of survival. The transformation of Esther should help us to understand even more our role as women in God's Kingdom.

- How do we as women called to serve, use our fears to transform not only our own lives but the lives of others?
- How many of us have an inner Esther that is fighting to be free and to be able to transform our own lives and the lives of others?

Transforming our Children into Responsible Adults

Are we rearing children who will grow into responsible adults? That is the main role of parenting, to create adults who make rational decisions to protect the welfare of the society. How do they learn that; by the lessons we teach and the examples we set. In 2 Timothy 1: 5, Paul recognises that Timothy's faith is as a result of the example of his grandmother and mother. Will the same be said of us and our children?

There is a short video in which a man shares that his grandfather walked to work; his father took the bus, he drives a car, his son owns a jeep but it is expected that his grandson will be walking. When he asked why, he was told that they were doing nothing to ensure his grandson recognised the sacrifice that went into developing their status and so he would waste it and be forced back to walking.

A dog trainer shared that when he first gets a puppy, he places it into a small space. When they get bigger, he widens the space. This allows them to appreciate their freedom and it makes them more aware of their surroundings so it is easier for them to recognise anomalies. As I listened, I thought the same is true for humans. Our children have too much freedom and are not learning responsibility. Let us teach them responsibility. May hosts Child Month, Education Week, Nurses Week, Labour Day, and I am sure many more. Get them involved working in a project to offer support to one of the groups. Show your enthusiasm to support those in need, let them experience that joy as well. Let us truly develop family life and a better society.

Upcoming Events

- ✓ March 2: Ash Wednesday
- ✓ March 4: Women's World Day of Prayer
- ✓ March 8: International Women's Day/ Branch Presidents' Convention
- ✓ March 12: MU Executive Meeting
- ✓ March 19: St. Joseph
- ✓ March 25: The Annunciation/Lady Day
- ✓ March 27: Mothering Sunday
- ✓ April 17: Easter Sunday
- ✓ April 25: St. Mark
- ✓ May 1: Provincial Sunday
- ✓ May 1-7: Provincial Week
- ✓ May 2: St. Phillip & St. James
- ✓ May 8: Mothers' Day
- ✓ May 14: International Day of the Family/ Virtual Family Fun Day
- ✓ May 23: National Training AYP & members under 40
- ✓ May 26: Ascension Day
- ✓ May 31: The Visitation

Pray:

- ✎ For conflicts around the world but especially for Ukraine, Russia, European Union and China. Pray for the non-nationals who also are affected e.g. international students.
- ✎ Dwindling congregations, insufficient clergy, committed Lay Leaders, Laity who are fully involved in the MINISTRY of the Church
- ✎ Courageous persons to help stem the crime wave in our country.
- ✎ For those struggling economically - rising prices exceeding rise in salaries and pensions.
- ✎ That our eagerness to return to the old normal does not make us take unnecessary risks.



How Did The Bun & Cheese Tradition Come About?

Jamaica Gleaner March 25, 2016



Bun and cheese is as integral to the Jamaican Easter experience as attending church on Good Friday

and/or Easter Sunday. There are several different brands of bun on the shelf every year, and some people prefer to make their own. Whatever the case, we consume them with gusto; however, most Jamaicans have no idea how the tradition came about.

The Jamaican Easter bun is a descendant of the hot cross bun from Britain (pictured right). These buns



were traditionally eaten on Good Friday, with the cross symbolising the crucifixion of Jesus. The tradition made its way to Jamaica when they colonised the island in the mid-1600s. Over time, the bun transitioned from the round-ish shape into a loaf, molasses was substituted for honey and dried fruits were added to the batter to make it uniquely ours – and no doubt, much yummier. No one is sure how cheese was added to the mix, but we're not going to question the matter, because the combination just works!

Let's Hear from You

Is there anything you want featured? Do you have a poem or song to share? Send your questions, comments, contributions to us using one of the following methods:

WhatsApp: 876-865-6570

Email:

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