



Reach, Teach and Nurture  
1 Peter 4:7-11

DECEMBER 2021 | ISSUE 3

# REACH TEACH NURTURE (RTN) NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf (CCCD)

What's inside this December issue:

**CCCD MONTEGO BAY GRADUATION 2021**

**CCCD KNOCKPATRICK PARTNERS WITH LOCAL POLICE FOR BASIC JSL TRAINING**

**HERITAGE CELEBRATION AT CCCD KINGSTON**

**JAMAICA DEAF VILLAGE HOSTED SIX (6) L.I.F.E TEAMS**

## MESSAGE FROM OUR OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Tashi Widmer

Greetings!

"In that day he will be your sure foundation, providing a rich store of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. The fear of the LORD will be your treasure." -- Isaiah 33:6



What a comforting truth to be assured that He is our "sure foundation"; to experience His salvation, wisdom, and knowledge in and of Whom the Treasure of our fear is. It is His redemption story that Jesus Christ became our Foundation of redemption so we can humbly experience His unmerited gift of salvation and find joy and peace that He has secured victory over death and that He, ultimately, will reign in a new heaven and a new earth (Isaiah 65:17, 22; 2; Peter 3:13; Revelations 21:1).

Lord willing, this is my last message as the Executive Director. It has been an honour serving with CCCD in this capacity for the past 5 years and six months. What a life-refining journey it has been. I have been challenged, stretched, and humbly blessed in many ways and on multiple levels. Learning to yield all circumstances to YHWH and trust in Him to lead the way was among the greatest life lessons for me, personally and professionally. Reflecting on my engagement in the CCCD ministry, I humbly confirm that I have worked alongside a terrific team of staff members, missionaries, volunteers, and partners committed to the purpose, vision, and mission of CCCD, and the students. As I step into a new role as Director of Instruction and Development (DID) with CCCD effective March 1, 2022, I yield leadership of His ministry to the incoming Executive Director, Leon Samms, to reach, teach, and nurture the Deaf.

There is no greater reason for celebrating Christmas than the divine birth of Jesus Christ! His birth enables an undeserving gift of redemption for us. Merry Christmas!

**Annual General Meeting**

January 18, 2022

2:00-4:00 pm (EST)



## INTRODUCING THE INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MR. LEON SAMMS

Leon J. Samms refers to himself as a development enthusiast. He says, "I have been called by God to improve the lives of people".

He is a member of the Church of the United Missions, where his responsibilities include oversight of the youth ministry and providing support to the Administrative Department.



His work experience includes educational administration, project management, community development and entrepreneurship. Mr. Samms is a past student of St. George's College and has furthered his education at the University of Technology in Jamaica and the Yeungnam University in South Korea.

He is the tenth of 13 siblings. He is married to Munkhtsetseg Erdenebileg with two children, Temuujin and Sarnai. He enjoys watching cartoons and is interested in learning new languages and growing agricultural produce at home.



**CCCD Montego  
Bay Graduation  
2021 Highlights  
on next page**





# CCCD Montego Bay



# 2021 class of

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



CCCD Montego Bay hosted its first graduation in 3 years on December 2, 2021 at a beautiful face to face ceremony with COVID 19 protocols adhered to, of course! Twenty-two (22) students graduated. The theme for the ceremony was 'Dream Big'.



**Graduating Class of 2021**



Performance from  
CCCD Montego Bay's Dance Group.



Mrs. Rhonda Hamilton-Davis giving her Principal's address, with interpretation from Denque Wedderburn.



CCCD's Executive Director, Mrs. Tashi Widmer handing over a certificate to a graduate.



# CCCD Montego Bay



# 2021 class of

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



## More Highlights



**Mr. Andre Witter**  
Master of Ceremony



**Ms. Bonivia Darmand**  
Mistress of Ceremony



**Some of our proud graduates!**



**Graduate Donovan Hibbert, Most Skilled Awardee, introducing the guest speaker.**



**Guest speaker, Mrs. Nicola King, receiving a token of appreciation from a graduate**

# Montego Bay

## Recycling Venture

The Campus has started a recycling initiative in collaboration with Recycling Partners of Jamaica (RPJ). Receptacles have been placed all around the campus for persons to dispose of their plastics. CCCD Montego Bay benefits from this venture by receiving monetary compensation from RPJ.



Get more from your plastics by **RECYCLING**



**\$50**

per kg of plastics



## Field Trip

Our Continuing Adult Deaf Education (CADE) programme continues to offer topnotch education to our students by exposing them broadly to the industry that they are being trained in. Our housekeeping students were excited to visit the Grand Palladium Hotel and Ricks Cafe. They learned about hotel services such as room cleaning techniques as well as many other informative tips from the hotel industry.



# Montego Bay



## First Aid Training

Housekeeping students participated in first aid training organized by the campus recently. It was a great opportunity for some staff members to get trained too. The training is a requirement of HEART NSTA, our collaborative partner for the Continuing Adult Deaf Education (CADE) programme.



## Tablet Donation

The Janet Richards Foundation (JRF) donated 5 tablets to our students in October. The Foundation makes a difference in the lives of children in state homes and schools, the physically challenged and the needy in Western Jamaica (St. James and Hanover). Thank you JRF!

It was a pleasure hosting President of CCCD USA, Ben Beukema and a team of potential supporters. The gentlemen were treated to a campus and history tour. The day ended with them fellowshipping with our students over lunch.



# 7 Knockpatrick

## Top Justice of the Peace Official Campus Visits

It's such a wonderful feeling when busy persons take the time to visit our campus. The Custos Rotulotum for the parish of Manchester, the Hon. Garfield S. Green CD, JP has been visiting us regularly at Knockpatrick. He even decided to donate cleaning items. Thank you Hon. Green!



Certification Ceremony



## Community Partnership with the JCF



Certification Ceremony

We were recently part of a community partnership with the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), Mandeville branch. Thirty-five (35) police officers from the Centre for Investigation of Sexual Offences, the Community Safety and Security, Mandeville and Half-Way branches, were certified in basic Jamaican Sign Language (JSL) after a 3-month course. We continue to advocate for more persons across Jamaica to learn JSL.

# 8 Knockpatrick

## We thank God for our new students!

Despite all the challenges that have come with managing and teaching during a pandemic, we were able to register four new students. Two students started at the pre-primary level, one in Grade 1 and one in Grade 4. We thank God for them!



**Mickaylia Tomlin, one of the four new students we welcomed at the beginning of this school year.**

**Cabbages**



**Chickens**



**Pigs**



**Mr. Richard Stephenson repairing the livestock units.**

## We are so proud of our little farm!

We continue to work tirelessly to ensure our farm acts as an income generator to supplement our campuses. We harvested cabbages and bok choy (pak choy) in November. We have also been steadily maintaining our poultry and making repairs to our livestock unit. We recently received a donation of five (5) sows (pigs) from the Campus Church of Christ.

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Kingston

## A New Principal

Former principal Mr. Earl Daley said farewell to us at the end of August this year and Ms. Teri-Ann Bernard took up the post on September 27, 2021. Ms. Bernard is very talented and has strong leadership qualities. We say thank you to Mr. Daley for his service to CCCD



**Mr. Earl Daley**  
Former Principal



**Ms. Teri-Ann Bernard**  
New Principal



## Introducing our new Campus Manager

Ms. Zandrea Pitterson started her Campus Manager duties on December 1, 2021. She is just a bright spark on the campus and we look forward to all the potential she brings to the table. She is Deaf and proud!

## Cool school...again!

We resumed the new school term virtually on September 7, 2021. However, on October 11, we started face to face classes on the campus! The students and teachers were so excited! A total of 21 students have returned to the campus, two of which are new students. There are 13 girls and 3 boys on dorm and the remaining students commute to school.



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# Kingston

## Heritage Week

## Art

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We had a Heritage Week competition in October with students participating in dance, art and poetry. The week closed with a Games Day during the mid-term holidays.



Games Day: playing dominoes and making "rope" with rubber bands for Chinese skip (Jamaican favourites).



Strike a pose for Heritage Week.

# Jamaica Deaf Village

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**"Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be."  
Deuteronomy 33:25**

The management and staff of the Jamaica Deaf Village praise and give God thanks for His grace, mercy, leading, help, support, protection, provision, and guidance during the fiscal year 2020-2021 and the calendar year 2021. His day by day, moment by moment leading, presence and provisions were the backbone of our successes and achievements. I (John Meeks) want to also thank the department leaders, staff of the JDV, the Head Office and campus support from Kingston, Knockpatrick and Montego Bay for their efforts and support in assisting JDV achieve successes for this period.

## The Production of 35,000 Dryer Angels



The sewing department is a hardworking team! This enterprise continues to be the major revenue earner for the JDV and enables the campus to meet its salary and other financial obligations.

JDV hosted six (6) L.I.F.E. (Learn, Invest, Fellowship, Encourage) teams over the period with 4 additional teams scheduled to visit this December. COVID-19, along with local and international travel, vaccine and quarantine protocols continue to negatively impact L.I.F.E. team bookings. We anticipate increased teams for the ensuing fiscal year.



## L.I.F.E Team Visits

# Jamaica Deaf Village

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The JDV management and staff continue to practice and uphold COVID-19 protocols and collectively address its associated challenges.

## COVID 19 Impact

Facility rentals, along with L.I.F.E. team visits, remain the areas hardest hit and impacted by COVID 19 and its associated challenges. The campus continues to host limited bookings for weddings, banquets and one day events.

However, there have been several cancellations and postponements of weddings due to COVID-19 restrictions regarding attendance at events. With new and relaxed COVID-19 protocols allowing for increased attendance and longer hours, JDV could see an increasing in facility rental bookings.



Sweet Potatoes



Agriculture on the JDV campus continue to be stymied by lack of irrigable water, lack of tractor for land preparation activities and climate related drought. These limiting factors resulted in the cultivation of only two crops over the period-peanut and sweet potato. Both crops were significantly affected by drought.

We are presently discussing opportunities for partnerships/sponsorships to address our water and equipment needs. As soon as we overcome these challenges, we believe that our crop and livestock production on the campus will increase exponentially. Our herd size grew from 32 – 38 over the period. We plan to trim the herd size to 30.



Peanuts

## Farm Life: Peanuts and Potatoes

# Other Highlights

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## Photography Workshop

A photography workshop to help staff and students boost our communication skills, was held at the Head Office in October. We learned how to make professional looking photos using a smartphone, the rules of composition that make your photos stand out, how to become a great storyteller and how to tell a story using images, not words. The facilitators were Mr. Benjamin Salmon and Dr. Chuck Quinley from MediaLight, an organization based in northern Thailand, dedicated to helping persons find their voice as God's messengers in order to communicate powerfully in person and through media.



## Parents' Awards (Knockpatrick)



Mother of the Year - Mrs. Melecia Duncan-Parkes. The gift was presented to Mrs. Parkes by her son Kenardo Parkes.



Father of the Year - Mr. Warren Parchment. The gift was presented to Mr. Parchment in his absence by Paris Guthrie.

## Jamaica Deaf Village

Monthly transitional training courses have been conducted for JDV residents. Courses include career exploration, marriage, computer training, budgeting, rights, health, and nutrition. These classes are designed to equip Deaf adults with skills and knowledge for successful integration into the wider society. Training will continue next year.

## CCCD Montego Bay's Graduation featured in the Western Mirror Newspaper

An excerpt from the article "There is Peace in Granville, St. James" by Garth Sommerville:

"For the two hours that the program lasted, I was elevated to a place where I felt my mind, body and spirit working in total harmony for the first time. Therefore, I am now convinced by Einstein's theory that peace can be reached in place of order, stillness and good governance. The Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf in Granville, St. James, you have performed a graduation ceremony like no other; you are surely a beacon of light that is sitting on a hill in Granville."



Read the full article [here](#)

# Special Report

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## The Disabilities Act 2014, the Disabilities Tribunal and the Deaf Community

### General Information

The Disabilities Act, which was passed in Parliament in 2014, will take effect on February 14, 2022.

The passing of this legislation is in keeping with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities (CRPD) which Jamaica has signed and agreed to.

The act is needed to ensure that people who have a disability, are treated fairly and equally.

Source: <https://jcpdja.com/the-disabilities-act>

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CCCD Montego Bay students and staff members attending a recent Sensitization Session on the Disabilities Act at the RIU Hotel in Negril.

### The Disabilities Act and the Deaf Community

- Encourage all Jamaicans to recognise and accept the principle that the Deaf have the same fundamental rights as any other person.
- Promote individual dignity, freedom of choice and independence of the Deaf.
- Make sure that the Deaf are able to take part effectively and are included on an equal basis with others in all aspects of national life
- Prevent or prohibit discrimination against the Deaf
- Promote acceptance of the Deaf and respect for their differences as human beings.

Source: <https://jcpdja.com/the-disabilities-act>

### Key Areas Highlighted in the Act Specific to the Deaf Community

- The **Right to: Education & Training; Employment; Adequate Healthcare and Accessible Facilities; Housing and to enter Premises; Access Public Passenger Vehicles; Participate in Public Office and Political Life.**
- The Work of the New Jamaica Council for Persons With Disabilities and the Disability Tribunal (the body that has been put in place to settle claims of discrimination).

Learn more at:  
<https://jcpdja.com/the-disabilities-act>

# A Special Tribute

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## To Our Dear Mrs. Tashi Widmer



### From JDV

by Chris Briggs

It's has been an incredible blessing to work with Tashi. Her wisdom and vision for JDV has allowed us to grow and develop in many unexpected ways over the years. She has challenged us both as individuals and collectively as a community to strive to be the best that we can be and to fully live up to the potential that God has created in us as well as the calling that He has placed on us.

### From Knockpatrick

by Opalyn King

\*T-\* Tactful; \*A-\* Amiable, Admirable, Alert, Amazing, Ambitious; \*S-\* Sincere, Supportive, Special, Spectacular; \*H-\* Honest, Hospitable; \*I-\* Industrious; \*W-\* Wonderful; \*I-\* independent, Indispensable; \*D-\* Dedicated; \*M-\* Meticulous; \*E-\* Energetic; \*R-\* Remarkable

These words describe a very special lady. One who clothes herself with strength and honour, a vituous lady, Mrs. Tashi Widmer. The CCCD Knockpatrick Family, salutes you! We thank you for your hard work, support and dedication as you took on the mammoth task, to lay another brick, six years ago, in the capacity as the Executive Director of this noble organization. The work you have done is speaking for you. Thank you and may God continue to bless and prosper you, as you turn another page in your life, serving in this ministry to the glory of God.

### From Head Office

by Marcia Anderson

#### Truly Exceptional

In paying tribute to Tashi, I found a scripture that sums up her character from Proverbs 31:25, "She is clothed with Strength and Dignity". I believe Tashi was specially chosen by God to carry out his mission. She is a woman of God who loves the Lord. She has served the CCCD for 6 years with consistent performance at a Top-notch level, Admirably, Superbly, Honourably, and Impeccably. Tashi is a "...woman to be praised" Proverbs 31:30-31.

### From Montego Bay

by Rhonda Hamilton-Davis

There is not enough signs that can be expressed to show our gratitude for our Director Tashi Widmer. Upon reflection she demonstrates a level of commitment and dedication unseen and unheard of in these times. I would have believed that CCCD was personally own by Tashi, her vested interest brought an extraordinary presence of support, encouragement and structure to the CCCD group. The Montego Bay Management Team would like to express a sincere thanks and pray for Gods guidance as she transition into self-actualization.



### From Kingston

by Teri-Ann Bernard

Mrs. Widmer has made a lasting contribution to CCCD. She pursues excellence in all that she does and has established the same standards for CCCD. Her passion for and pursuit of quality education, access, and opportunities for the Deaf community are obvious. She does all of this with a humble heart and gives all the glory to her King. Though her role may be changing, we know her contributions to the Jamaican Deaf Community are far from over. She is truly the example of what a true leader should be. She always thinks matters through before she gives a careful response. In this way she tries to be fair and just, by involving others and being concerned with the ideas, perspectives and values of others. Like Proverbs 16: 24 says, her words are always pleasant just like the taste of honeycomb. We consider her a woman of wisdom. God bless you, Mrs. Widmer. We are thankful for all that you have done and will continue to do.



# Prayer Points

## Montego Bay

- Karen Bucknor who is in the hospital
- Glenford Bucknor, for his strength
- Samantha Scott (student) who is also in the hospital
- Our students to focus on their goals and to be safe this holiday season
- Our staff to continue working as a team and achieve the organisation's goals.
- Ruth Ann Collins, who lost her mother and broke her hand.

## Knockpatrick

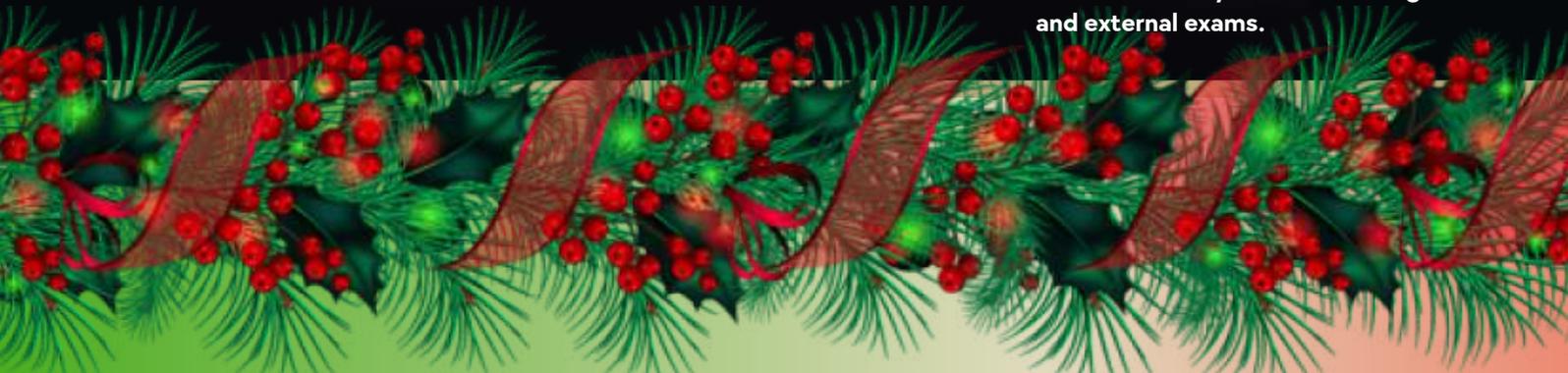
- We need two (2) primary school teachers and two high school teachers.
- Ann-Marie Cunningham, who sustained a back injury in a car accident. She is now on medical retirement.

## Jamaica Deaf Village

- The Briggs family and medical challenges with their daughter.
- The Campbell family and illness challenges with their son.
- Protection and safety of JDV staff
- Approval and implementation of project ideas for growth and development.
- God's continued leadership, empowerment, and guidance of the JDV team.
- John Meeks and family on the recent passing of his mother and nephew.

## Kingston

- Students and staff have lost family members and we crave support for them as they grieve.
- That divine love and compassion will continue to cover us as we combine the norms of Deaf and hearing cultures.
- Wisdom in training students in biblical truths
- Divine strength to all staff as we fulfill the Purpose, Vision and Mission of CCCD.
- The comprehensive development of our students as they take on challenges of life and external exams.



## Connect with us

For more information about our educational programmes, rentals, L.I.F.E. teams and student sponsorship

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