



DECEMBER 2022 VOLUME 5

The Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf's official newsletter



Reach Teach Nurture (RTN) Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEON J. SAMMS



The years that are mixed with challenges and celebratory moments are the ones we remember the most. 2022 has been like that, memorable! It has been a year of transition where we have seen and experienced the hand of God steadying our lives and our beloved organization.

Some amazing people have joined the CCCD community and they have been contributing significantly to the organization's development. Those of us who started this year are continuing the legacy of making the ministry better. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the hardworking, dedicated, passionate and caring staff of our community for a job well done.

We are encouraged in Matthew 5:16 to 'let [our] light shine before men in such a way that they may see [our] good works, and glorify [our] Father who is in heaven'. I have seen that persistent and steady light, as that of a candle, in each person that I have engaged and got to know a little better this year. This light has brightened each person's corner. This brightness has been magnified by the way individuals have gone about their duties and tasks whether it was cleaning, cooking, teaching, leading, praying or simply lending a helping hand.

Letting our light shine does not require a particular season, such as the Christmas season which means different things for each of us. The brightness and steadiness of our candlelight extends beyond a season or time. Additionally, not only does the candle bring light, but it also exudes warmth representing the love and care we should have for each other. We have our differences but in many ways we are similar. One way in which we share commonality is the connection we have in belonging to God. That connection requires us to love each other and to allow that love to blossom in our respective corners and places.

As we close out this year, I encourage all of us to continue to shine our light so that others can see it and glorify our Heavenly Father with us.

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Annual General Meeting

January 17, 2023

Time: to be announced





FEATURE: NEW LIFE CHURCH FOR THE DEAF



New Life Church of the Deaf (NLCD) is located at the Jamaica Deaf Village in the cool Shooters Hill, Manchester. It is a place where Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals can gather to have fellowship, and learn about God in their own language.



Pastor Sheldon and family

Pastor Sheldon Burkett and his beautiful Grenadian wife, Rachel, along with their two sons, serve at the church. Pastor Sheldon, as he is affectionately called, joined NLCD in 1998. He stayed with the ministry until 2004 before migrating to the United States for studies. He worked at CCCD Montego Bay when he returned to Jamaica in 2012.

In 2016, he returned to NLCD as its full-time pastor. Pastor Sheldon has had his fair share of ups and downs serving in the ministry but he and his family remain faithful to the mission. He shares some church highlights with us.



Pastor Sheldon with his YWAM Bible class.



New Life members attending the funeral of the father of Shelly-Ann Lindsey, another CCCD past student.



Pastor Sheldon at Ms. Dale's funeral. She was a past student at CCCD Knockpatrick. She passed away after battling lung cancer. She will be missed.

In October, a small group of CCCD past students and church members supported Mrs. Shelly-Ann Lindsey at her father's funeral at Little Bay, Westmoreland.

Youth With a Mission (YWAM) Montego Bay invited Pastor Sheldon in October to teach Bible classes to some of the team members there.

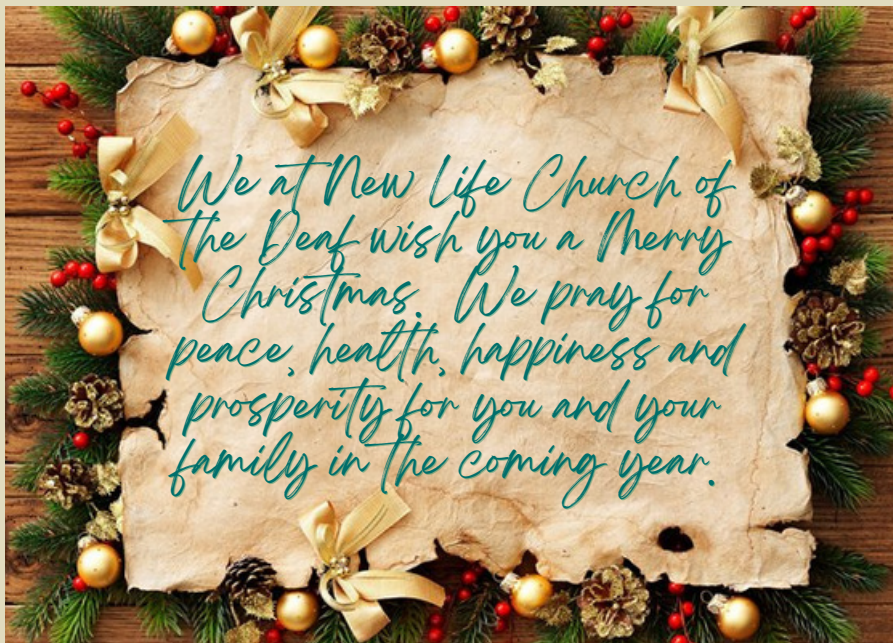
Members of New Life Church and the deaf community attended the thanksgiving service of Miss Barbra Dale at Cheapside District New Testament Church in Manchester.



NEW LIFE CHURCH FOR THE DEAF CONT'D



In November, NLCD was thrilled to have students from CCCD Knockpatrick, and Missionary Eve a Douglas and her family join us in worship. We were so happy to have them that we had to capture the moment after the service.



**New Life Church of the Deaf
located at the Jamaica Deaf
Village**





School reopened on September 5, 2022 with 7 boys and 19 girls. We welcomed three high school students to our Kingston family this term.



Our new high schoolers from left to right: Shanel Ferron, Rolando Grant and Mickealecia Johnson.



Our recently painted front wall.

We were blessed to have been the recipients of a paint grant which allowed us to refresh the front school wall, the wash room and areas of the dorms over summer.





The winners of the
Kiwanis Clubs of Eastern
St. Andrew and Port
Royal Art Competition,
which was held in May of
this year, received their
prizes this term.



Art competition winners from left to right:
Mackalia Sturlin, Daquane Daley and Kera Johnson.



Some of our students posing with their newly
acquired tablets and members of the Optimist
Club of Kingston.

The Optimist Clubs of
Hope Road and
Kingston donated back
to school supplies and
seven tablets
respectively to
students to assist them
with their studies.





Three of our teachers participated in a Climate Change Workshop through a collaborative partnership with Rise Life Management and CCCD. Some of our students were involved in the follow-up training for the same project.



Teachers Leah Gregg, Kadia Williams-Buckley and Omar Oliver keenly engrossed in workshop activities.



Staff members from the NCB Foundation posing for the camera with us after the motivational session.

The NCB Foundation visited us during International Week of Deaf People. We were inspired by motivational speeches from their Deaf staff members.





We were invited to the launch of Jamaica Fire Brigade's Fire Prevention Week 2022. The Brigade reciprocated by visiting our campus on November 25 to facilitate a demonstration exercise as part of their activities for the week.



Our head prefects at the Junior Achievement Jamaica Senior Leadership Summit.

Our head prefects were participants at the Junior Achievement Jamaica Senior Leadership Summit at the Jamaica Conference Centre on November 15, 2022. Our students, along with grade nine (9) high school students across the country engaged in entrepreneurship, financial literacy and career readiness workshops, facilitated by seasoned professionals in IT, finance, leadership, marketing, human resource, manufacturing and logistics.





Final Highlights

CCCD Kingston participated in the National Deaf Sports Day Six-a-Side Competition. Our team placed third. We are so proud!



Our Six-a-Side football team and coach.

Some of our students performed at events such as the "Ketch Eh Kulture" hosted by the University of Technology, Jamaica (UTECH, Ja.) Management of Meetings and Events 2022 class and the Ministry of Education's for its Disabilities Week.

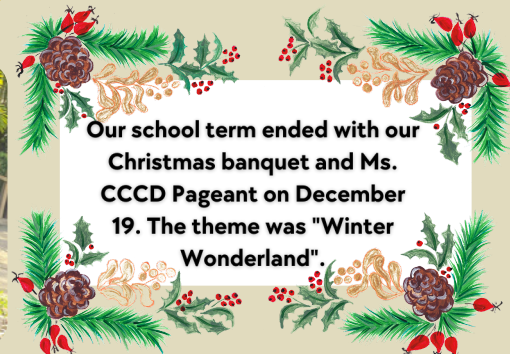


Our students stopped by the CCCD booth at the UTECH "Ketch Eh Kulture" event earlier this month.

Ms. CCCD Pageant contestants getting ready for a great competition



Our school term ended with our Christmas banquet and Ms. CCCD Pageant on December 19. The theme was "Winter Wonderland".





Our students participated in bamboo bag training workshops held on November 29-30, and December 6-8, 2022. The training is a component of the European Union/RISE Life Management Improved Forestry Management and Livelihoods for a Better Jamaica project.



Our students perfecting their bag sewing skills.



Our students proudly showing off their finished handiwork.



Highlights from CCCD's booth at the HEART/NSTA St. James Parish Open Day.



CCCD Montego Bay participated in the Region 4 HEART/NSTA St. James Parish Open Day on November 18, 2022. HEART has been hosting events such as this one throughout Jamaica as part of its 40th Anniversary celebrations.





We also got the opportunity to showcase our campus at the Information and Edutainment Expo organized by the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities (JCPD) on December 5, 2022 at Falmouth Square in Trelawny. This event, along with a church service and other activities, was held to mark Disabilities Week 2022.



Patrons were happy to visit our booth where they got to decorate their own cupcakes and then enjoy the sweet treat.



Our dedicated team posing for the camera with the interpreter for the day.

CONGRATULATIONS

To our twenty-two students who received their HEART/NSTA certification. Special mention is given to those who attended the Certification Ceremony in November:

Dwayne Samuels
Jared Brown
Venesse Anderson

Cassandra Jones
Yanique Powell
Nickandian Smith

Patrice Harvey
Setria Bryan
Michael Bailey
Rayon Smith





Some of our staff members participated in a digital learning symposium on October 13, 2022 organized by the distance education department of the Northern Caribbean University (NCU) in Mandeville. This year's theme for the annual event was "Engaging the Circular Launching Pad".



Back row, first from right: our Executive Director, Mr. Leon J. Samms
Front row, second from right: Distance Education Coordinator, Mrs. Avery Thompson posing with CCCD Knockpatrick staff.



Our parents and guardians posing for their Parent Day picture.



Our PTA President, Mrs. Mellissa Parkes, making a presentation to our Parents' Day Guest Speaker, Dr. Sandra Chambers.

We hosted our Parents' Day activities on November 30, 2022. We use this opportunity every year to celebrate our parents and guardians as well as offer support. Our guest speaker for this year was Dr. Sandra Chambers.



Our football team performed exceptionally well at the National Deaf Sports Jamaica tournament in November. They won two matches with winning scores of 9-2 and 17-2 respectively. The final game ended in a one all (1-1) draw against defending champions Lister Mair/Gilby High School for the Deaf. We ended up placing second because of goal difference.



Our champion football team posing with their coach and supporters.



Two of our teachers and a student participating in a Jamaica National Heroes activity.

Our students and educators were engaged in various activities to observe Heritage Week in October.





**Chevando Williams
presenting one of
the Parent of the
Year Awards for
2021-2022 to Mr.
Carl Johnson.**

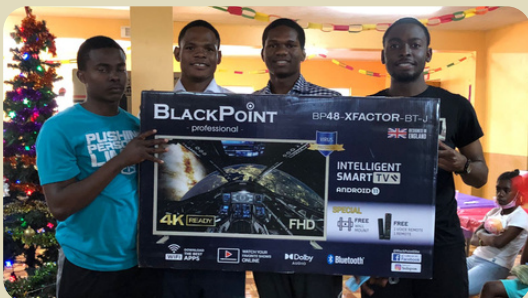


Our student Chevando Williams presents his guardian Carl John with the Parent of the Year Award for 2021-2022.

**Our tree
surrounded by
gifts.**



**We say thank you to the
Campus Church of Christ
for generously donating
appliances to us and to our
overseas supporters for
sponsoring our Christmas
treat.**



**Students posing with
one of the gifts, a flat
screen television.**



Here are some more highlights from the NCU digital learning symposium mentioned earlier in our newsletter.

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1. NCU Distance Education representative, Mrs. Marion Palmer-Hynes (4th from left), presented gifts to the staff who participated at the symposium.
2. Mrs. Claudette Brown demonstrating how to teach the Deaf.
3. Mrs. Simone McKenzie and Mrs. Janet Scafe teaching the attendees some basic sign language.
4. Mrs. Felicia Campbell and Mrs. Nicola Foster-King sharing on the challenges and help Deaf students need to engage in learning.

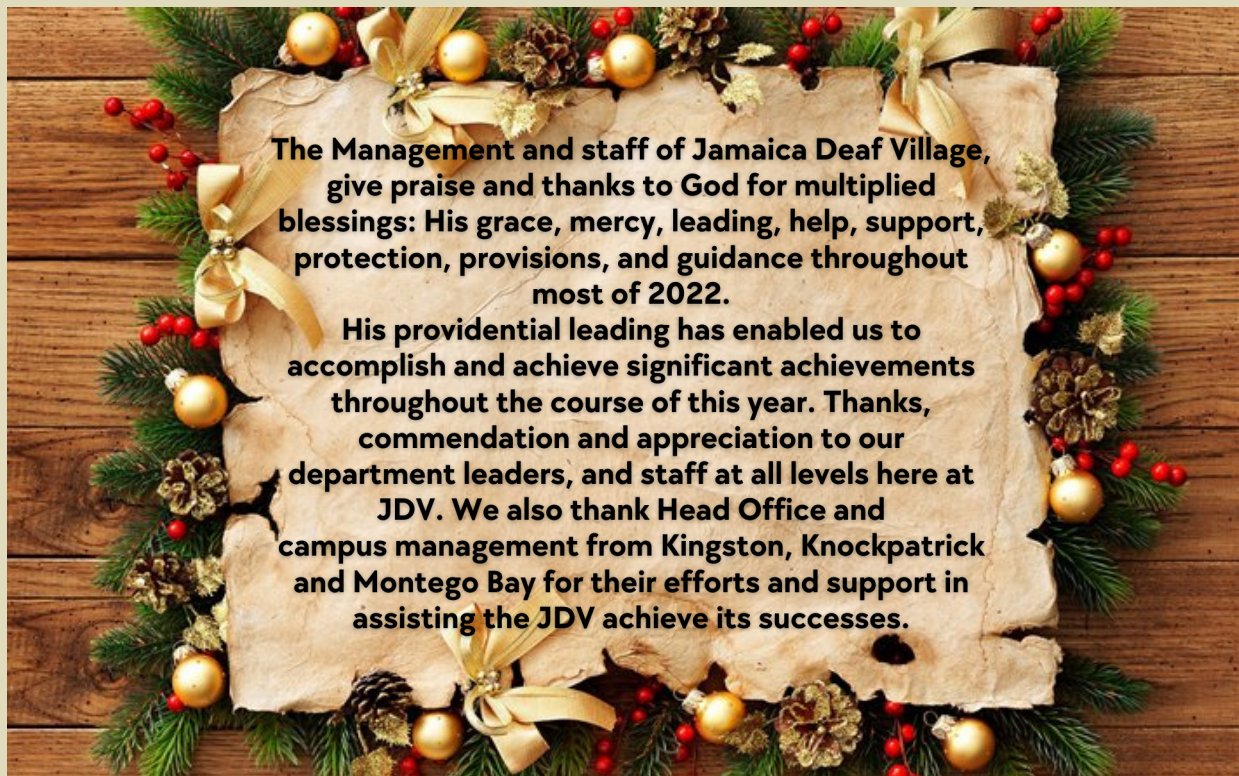


"For by thee I have
run through a troop;
and by my God have
I leaped over a wall."
Psalm 18:29 (KJV)



The Management and staff of Jamaica Deaf Village, give praise and thanks to God for multiplied blessings: His grace, mercy, leading, help, support, protection, provisions, and guidance throughout most of 2022.

His providential leading has enabled us to accomplish and achieve significant achievements throughout the course of this year. Thanks, commendation and appreciation to our department leaders, and staff at all levels here at JDV. We also thank Head Office and campus management from Kingston, Knockpatrick and Montego Bay for their efforts and support in assisting the JDV achieve its successes.





We now have a brand new vehicle to help us better serve our L.I.F.E teams and carry out necessary tasks. It is a 2023 Toyota Hiace bus. We want to say a hearty thank you to our church partners overseas who made this acquisition possible through their kind donations, namely, the North Branch Reformed Smithville Apostolic Church and the Rittman Apostolic Church Williamson Chapel FUMC.



Our brand new 2023 Toyota Hiace bus, a welcomed acquisition.



Ms. Kaden (top) busy at work sewing a dryer angel and Ms. Lana (below) ensuring meticulous records are kept of the goods.

Dryer angels production continues amid potential reduction in per unit cost paid by the customer. This reduction in per unit cost will negatively impact the overall profitability of the enterprise. Nonetheless, this enterprise area continues to be the major earner of revenue for JDV and enables the campus to meet its salary and other financial obligations. With the proposed per unit cost diversifying, we are looking into other sewing possibilities.





Great news! We hosted twelve (12) L.I.F.E. teams over the period with a significant increase in projected teams for 2023. With the lull in COVID-19 and its associated travel restrictions, we can expect to have increased L.I.F.E. team bookings and visits to our campus for 2023. Additionally, facility rentals also increasing and we also anticipate more business next year.



L.I.F.E. team members at JDV in November.



A JDV worker planting a fruit tree.

The CCCD /RISE/EU Improved Forestry Management and Livelihoods for Better Jamaica Project continues. Since its implementation in March, a total of 1,146 trees (608 timber, 382 fruits & 176 ornamentals) have been procured and planted on approximately 11 acres of land: 9.5 acres at JDV (946) and 1.5 acres at Knockpatrick (200). Thirty (30) Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons were trained in bamboo craft and bag sewing. Fifteen (15) Deaf trainers have been trained in Climate Change awareness.



Successfully conducted sewing and bamboo craft training sessions could mean the emergence of two new enterprise initiatives. They are a bamboo craft business to supply the Sandals resorts and a US gift shop along with a sewing venture to produce school physical education gears. Both prospects are promising and would increase the income generating streams for CCCD.



Sewing training at CCCD Montego Bay.

We continue to struggle with agricultural efforts because of a lack of irrigable water, a tractor for land preparation activities and climate related drought. We are looking into purchasing a new tractor to help bolster agriculture production on the campus. We are also actively pursuing well drilling possibilities. We are awaiting a proposal from a well drilling company to explore the possibility and feasibility of drilling a well on the campus. On a more positive note, cattle herd size grew from 38 to 42 since our last update in 2021 and twelve calves were sold this year.



JDV farm land cleared for planting

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Other Highlights

The CCCD/ Red Cross Jamaica Water Management and Climate Smart Agriculture Project costing \$7,888,115.04 commenced in November 2022. It is a three phased project aimed at bringing improvement to Knockpatrick's farming programme including:

- repairing a catchment area for increased water harvesting and storage.
- installation of four (40 (1,000 gallons) water storage tanks.
- installing solar powered automated drip irrigation system.

Work in progress: constructing a new platform for a greenhouse irrigation and fertigation station at Knockpatrick



CCCD hosted a health fair on August 1, 2022 as part of our public awareness campaign. For our first time and considering there were other competing events since it was Emancipation Day, we believe the event went well. We registered 146 persons and most of them were able to check their weight, blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol levels. They were also able to see the doctor we had on duty and the audiologists or at least just the audiologists. Another health fair is being planned to take place in 2023 at our Kingston campus.

Patrons being attended to at our Emancipation Day health fair in Knockpatrick.





CCCD partnered with students from the Management of Meetings and Events 2022 class at the University of Technology (UTECH). We participated in their integrated cultural show on November 19, 2022 at UTECH which they called "Ketch Eh Kulture". They donated part proceeds, J\$100,000, to us. Some of our students also got an opportunity to perform and the Communications Director presented briefly on the organization.

UTECH student Ms. Ariel Thomas doing the opening prayer at the donation ceremony while senior teacher Mrs. Dorothy Williams interprets.



Our CCCD booth at the event.

Through the collaborative efforts of the Communications Department, the Employee Development Office and the Office of the Executive Director a positive behaviour sensitization campaign for staff and students was held across all four campuses. The team visited the four campuses from November 22-24, 2022 in partnership with Eve for Life (an NGO specifically supporting women and girls who have been abused and are living with HIV/AIDS), the Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA) and the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA). The campaign also capitalized on reinforcing the communication policy for campuses. These communications sessions were led by Kingston campus principal Ms. Teri-Ann Bernard.



Sensitization sessions: Montego Bay (top left), Knockpatrick (top right), Jamaica Deaf Village (bottom left) and Kingston (bottom right)

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Other Highlights

The Employee Development Office launched a series of staff improvement sessions starting with our Kingston campus. Teachers and house parents participated in a basic first aid and CPR certified training on October 11 to ensure students and staff can be assisted in cases of medical emergency. Kitchen staff also participated in a nutrition and meal planning workshop on that same day. Then, on December 2, houseparents participated in a Parent Commission training session. Similar workshops are scheduled for the other campuses in 2023.



Kingston staff participating in the basic first aid and CPR certification training in October.

CCCD welcomes our new members of staff to the team:

Knockpatrick:

Romain Joseph (farm manager)
Delaine Davis (teacher)
Roseanne Senior (teacher)
Celine Loban (teacher)

Montego Bay:

Patrice Harvey (groundskeeper)
Amanda Anderson (JSL specialist)
Edwin King (campus manager)

Kingston:

Shadae Walters (teacher)
Beverley Powell (teacher)
Kemoy Clarke (chef)
Lloyd Thomas (campus watcher)

Head Office:

Veronica Richards
(administrative assistant)



Montego Bay

- The continued healing and strength of staff and students after the passing of student, Samantha Scott
- Increased enrollment and retention of students

Knockpatrick

- Successful 2023 that will be void of illnesses that affected us in 2022 .
- Success for our students who are preparing for their external exams.
- For the L.I.F.E. teams coming in the new year, that all finances will be covered so that their trips will be possible.
- Increased financial support.
- Staff with various illnesses.
- The new staff that are needed.
- Continued increase in our student enrollment.

Jamaica Deaf Village

- The Briggs family are back on campus we thank God and ask for continued prayers for them.
- Lenna Davey and her illness challenges
- Protection and safety of JDV and entire CCCD staff and for a reduction /eradication of the country-wide crime and violence
- Approval and implementation of project ideas for growth and development
- God's continued leadership, empowerment, and guidance of the JDV team

Kingston

- Resolution to public transportation challenges which affect the staff.
- Peace and professional support for the students experiencing emotional turmoil as they continue to navigate through life.

Connect with us

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

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