

Jamaica School of Preaching and Biblical Studies

Director's Report to the JSP Graduation

Held on April 5th, 2009

Covering period: April 2nd 2007-April 5, 2009

Mr. Chairman, members of the class of 2009, brethren on the platform, members of the Board of Advisors, JSP staff members, preachers, other leaders of the Church of Christ,, brothers, sisters and friends.

Welcome the 21st Graduation Exercise of the JSP in the 39th year of its existence. It was actually in April 1970 that the doors of this institution opened in this building.

(To the graduating class);

Congratulations! Only God knows the pride, joy that is in your heart, your sacrifice and hard work, the growth you have made in Christ and your dreams for contributing to the development and progress of the Lord's Church. My word to you is as Jesus prayed for workers in the vineyard, (Matthew 9:38) go out and work and help fulfill the prayer of Jesus Christ.

My friends,

What is the Jamaica School of Preaching and Biblical Studies? The JSP is a multi-national, 39 year old institution based at the Mona CoC but with centers in 4 parishes in Jamaica (St. Andrew, St. Catherine, St Elizabeth and Westmoreland). The school is part of the work of the church of Christ. It is under the oversight of the elders of the North Davis church of Christ, Arlington Texas. Our mandate is to "teach faithful men who will, be able to teach others also. (II Timothy 2:2). The JSP is a teaching and training institution served by a faculty with accumulated teaching experience 123 years; an average teaching experience of 25 years; an average age of 43. We have a mature, experienced and qualified staff. All of our teachers are Evangelists of local congregations; are graduates of the JSP (with the exception of Gladwyn); hold Bachelor's degrees gained from other institutions apart from the JSP. Most have Masters Degrees and Brother Francis Yorke our Deputy Director is pursuing his PHD. We invite you to visit our newly refurbished and regularly updated web site at www.jspmona.org and learn more about this institution.

The fruits of the JSP's efforts are clear for all to see. The vast majority of CoC congregations in Jamaica have Evangelists who are graduates or past students of the JSP.

Our last graduating class in 2007 had eleven graduates. Today we present 12 Brethren from 6 congregations of the Lord's church:

- Bull Savannah
- Delano Avenue
- Mona
- St Andrew
- St Ann's Bay
- Cap Haitian, Haiti

We have seated among us students from our full and part time classes numbering 50.

Our graduates are now serving in every parish in Jamaica. Graduates of the school now labor in 15 different countries in our hemisphere, as preachers, teachers, preaching school administrators, leaders and servants. The Director of the School of Preaching in Cap Haitian, north western Haiti, (the second largest city of that country) is JSP graduate Fonrose Teogene. Our graduates or past students serve as far north as Canada and Bermuda and as far south as Belize in Central America

Our Vision

That the JSP should continue to be a catalyst, a stimulant, and a training institution to spur on the growth of the church in Jamaica, the Caribbean, this hemisphere and the world. We seek to turn out graduates who have a burning flame in their hearts to serve, to work for the rest of their lives; whether fulltime or part-time. We seek to raise up brethren who put God first in their lives (Matthew 6:33), who love the truth, teach the truth and who are part of the CoC, the body of Christ that teaches the truth, the undiluted Gospel of Christ.

The Fulltime JSP programme

- 2009 year: enrollment 8 full time students.
- Students are drawn from Haiti and Jamaica. To graduate, students must acquire 220 credit hours of bible courses.
- Courses include 4 years of speech, 4 years of Greek, and a study of all books of the bible. Two years of psychology and two years of Church Management among of other courses More than 40 courses in all. Our students attend lectureship, seminars, and activities both within and without the church to provide the widest exposure and preparation for service; they also work with local congregations and preachers in order to gain valuable experience.
- We have cancelled our meals programme. Today, students receive a monthly allowance and they prepare their own meals in the school kitchen.

JSP Extension School

We have 42 enrolled students in centers at

- Bull Savannah (8);
- Barnes Pen (10),
- Mona (10)
- and Negril (14)

Why an Extension School?

- There is need for secondary well trained leadership in local churches to be better trained;
- We need to prepare knowledgeable future elders and deacons and preacher's wives.
- We need to prepare professionals who can support themselves and yet serve significantly in the church: We pray they will teach or preach or serve in any way needed
- The extension school is also a response to a reduction in the number of Christians wanting to, and able to, study full time.

We began this program in 1998. In the early days the course of study was designed to teach and train professional to serve, provide secondary and sometimes primary leadership among men and women in the lord's church. We wanted to

train some to even start new congregations. Today, extension students are very enthusiastic capable and potentially fruitful group.

10 from this group graduate today.

We plan to place computer study labs at all our extension locations. More than 100 computers are ready to be shipped by Healing Hands International to Jamaica for this purpose.

The Cuban Work

- Our Cuban Extension school continues in this its 12th year.
- It is a very significant and important part of our school's work.

JSP graduate (1997) Luis Pedraza began the work in 1997. He no longer directs the JSP Extension School there. But I want to take this opportunity thank him for what he has done in Cuba for Jesus Christ. He helped to place church and the JSP on the map in Cuba. He has done a magnificent job.

Five classes of students have now graduated and received Diploma from the JSP in Cuba. More recently 50 received Diplomas in Biblical Studies at a graduation held on Dec 2007. Brother Francis Yorke attended the ceremony in Santa Clara, central Cuba. Our Cuban work continues to help fuel the rapid growth of the CoC in Cuba.

In 1991 there were 6 CoC's in Cuba. In 2009 it is estimated that more than 200 CoC's exist in Cuba.

Staffing:

We welcome back Michael and Sonia Dunbar from their sojourn at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas. They were there for two years while Michael pursued a Master's Degree programme. They returned to Jamaica in January 2008 and resumed their duties in early 2008. Michael is our specialist Greek teacher who studied Greek both at the JSP and St Michaels Seminary, at the University of the West Indies. Sonia Dunbar has now resumed her valuable work as a secretary in the JSP Office

Today we have five teachers serving at the school. Plus several visiting lecturers including Jerry Moffit from Texas
Our teachers are:

- Gladwyn Kiddoe
- Leslie Goode (full-time) appointed elders at Spanish Town CoC...congratulations
- Francis Yorke Deputy Director
- Paul Blake now part of the teaching and administration staff
- Michael Dunbar

And where would we be without our administration staff? They are:

- Richard Reid - our Admin Assistant
- Sonia Dunbar – our secretary

Angela Watkiss formerly on the JSP office staff passed on in 2007. Her last service for the Lord was to help with the 2007 graduation. The entire school family, the church in Jamaica, all miss her.

JSP students

We have a fine student body numbering 80 in Jamaica and Cuba
Composed of: 8 fulltime; 42 part-time in Jamaica Plus 30 in Cuba
Our present body is cooperative, focused, hard working and disciplined.

Students week-end Activities

JSP full time students are working on Sundays with several local churches: Hope Bay, Bull Savannah, Morant Bay, Barnes Pen, Elleston Road, and Braeton.

Several times per trimester students visit local congregations as a group. The visits are known as "Student Days." On such occasions students teach Bible classes, preach at morning and evening services. In addition, students do visitation and other activities of benefit to the host congregation

Effect of Hurricane Gustav and other hurricanes

Jamaica has been hit hard by Hurricane Gustav which did very significant damage to the JSP Mona facility and several local congregations.

The JSP carried out repairs to our roof, computer lab, dormitory, classrooms from funds raised from overseas churches, and individuals.

Our Plans

- Expand extension programme to the Cayman Islands.
- Expand our extension programme into May Pen and into Spalding Manchester, Jamaica
- Offer courses from our website
- Stream some classes live on the internet from our web site www.jspmona.org
- Continue to consider a move to a larger more comfortable, convenient and safer non-Kingston, location.

The JSP's financial situation

The greatest challenge facing the school is maintaining adequate funding.

2007 -2009 was tough years;

We are in the midst of an economic and financial "Tsunami".

But yet we have survived by God's grace.

This is the Lord's business. He will provide and He continues to provide. (Jehovah Jireh)!

"Teach faithful men who will be able to teach others," is a command... just like the great commission."

It is important for Jamaican brethren to understand that education is expensive. "If you think it is too expensive, "try ignorance!" Ignorance is far more costly.

The JSP is continuing on the path of seeking to replace donations being gradually reduced (yearly) by the N. Davis CoC with support from US and Jamaican churches and individuals. We thank North Davis for their support since 1970. The congregation will completely cut off support in 2011. They have been faithful partners in this work for 39 years. God bless the brethren at North Davis.

We have made good progress by God's grace in preparing for this scenario.

Monthly (non N. Davis) U.S. supporters of the JSP as of April 5th, 2009 number 17 in all. (mostly contributing congregations and individuals)

Several churches increased support in 2007-2009. However we the lost support of one CoC in Pasadena Texas in 2008; However, thank God our income increased by 20% in the period 2007-2009.

Jamaican Monthly Supporters

Bull Savannah CoC

Braeton COC

We are thankful that the Brown's Town, Elleston Road and Montego Bay congregations have assisted students. We pray that more churches and individuals will do the same.

Note there are 9 individual Jamaican supporters: 90% of whom are women.

Evangelistic efforts: The JSP no longer holds crusades but cooperates with Churches holding campaigns. For the last two years we have worked with the Negril CoC in western Jamaica. JSP staff and students participated fully with their crusade in July 2007-2008. We will again be in Negril in July 2009. Several have been converted as a result of these Medical missions evangelistic efforts. Dr Alva Kiddoe serves as the medical doctor during these efforts.

Generally the JSP is willing to work with local or overseas churches in campaign efforts during the school's vacation periods.

Let me finally say thanks to Francis Yorke, Paul Blake, Sonia and Michael Dunbar, Beverly Davis, Roger Shaw, Richard Reid, Leslie Goode and our students, for doing the hard work in ensuring the success of this graduation activity.

Thanks to all the families of all members of staff for their support. Thanks to Dr Alva Kiddoe. Her provision of free medical services to our students has been invaluable. Thank you

Have a memorable graduation ceremony!

God Bless you all,

Gladwyn Kiddoe

JSP Director

5/04/09