

REPORT OF THE CHURCH ARMY FOR 2012

CHURCH ARMY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ex-Officio	The Diocesan Bishop The Suffragan Bishops The Archdeacons The Diocesan Secretary The Head of the Church Army
Appointed by the Bishop	Sister Alvarine Roberts Sister Molly Walton
Elected by Synod	Rev. Cheryl Phillips Mrs. Billie Clarke Miss Melrose Wiggan
Appointed by CA Officers	Sister Norma Thompson Captain Joshua Henry

Four meetings of the Council were held during the year, viz.: January 12, March 15, June 21 and September 13.

Personnel

In its fifty-fourth year of ministry, the Church Army now consists of nine full time Officers, deployed as follows (according to regions):

Kingston – 1	Eastern Jamaica – 1
Mandeville – 5	Montego Bay – 2

As of November 1, Sister Andrea was re-deployed from the Ocho Rios High School, where she was Chaplain, to being a Parish Worker in the St. Andrew Parish Church Cure. We wish for her a fruitful ministry.

We continue to dream of, and work toward the time when there will be at least one full-time Officer in each deanery. This will be a hard task but we are committed to working toward this goal.

We also seek the assistance of all Rectors, Priests-in-Charge and Church Wardens in identifying and encouraging suitable members to hear and respond to the call and offer themselves for full time ministry in the Church Army.

Associate Evangelist Programme (AEP)

The programme which was started in September 2011 has completed one year and the first cohort is nearing the end of their course. The group went on a working weekend retreat, June 8 – 10, at the Hillcrest Diocesan Retreat

Centre in Brown's Town. We express deep and sincere gratitude to the Jamaica Church Missionary Society for their contribution to the Programme, and particularly for helping to make this weekend possible.

Unfortunately, two of the nine who started the programme have not continued. However, three new persons started in September 2012. It is good to see the enthusiasm and passion displayed by the participants.

It is also encouraging to see the growing interest in the programme. We hope to see increased numbers as the programme progresses. With this in mind, we take this opportunity to remind Clergy and their congregations of this option for ministry that is intended for persons with an interest in evangelism, but who may not be ready to commit to full time ministry.

Of particular interest is the work started on the UWI campus, with AEP candidates from the UWI Chapel community, in collaboration with the community and the churches of Ascension and St. Margaret's. They have met with students on Halls of residence on campus and have conducted services. The response has been encouraging.

Church Army/Education & Youth Link

The link between CA and the Education and Youth department continued with CA officers leading or assisting Vacation Bible School teams during the summer.

CA also trained and led mission teams in Street evangelism and conducted workshops on evangelism at the Regional Youth Rallies in November.

Training/Workshops in Evangelism

These were held in the following places:

- Christ Church, Morant Bay, on January 21, May 12 and September 15. Approximately 15 persons participated.
- Christ Church, Port Antonio, for the Portland Deanery, on February 18.
- St. Jude's, Slipe, on March 3, 17 and 31. A total of 16 persons were trained. There were two days of house-to-house visits. These were followed by an evangelistic Cure Service on April 29. About eight persons responded to the invitation to make a commitment or recommitment to Christ.
- St. Peter's, Falmouth, Trelawny, on March 10, June 2 and September 8. The third day of training in Morant Bay and Falmouth included house-to-house visits/street evangelism.
- Workshops on **Mission & Evangelism** held, by request, at St. Luke, Cross Roads, with participation from member churches in the St. Andrew Deanery.
- Work has also been done in the Hope area involving the UWI Chapel community, Church of the Ascension and St. Margaret's.

- Mandeville Parish Church for Manchester Lay Readers, on June 16.
- In September, Evangelism workshop was held for the Portmore Deanery.
- Kingston, Montego Bay and Mandeville Regions – some AYF members were trained in Personal Evangelism, in preparation for being part of the Mission team at Youth Rally.

Mission

Some Officers led or assisted in Missions in

- Mandeville Parish Church Lenten mission (Thursdays in Lent)
- Annotto Bay Cure (February 22 – 26)
- Kingston Region (March 18 – 25) in Portmore
- Albert Town (May 20 – 25)
- Linstead/Bog Walk Cure various times during the year.

Other Activities

CA personnel

- o On March 31 addressed young people at St. Elizabeth Area Council Retreat at Munro College on the theme **“By Faith We Can Cross It”**.
- o Spoke about Church Army, at the Aspirants’ Retreat at Hillcrest, on April 2.
- o Conducted a one-day CA Vocation Retreat at the Mandeville Parish Church on May 5. Only 1 person attended.
- o Met for their annual conference/get-together in Top Hill, St. Elizabeth, on May 7.
- o Conducted or assisted with VBS at various places, including St. Barnabas, Frankfield.
- o At the invitation of the Chairman of the JCMS, carried out preliminary evangelistic activities in Longville Park in November and December.
- o Have coordinated Youth Alpha Courses in two of our High Schools. Approximately 110 students were regular participants in the courses.

Spot Valley

Despite some challenges, work in the Spot Valley Mission continues. Services are held at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Plans are afoot to have a concert at Holy Trinity Church, Westgate, in order to raise funds for planned projects: the building of a games court and to have the property securely enclosed.

Captain Joshua is deeply appreciative of the support he receives from the Holy Trinity family.

We wish for Captain and his family good health, a fruitful ministry and God’s continued blessing and guidance in his endeavours.

Chaplaincy – Cornwall Regional

This is reported elsewhere in the handbook/journal.

Condolences

The CA extends sympathy to the families of

- Mrs. Josephine Wilson, widow of the Rev. Roy Wilson, a former Church Army Captain. Mrs. Wilson died in March, and was buried from Church of the Ascension, following a service of thanksgiving on March 29.
- Mr. Eric Rochester, whose wife was among the first cohort of AEP candidates. Mr. Rochester was buried from the St. Thomas-Ye-Vale church, Bog Walk on May 19.

Thanks

The Church Army is grateful for those Clergy and Laity who continue to give support to its activities.

Our greatest thanks we give to God for His continued guidance and enablement.

Submitted by

PVThomas
Sister Phyllis Thomas
Head – Church Army