



Mailing Address:
MCCA Youth,
C/o MCCA Office, Belmont, P.O. Box 9,
St. John's, Antigua
Email: mymccayouth@gmail.com
Contact: [+1876-895-4660](tel:+1876-895-4660)

MCCA YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS' LORD'S DAY 2020 –
MESSAGE FROM THE MCCA YOUTH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Our beloved MCCA Youth family,

It is a joy to greet you once again, on behalf of the MCCA Youth Executive Council, as we observe the MCCA Youth and Young Adults Lord's Day – 2020!

THEME: "RESISTING SPIRITUAL DISTANCING: UNMASKING THE STRUGGLE"

By the time we got a quarter way into this calendar year 2020, we found ourselves across the MCCA and the world as a whole, in the middle of some new buzz words – chief among them, COVID-19 – the novel corona virus, global pandemic, masks, quarantine, isolation, social and physical distancing, new normal and many others. The last eight months have been quite testing and left many of our young people and all other age groups, experiencing countless struggles; struggles of loneliness, joblessness, hunger, pain, bereavement, broken relationships, declining academic prowess among our children, increased rapes, thoughts and incidences of suicide, abuse of various proportions, impaired mental health, restriction on usual unappreciated freedoms, masked faces which hide our smiles, and unfortunately, many have also found themselves drifting from God even in the apparent quietness around us. It is because of these realities that we commend the theme **"Resisting Spiritual Distancing: Unmasking the Struggle"**, to our youth and young adults on this occasion.

The struggle is indeed real, BUT OUR GOD IS ALWAYS REAL and WITH US. We are aware that mask wearing, limited time to go out and chill with friends, early curfew hours, closure of places of relaxation, connectivity problems in attending school online and work from home struggles can all 'drive us up the wall'. BUT, we must fight through this together, and trust that Yaweh will take us through. Notwithstanding the apparent lower risk levels of COVID-19 impact on youth populations, some among us have lost their lives. SO, please...Wear your face masks, practise physical distancing, wash those hands, sanitise and follow all the other established protocols, and trust that this too shall pass in due season – like famines, wars and pestilence have been overcome centuries ago.

We salute all our youth and young adults who have, in the midst of these trying times, allowed God to use them in the furtherance of His work in the church, by availing yourselves to add value to the use of various technologies that enabled corporate worship to continue without ceasing, when chapel doors were ordered closed for our safety. We commend those of you who connected with other young people across the MCCA via various rich virtual encounters that gave renewed meaning and hope to the connected nature of what we call the ConneXion. Young people, we know that you have been instrumental, and God is favouring your ministry and service.

We implore you to, keep your eyes and minds fixed on God in this season of struggles! **Unmask those struggles!** Talk about those struggles with someone you trust. Pray about those struggles! Do not struggle alone! Do not entertain thoughts that urge you to give up on life. Do not allow the practices of isolation and social distancing to translate into you being distant from The Holy Spirit, who desires to dwell in, intercede for and comfort you. Release! Repel! **RESIST!** Like God said to Joshua, He is saying to us today: **"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."** (Joshua 1:9) Let God take us through this season together, and we will rebound more resolute than ever before.

May God bless you and your families, your school, work and church community, your nation, our Connexion and this world!

Yours in the Master's vineyard,

Pastor Sean A. Davis, J.P.
President

MCCA YOUTH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (2019-2023)

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