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**METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS (MCCA)**

**Methodist Women’s League**

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Bridging the Gap

Sisters in Christ:

As we approach the beginning of a new Church Year, we give God thanks for Hisblessings, preserving power and sustaining grace that He has bestowed to guide and direct us through the challenges we face daily. This year being our 60th Anniversary as an Independent Nation, we have a lot to celebrate.-

The list includes-

* Members who are to be conferred with National Honours (including our District Bishop, (Rev’d Christine Gooden Benguche);
* Our Reggae Girls (footballers) who have done remarkably well;
* Fantastic efforts by Our Sunshine Girls (netballers) who performed creditably, advancing to number three in the World Netball rankings, following their historic run at the recent Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England where they earned a silver medal;
* Amazing performances by our teams of athletes attending the World Games (both senior and under 20);

Despite the positives, we continue to be deeply concerned with the attitude of the un-attached youths,violence within families, mass murders, human trafficking, abuse of women, the monkey pox and Covid 19 virus, which seems to be prolonging its visit.

However Sisters, we are exhorted to be overcomers and to walk in victory so that circumstances do not dictate our moods. When we feel discouraged, please know, there is hope in God. It may be a scary world but we are comforted by the fact that there is a strong ever- present, loving God. The hazards may trouble us but we can be confident that they are permanently earth bound.

**Luke 16:19-31 - the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus, reminds us to nurture life. As** illustrated in the story; it is our Christian responsibly to provide help when the need exists. We should not always be content with being on the ‘righteous corner’ but should take part in the actions that can help those who seem not to enjoy the blessings we do. As Christians, we are accountable for the least in society. Our Saviour Jesus Christ demonstrated Godly principles for us throughout His whole life and in His parables.

***It is a reminder of how we bridge the gap between rich and poor; how we minister to each other, we should not let perception cloud our vision and affect our treatment of others*.**

As human beings, we tend to place our security in earthly things that falsely make us feel safe. Our family, friends, home, job, church, community and national resources usually comprise our core infrastructure of protection. But all that in terms of the world is transitory

and will ultimately fail. God however has promised that He provides a foundation that cannot be shaken **(Hebrews 12:27),** so we can have confidence in the future.

There are many ways to give to others and to give back to God. Money is often the first thing that comes to mind but the gift of time may often be a greater sacrifice. No matter how you choose to give, you can be sure that God is pleased and will pour out His grace on you in return.

**Remember others; Talk to God about people; Talk to Him about those who are physically sick and those who are under emotional stress; Tell God about the people you know who are financially ‘strung out’ and unable to take care of their families as they want to. Tell God about those who are experiencing a shattered dream and can’t seem to get off the floor. Intercede and let God know what they need!**

1. **In Jeremiah 33:3, He said, “**Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not”.

My sisters, Take courage in the words of Psalm 16:8, “I have set the Lord before me because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

When you place your hope in God, You are clinging to Him in the same tenacious way that ivy clings to brick and mortar.

I commend to you the verses below taken from sections of **1stTimothy 6:11-12**

‘But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness’. ‘Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses’.

**Keep your focus on the Prize; you will be strengthened to persevere.**

Your Sister In Christ,

Prudence Brown

President, District Women’s League