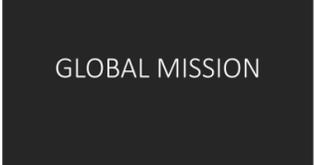


2019 Global Mission Presentation – Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly

Slide	Comments
	<p>Start music – Kevin Downswell’s – You Make Me Stronger.</p> <p>PJ get to stage.</p>
<p>Kevin Downswell – “You make me Stronger”  <small>PSALM 41:11            • INTRO</small></p> <p>You're my Creator, Lord, You know my time            Seasons of breakthrough, my seasons of trials            So I will seek you, and you I will find            You're my strong tower, in you I will hide.</p> <p>You make me stronger! Oh oh oh, oh oh oh!            You make me stronger! Oh oh oh, oh oh oh!</p>	<p>PJ leading singing on stage.</p>
<p>I lift my spirit, Lord I take your hand            You fixed my focus, now I know who I am            I used to run from my battles, but you made me strong, (Jesus)            God strong and mighty, I AM that I AM</p> <p>You make me stronger! Oh oh oh, oh oh oh!            You make me stronger! Oh oh oh, oh oh oh! (repeat x 2)</p>	<p>PJ leading singing on stage.</p> <p>Music fades out.</p>
	<p>Good morning! You passed the first test – we have determined we are at least <b>ALIVE!</b>  <b>Alive in Christ</b> – made stronger by Christ.</p> <p>This Reggae Gospel song – a gift from Winston Edwards, our bus driver on our Immersion Journey in Jamaica, has become my new ringtone on my phone. It's personal reminder each time someone calls that there is nothing that God and I can't handle together.</p>
	<p>Last year's Caribbean Consultation – a gathering sponsored by the Florida Bahamas Synod Global Mission Committee- brought representatives from Jamaica, Guyana, Suriname and Haiti</p>
	<p><b>Together In Mission.</b> Each time we have the opportunity to meet as companion synod and companion church – we experience the joy of reconnecting and recognizing our <i>common roots in Christ</i>, and in particular, the Lutheran church.</p>
	<p>We share the common challenges that face our churches – whether it be declining attendance, how to attract and keep youth involved in the church, or the training of clergy and deacons, and we listen to what each church body is doing to develop strategies to address these challenges.</p>
	<p>We also share in fellowship and as we walk together, the potential is there for <i>both</i> companions to learn from each other and to be changed.</p>



Dr. Oral Thomas, Acting President of the United Theological College of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, a companion institution that provides the theological training for 7 denominations, including Lutheran, throughout the Caribbean – insisted that it was time for the Florida-Bahamas Synod to come to Jamaica on an “Immersion Journey” – intentionally invoking the baptismal image of drowning our preconceived ideas of Jamaica and allowing new perspectives to take hold of us and change us.



Twelve people from the Florida-Bahamas Synod, along with Pr. Jaime Dubon from the ELCA Global Mission desk, and his wife, Marisol – responded to the invitation.



Our mornings were filled with lectures from seminary and university professors.



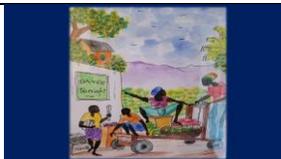
We stayed in student housing and ate in the student cafeteria.



In the afternoon we visited cultural sites and parks – including the Marcus Garvey museum, Bob Marley Museum, the National Gallery of Jamaica, and National Heroes Park.



What surprised **me** the most however was learning from Dr. Sonjah Stanley, Professor of Cultural Studies at the University of the West Indies, about the “performance geography” history, as she calls it, of Jamaica.



Dr. Stanley immersed us in the lives of past Jamaicans who used the only thing they had available to them in rising up against the abuse and oppression of their slave masters – music and dance.



Did you know that the first recorded dance of the New World was the limbo? Created by slaves as they were being brought over from Africa to Jamaica, some were allowed up on deck to get exercise and fresh air.



REGGAE  
DANCE HALL  
SKA  
MENTO  
BLUES  
CALYPSO  
ROCK STEADY  
DUB  
RASTAFARIAN  
ELECTRONIC DANCE MUSIC

And most of us were not aware that the music of Jamaicans, like Bob Marley and others, gave rise to so many other musical genres around the world.



We likkle but we tallawah.

In fact, in a recent NPR radio special about Jamaica, it was noted that given its size, the pound for pound impact of Jamaica on the rest of the world is equal to that of ancient Greece.

The patois saying “We likkle but we tallawah” – translated means – “we’re little but we’re powerful” and is another indication of the proud identity of this small island nation.



Bishop, this past year the congregations and conferences of the Florida-Bahamas’ Synod set a record in terms of giving to the Synod’s Global Mission funds. As you know, none of the project funding that is requested from our companions is in the Synod budget so we depend on the generosity of individuals, congregations, and conferences to be *and stay **Alive in Mission.***

Donations to Global Mission Projects	
2017	2018
• # of congregations participating = 20	• # of congregations participating = 43
• Average congregational giving = \$768	• Average congregational giving = \$1601
• Range of congregational giving = \$10 - \$8,000	• Range of congregational giving = \$20 - \$26,975
• Total giving to Global Mission = \$15,360	• Total giving to Global Mission = \$68,843

As you can see from this slide – not only did the number of congregations who participated in donating to Global Mission DOUBLE from 2017, the average amount of congregational giving *more than* DOUBLED, the range of giving TRIPLED, and the total giving more than QUADRUPLED!

And Jerry Johnson? You’ll be happy to know - we found ways to spend it!

Global Mission Sunday 2018
<b>Total donations = \$7165</b>
• <b>Haiti = \$2849</b>
• <b>Special Projects = \$4316</b>

Last year’s Global Mission Sunday donations topped \$7000 and was split between Haiti and the Special Projects fund. While many individuals and congregations prefer to give to a specific project or to a specific companion, maintaining the Special Projects fund with “undesigned” gifts is a way of ensuring that projects, not associated with a specific companion, can happen.

Funded by Special Projects:

- Caribbean Consultations
- Support for Women’s exchange trips to Lake Yale
- Matching funds for projects like “Seeds for Haiti”
- Expenses for International Youth Program for Youth Gathering
- Support for Young Adults in Global Mission
- Leadership Gatherings for World Hunger advocates
- Non-companion church donations – ie. \$2000 for Venezuela
- Travel stipends for Committee and sub-committee chairs and Bishop’s assistant

Shown here are the numerous projects that were funded through the Special Projects fund. On behalf of all who benefitted from these gifts, thank you! Each of these programs, in some way, either directly furthers the mission of the global church or helps individuals use their gifts in accompanying our brothers & sisters in Christ around the world.



Of our four companion churches, the Lutheran Church in Haiti has been the grateful recipient of most of your generosity. Last fall the Space Coast Conference involved all 11 congregations in a Global Mission Sunday event to raise \$5600 to put metal doors and windows on the Community Center in Savanne-Zombie, shown in before and after photos here. Dean Jay Bergstresser noted that they were completely blown away when the actual amount raised came to over \$9000!

Cistern in community of Savanne-Zombie, Haiti



St. Armand's Key Lutheran Church, Sarasota partnered with the Global Mission Committee and Haiti Task Force to come up with \$36,000 to build a cistern next to the Community Center in Savanne-Zombie. This community of over 5,000 had no central source of water and now has water for cooking and washing—freeing up children and families from having to spend time and money to find sources of water.

Fond des Negres, Haiti



A few years ago Peace Lutheran Church, Fort Myers sent money, materials, and workers to help put a new roof on Faith Lutheran Church in Fond des Negres. Since then, the congregation in Haiti has raised enough through their own weekly offerings to paint their church building and install a new floor. We are grateful to these congregations and conferences in the Florida-Bahamas Synod, not only for their generosity, but also their willingness to work with the Global Mission Committee and our established processes.

Goats!



Another example of this type of partnership is the Goat Breeding Project, currently sponsored by Hope, The Villages. Disease resistant breeding goats were purchased from South America and bred with Haitian goats to start small herds. Families can use the goat milk, and sell goats – using the money to pay school tuition and returning some proceeds to the church.



These are *not* Haitians protesting! They are raising up their farm tools in thanksgiving to the Seeds for Haiti project which raised enough money for plants, seeds, and small farm implements for 25 families in 2 communities.



Pr. Livenson, shown here in a field of green peas shared that several good things came from this project. In cleaning and preparing the land the people worked together and helped each other. And when they gathered their harvest, they both fed their families and sold extra crops to make money to pay school tuition and also gave back to the church.



The ELCA is unique among all other denominations in the world in its approach and support of global relationships among Lutheran churches and organizations. The Lutheran Church in Haiti and the Florida-Bahamas Synod are especially grateful for the opportunity to deepen our relationship as we walk **Together in Christ** with the support of the ELCA Global Mission Desk.



This painting of the "Road to Emmaus", which hangs in the lobby of the Lutheran Center in Chicago – helps us to understand where we have a Biblical basis for the model of "accompaniment" in our Companion Synod-church relationships. The images of the disciples on the road, the accompanying stranger, the dialogue and retelling of scripture, the extending of hospitality and a meal, and finally, the revelation of Christ in the breaking of bread – all show what can happen when we walk with one another, together, in God's mission.



The ELCA Global Mission desk has promised \$10,000 this year for Capacity Building and to help the ELH be able to meet new ELCA guidelines and standards for accountability and additional grant funding. The result of a meeting in Chicago in January led to a clearer understanding and commitments from all parties as to how we will accompany each other on this path.

YAGMs



My heart is full of love and admiration when I see these photos of this year's Young Adults in Global Mission from the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Through their blogs and newsletters they have shared their most intimate thoughts and feelings on their amazing faith journeys in Mexico, Tanzania, and Rwanda. I am so grateful to them, their parents, and their congregations for the witness they have been to our global work, **Together in Christ**.



A small delegation led by Pr. Jaime Dubon will be visiting Suriname again this fall to further explore the means by which our companion relationship can be strengthened and deepened.



The delegation will also be visiting the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana and engaging in conversation to deepen our understanding of their current ministry contexts and challenges, and how we might work **Together in Christ** more effectively.

	<p>The work of the Florida-Bahamas Synod and Global Mission Committee confirms how we are continually being made <b>Alive in Christ</b>.</p>
	<p>This past November, Pr. Russell Meyer, Pr. Khader El-Yateem, and Pr. Jaime Dubon travelled to Santiago, Cuba to meet with Deacons and church leaders of the United Evangelical Church -Lutheran Synod.</p>
	<p>Participating in the baptism of several church members was a moving experience for all. Another visit to Cuba is planned for December to further explore making this new relationship official.</p>
	<p>With your support, the Synod made it possible for Donato Greb – International Youth Companion Exchange student from Suriname to attend the Youth Gathering in Houston.</p> <p>And Stephanie Bowery – author, poet, and dramatist from Guyana will be at the WELCA Conference at Lake Yale this year.</p>
	<p>As this wall hanging of banners from ELCA congregations around the world depicts, we are interrelated and woven together in mission, in life, and in Christ, for the sake of the world.</p>
	<p><b>Together in Mission</b> we become <b>Alive in Mission</b>.</p> <p><b>Together in Christ</b> we are made <b>Alive in Christ!</b></p> <p><b>Thank you.</b></p>