

January - February 2019

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# FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK

Dear Supporter,

On the heels of several major events, we are extremely grateful for how God has guided the movement over the past two months and how you, our valued supporters, continue to sustain us financially and also with your presence and prayers. Since our last Newsletter in December, we have been involved in several major events which we will highlight in this newsletter.

I express sincere thanks to IFES and other supporters who sponsored the three-member Jamaican contingent (gen sec, staff and student) to the Urbana Missions Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. On page 12, you can read a report from Latavia Henry-Campbell about her life-changing experience there.



I also convey thanks to the staff advisors, school admin, cooks and camp counsellors who helped to make the ISCF LEAD Conference the success it was. LEAD is an excellent programme for high school leaders that is fun filled, extremely exciting and spiritually soothing. You can see pictures of this year's event on Page 2 and a lot more are archived on our Facebook page.

The most exciting experience for us as staff and volunteers over the period was ISCF's participation in the Best Dressed Chicken 60 School Tour. Our role, in addition to assisting with school selection and planning, was to mobilize over 750 counsellors and ushers to engage an anticipated 3000 students making decisions for Christ. To our surprise and to the glory of God!, we engaged approximately 6000 students (\_\_\_\_ insert praise here) responding positively to the call to "Come to receive Jesus as your Saviour".

Admittedly, it was and still is a challenge to get help from most of our neighbouring churches (big up to the few that helped). It was, however, heart-warming to watch parents, past students, para-church organisations and other volunteers form groups of stakeholders which were trained, equipped and mobilized by the ISCF staff to engage the many students who came forward.

What is even more exciting is to see and hear the stories of new converts meeting for Bible studies held by ISCF staff advisors, student leaders and volunteers. As these students meet to use the Precept Ministries six week Inductive Bible Study material, they encounter God in new ways and their enthusiasm is contagious enough to attract other students whose names were not initially captured on decision cards on the day of the Tour. To catch a visual glimpse of this once in a life time event, visit our Instagram page @SCFSU where there are highlight videos from each of the 20 stops. Also be on the lookout for a supplemental newsletter which will outline the details of the events.

The Fellowship Breakfast 2019 has been described by some in attendance as "one of the best ever". The fellowship was rich, the testimonies were real, the responses were spontaneous and the Word delivered by Pastor David Henry was deep and challenging. Pictures of the event are on page 12 and archived videos of the live stream are on our Facebook page.

Finally, as we press on into the month of March energised by these activities, we continue to implore our supporters to give generously to the movement. A reality we face, even at the time of writing, is that our income has not been able to sustain our operations, forcing us to make painful decisions about who and what to pay. Please pray with us that as the Board and Staff meet to seek new streams of income, 'our God will supply all our needs according to his riches in glory' (Philippians 4:10).

Thanks for your support to this ministry and may you enjoy this issue. God bless!

Sheldon O'Connor General Secretary



# LEAD CONFERENCE 2019 PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Held December 27-31, 2018 at Moorlands Campsite, Manchester



















## LEAD (continued from page 3)





























# MY LEAD EXPERIENCE

"It was great to be able to give back to the organization that has helped to form who I am and inspire me to see the passion of other counsellors and students alike."

- Melissa Douglas





"Two things made camp an enjoyable time: seeing former ISCF students functioning as counselors, really felt awesome and also sitting in on Aunty Erica's Bible Study session; I have always been edified hearing her deep insights both in the session and in the counselors' sessions in the morning."

- Paul Lewis

"Shifting revelation of who I am, who I could be and an inspiration to help me get to the latter"

- Kenisha Lowe





"LEAD 2018 was a place of rejuvenation and reviving good habits that were dormant... receiving principles that guide relationship with Christ."

- Ronoldo Rust

"LEAD 2018 was enlightening, refreshing and uplifting, as God ensured that I received from Him as I served others."

- Delmic Morris





ISCF/UCCF NATIONAL RALLY

2019



# Higher Level

Featuring:

Kevin Downswell and many more...

16 MARCH 8:30 AM -5 PM Moneague College







# BDC 60 SCHOOL TOUR REVIEW

## Excerpt from Youthlink article "BDC Tour Reaching Youth For Christ", written by Kareem LaTouche, Youthlink Coordinator

The Best Dressed Chicken 60 School Tour made its final stop at Denbigh High School on Tuesday, February 5, 2019. The tour landed at 20 stops, reaching more than 30,000 students from more than 25 schools across Kingston, St Ann, St James, Westmoreland, Manchester, Clarendon, St Catherine, and St Thomas.

Ultimately, young people have had the opportunity to have fun in a positive environment, while learning the values and attitudes exemplified in biblical teaching. Best Dressed Chicken Regional Marketing Manager Avadaugn Sinclair expressed that this is exactly what Jamaica Broilers Group had hoped to accomplish with the school tour.

"What we wanted to do was to go back into the schools and instil the same values we learnt when we were growing up. We wanted to meet the students where they are, using music, dance and drama to highlight positive solutions to the challenges they face. This has allowed us to connect with the students tremendously," stated Sinclair.



Students in worship



Jamaica House of Prayer



Kenneka Morris sharing her testimony

Inter-School Christian Fellowship (ISCF) students (both past and present) have volunteered to share their testimonies on how Christ has impacted their young lives. Past ISCF President of Alpha Academy Kenneka Morris was one such volunteer engaging students in a lively call-andresponse chant well known to ISCF students across the island

Kenneka: Waddup?!

Students: Satan jus get bad up!

Kenneka: Ee eeeee!

Students: Jezas sweet ee man!

Kenneka shared how her ISCF friends introduced her to Jesus, saving her from poor choices that were about to dramatically change the course of her life.



### TOUR (continued from page 6)

Similarly, Youth Reaching Youth (YRY) – a peer evangelism programme hosted by Swallowfield Chapel – had students roaring with applause as they enacted a powerful Jesus saving a young lady from the oppression of alcohol and suicide. The creative costumes and dramatic elements held the attention of students and teachers alike.

YRY also showcased their dancing skills with Best Dressed Chicken mascot Mr Chicken, as they moved to the beat of the school tour theme song Rise Up, produced by Glory Music. The group of youngsters searched the audience for student dancers who joined the presentation, demonstrating the latest dance moves, much to the delight of their peers.



Drama by Youth Reaching Youth

With all the excitement generated by the tour, Sinclair noted that the company has been mindful that follow-up is critical to ensuring positive change is rooted in the schools. Through its partnership with the ISCF, students will be able to participate in Bible studies, where they can learn more about the values they have been introduced to and have some more fun in Christ while they're at it.

"We have students and teachers in the schools who can continue the work after the tour. So far, over 5,000 young people have committed their lives to the Lord, and through the ISCF groups in the schools, we have prepared a programme to disciple these students," said Sheldon O'Connor, general secretary of ISCF.



Volunteer counselling student



Ministry of the spoken word by Min. Marcus Williams



Students enjoying ministry in music with Kevin Downswell

Look out for "The School Tour Feature", a supplemental publication which highlights the occurrences from the School Tour in detail.





# SCFSU FACTOID



At the level of the high schools, Cathie was able to establish six ISCF groups and to plant the seed for several more. Her account follows: "I started going to the schools", she said. "Wolmer's Girls School was the first one I went into, then Wolmer's Boys also Jamaica College and Kingston College. I felt that the important thing when I couldn't seem to be making an impact on campus (UCWI) was to be building a group of ISCFs so that it would finally feed into the university. So I did a great deal as far as high schools were concerned and at the same time did a great deal of travelling around. The ISCF was great joy and challenge. I admired the principals who allowed this unknown woman to present an unknown organisation in their morning chapel service and I enjoyed the students who came to hear more about it after school."

The first six groups and their sponsors were:

- Wolmer's Girls, Miss Joy Bowman
- Wolmer's Boys, Miss Merle Dias
- Jamaica College, Mrs Marson Jones
- Kingston College, Miss Kay Campbell
- Camperdown High, Mrs Ivy Grant, Principal
  - Merle Grove, Miss Muriel Speid, Principal



## MINISTRY REPORT

### Excerpt from SCFSU's Fellowship Breakfast Ministry Report 2018-2019



Wow, what a year! As we pause to catch our breath, indeed there is much to reflect on, evaluate and give thanks for. A helpful schema for this evaluation is to examine the milestones and praise reports since last we met; comparing where we were vs where we are now is often helpful. It is also beneficial to look at the strategic objectives and see where any challenges still remain. This report will seek to summarize the period since the Fellowship Breakfast of February, 2018 in these areas.

Under the theme, "Alive in Christ" we have mobilized all the groups in our movement to be more Scriptural, Evangelistic and Missional. The 2018-2019 version of the theme is "Higher Level", which has guided our activities such as Camps and Conference, Rally and Walkathon.

SCFSU's full-time staff compliment now stands at 7, down from 10. With a smaller staff compliment, there has been a realignment of the field staff and changes in the strategy of visits to maintain our presence in the over 230 tertiary and secondary institutions with and ISCF or UCCF group. Analysis has shown that the two most important factors to starting and maintaining healthy groups are 1) regular visits and communication from a staff worker and 2) the presence of sufficiently motivated, trained and equipped staff advisors. To this end, we have made the engagement of three staff advisors per school or campus our primary goal for 2018-2019. We believe that when this is done, other goals such as healthy groups, participation in national events and students making decisions for Christ become easier to achieve.

In 2016-2017, we felt the reported number of 40 students making decisions for Christ (based on reports from 168 groups) was too low. We encouraged our groups to accept the challenge to be more intentional about evangelism and from 100 reporting groups in 2017-2018 we saw this number increase to 340. Many groups have also reported increased activities outside their regular meeting place which have not only impacted their campus, but also the community and social agencies across the nation.





See REPORT on page 11

#### **REPORT** (continued from page 10)



The Best Dressed Chicken 60 School Tour has been a partnership with Jamaica Broilers (as they celebrate their 60th anniversary), Glory Music, Jamaica House of Prayer and other partners. This 20 stop Tour directly involved 25 schools and the gospel was clearly presented through dance, drama, song and orally. At the end of this very successful event, there are 5726 students and staff whose names were written on Decision Cards indicating they wanted to become Christians. ISCF, in partnership with Christian teachers, students, parents and neighbouring churches now has the responsibility to engage these respondees in Bible study and to encourage them to find a church home if they haven't yet done so.

The way we handle our finances is another area we have sought to improve. Through the Operation Nehemiah Programme, we have made deliberate attempts to build relationships with our supporters, financial and other wise, and to show appreciation for and feedback on how these gifts are being used. SCFSU receives regular monthly gifts from approximately 120 graduates and 12 churches across the world. At the last Breakfast, we were all challenged to increase our local giving so that we are less dependent on foreign subsidies. Since then, many new donors have been giving to the movement and for this we are grateful.

Finally, in 2018 we spoke of the opportunities we have for our supporters to donate to the movement and we promised the Paymaster platform, which is now online and being used by some. We continue to encourage supporters to consider this option alongside your regular monthly commitments. Electronic banking transfers remain popular and there still are those who love the touch and feel of paper and the opportunities to share with the staff in person.

Over the year, we have had much to be grateful for. There still are, however, some major challenges for us to overcome. These include our declining income sources compared with our needs and plans. We must also be in prayer for our Staff Advisors who are continually complaining of the increasing demands on them to allow time for the work in our schools. We must, also, always remember our students and the myriad of issues they face. Christian student ministry in the schools is the best way to reach our students for Christ, for the community and for the nation. Let us continue to partner together to Know Christ and make Him known.







# FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS









Meet and Greet









Worship



Greetings from Lt. Col. Richard Sadler JP Special Projects Consultant, Jamaica Broilers Group Ltd.



2017-2018 Hugh Lounges Memorial Awardee - Kathryn Edwards (left) presenting plaque to 2018-2019 recipient Kenneka Morris (right)

### **BREAKFAST** (continued from page 12)





Breakfast



Students and Teacher from Immaculate Conception High School



Mrs. Sharon Reid, Principal of St. Andrews High School for Girls



Ministry Report Presentation by Mrs. Lillanie Richards-Miller and Mr. Sheldon O'Connor



MCs Bishop Vanya Grant and Mrs. Vanessa Silvera



Presentation of plaque to Jamaica Broilers Group Ltd.



ISCF Student Testimony – Mr. Horace Bennett, ISCF President, St. George's College



UCCF Student Testimony – Miss Peta – Kaye Hope, UTECH



Guest Speaker – Rev. Dr. David Henry, Pastor, Swallowfield Chapel

# URBANAREFLECTIONS

by Latavia Henry - Campbell



Dear Supporter,

I attended the Urbana Missions Conference in St Louis, Missouri, December 27-31, 2018. This conference was quite refreshing for me spiritually and came at a time when I needed it most.

The theme for Urbana 2018 was "Faithful Witness". We started our mornings with inductive group bible studies, focusing on the book of Revelation. Before Urbana, this particular book was sadly my least favorite; but after the worship each day, which I believe was a good representation of what the global church looks like. There were approximately 11,000 persons from different countries

around the world at Urbana. We experienced cross-cultural worship, testimonies, expositions, as well as witnessed hundreds of individuals raise white flags in acceptance of Jesus as their Savior.

We had more seminars available to us each day than we could possibly attend. Seminars such as: Go Do Say Give- The Freedom and Fruitfulness of Surrender to Jesus; Jesus in Everyday Conversations; Singles and Couples- Let's not do life and missions alone; Missions from your laptop- Reaching the world through technology; and Working Where Missionaries Cannot. During breaks, I also visited the Urbana book store as well as the exhibit hall to check out the different opportunities available for missions.



There were students and even speakers at Urbana from countries, who would be imprisoned or killed if their home countries knew they were Christians. Some of them even had to meet underground in order to profess their faith. One gentleman was imprisoned because he invited his neighbor to his house for Bible studies. A lot of high schools, colleges and universities are also not as opened to the formation of Christian groups in the institutions like we are privileged in Jamaica. Yet, the Christians in these countries go the extra mile and some even put their lives at risk for the sake of sharing the Gospel. This adds to the burden that has been on my heart for our Churches in Jamaica, even before attending Urbana. I personally believe that we, the church, need to be more intentional about evangelizing and following up with those around us who do not yet know the Lord. Though small the island that Jamaica is, and though many a church that we have per square mile, there are a lot of persons who are yet to know who Jesus really is.

Our focus on the book of Revelations at Urbana, and especially when we looked at the conditions of the different churches, made me recognize some of the short comings of our churches. I also became more aware of my personal flaws as a Christian;



See URBANA on page 15



### **URBANA** (continued from page 14)

I've had to repent for several things, including the many opportunities to share my faith and the love of Jesus that I allowed to pass me by because of fear or simply because I was too busy with my own life that I failed to see those around me who are in desperate need of a Savior.

There is a song I learnt at the conference that basically summarizes some of the reasons I believe we need to repent as a church. It is entitled: "Lead Us Back" by Sojourn. I have shared some of the lyrics below:

Falling down upon our knees,
Sharing now in common
shame;
We have sought security,
Not the cross that bears Your
name. Fences guard our
hearts and homes, Comfort
sings a siren tune;
We're a valley of dry bones,
lead us back to life in You.

Lord we fall upon our knees,
We have shunned the weak
and poor;
Worshipped beauty, courted
kings, And the things their
gold affords. Prayed for those
we'd like to know, Favor
sings a siren tune;
We've become a talent show,
Lead us back to life in You.

You have caused the blind to see,
We have blinded him again,
With our man-made laws and creeds, Eager, ready to condemn.
Now we plead before Your throne, Power sings a siren tune;
We've been throwing heavy stones, Lead us back to life in You."



Urbana is said to be a place where God calls people into new territory and is meant to be a disruption in one's everyday normal. It did just that for me! I thought I had said YES to missions when I became ISCF Staff Worker but I realize now that it wasn't a complete yes. It was really a Yes, until I find the perfect job that pays really well, then I can continue with my normal life. God requires more however. He has called me to a surrendered life! And He is worthy of my YES!

## Everyone is called to be a witness! But who will be His faithful witnesses?

Thank you for being a part of what God is doing in SCFSU, my life, as well as the lives of the students we seek to impact. May God bless you exponentially!

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?

Then said I, Here am I; send me."

- Isaiah 6:8

Latavia Henry - Campbell is a ISCF Eastern Region Staff Worker



# **HOW TO GIVE**

### 1. Cheque or Cash:

Visit our office at 1 Gordon Town Road, Kingston

OR

Call (876) 977-5886 to arrange a pickup



### 2. Online:

https://give.ifesworld.org/ Search for "Jamaica"

OR

https://scriptureunion.org/donate/ Specify "for SCFSU, Jamaica"

See GIVE on page 17



## 3. Electronically:



**NCB** Online

Beneficiary Name: STUDENTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND SCRIPTURE UNION

Beneficiary Bank:
NATIONAL
COMMERCIAL BANK

Account Number: 302737541

Account Currency: JMD

**Beneficiary Nickname:** SCFSU

Beneficiary Country: JAMAICA



Scotia Online

Recipient Type: BUSINESS

Recipient's Bank: SCOTIABANK

Name: STUDENTS CHRISTIAN (all the name won't hold)

**Branch Name:** LIGUANEA 90356

Account Number: 000461318

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# CONTACT US

Students Christian Fellowship and Scripture Union
1 Gordon Town Road, Kingston

\*\* www.iscfjamaica.com
876-977-5886

studentschristianfellowship@yahoo.com

© @scfsu

• www.facebook.com/iscfja