



PASTORAL NOTE FROM BISHOP CHRISTINE POST HURRICANE MELISSA

Oct. 30, 2025

Jamaica Methodist District

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In the wake of Hurricane Melissa, which brought unimaginable devastation to our beloved island, particularly across the western parishes of St Elizabeth, Trelawny, Hanover, Westmoreland and St James, as well other parishes which have also been ravaged, our hearts are deeply moved with compassion for those who are suffering loss, and with gratitude for the mercy of God that still preserves us.

We mourn with those who mourn, and we pray for comfort for all who grieve. At the same time, we thank God for the countless acts of kindness, courage, and neighbourly care being demonstrated among our people. Even in this time of great distress, the light of Christ continues to shine through the love and resilience of His people.

I call upon all members of our Church community, and friends of Jamaica, to continue in prayer and practical service, remembering that we are one body in Christ. Each act of compassion and each report shared (via our various channels) will help us to respond wisely and swiftly as a District. Please look out for those details and assist Circuits in responding in a timely manner.

The words Paul spoke to the Corinthians echo to us now:

We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed, always carrying around in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ~ 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

May our Eternal Father, bless our land, and be our Light in these dark days. Let us stand together in faith, hope, and love as we support one another and rebuild our families, our communities and our nation, confident that God, who has brought us through many a trials before, will so do again.

Blessings abundant,

Bishop the Rev'd Christine Gooden Benguche, OD
District President, Jamaica Methodist District