



JAMAICA TRIP REPORT

by Horace Bennett, Gary G. Hoag, Lea Peguero, and John Roomes



TRIP AIMS

1. Help grow stewards to value accountability and generosity through preaching and speaking.
2. Have strategic meetings and media interviews to raise awareness for CCEFA.
3. Host the launch event in Kingston, Jamaica, to share the CCEFA vision and rally participation.

TRIP VERSE

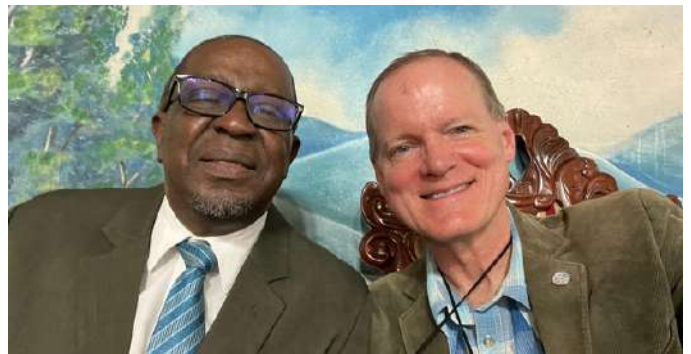
2 Corinthians 1:24

Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.

Gary G. Hoag (GTP President & CEO) flew from the USA and Lea Peguero (GTP Spanish Initiatives Manager and Regional Trainer for the Caribbean) traveled from the Dominican Republic to Jamaica to meet up with Horace Bennett (GTP Country Coordinator for Jamaica, and Vice Chair of the Jamaican Evangelical Alliance or JEA) and John Roomes (GTP Regional Facilitator for the Caribbean) with 3 aims in view (at left). The first GTP visit to Jamaica in September 2023 activated a committee to draft standards for churches and ministries in the Caribbean. This second GTP visit released the name of the new peer accountability group (PAG) in the process of formation, CCEFA (Caribbean Council for Ethical and Financial Accountability) and the standards for adaptation and contextualization by national teams. The photo above features the 44 stewards at the launch breakfast on 4 December 2024 in Kingston.

AIM #1 - HELP GROW STEWARDS TO VALUE ACCOUNTABILITY AND GENEROSITY THROUGH PREACHING AND SPEAKING.

We report 4 fruits. **Fruit #1: Meeting with Youth at Grace Gospel Hall (GGH).** Lea shared about WAITING, a 30-day devotional for Advent on Sunday, 1 December 2024 (get it from GTP [here](#)). Gary added that God's timing differs from ours, He uses unpredictable tactics, and that His aim in our waiting links to teaching us to trust Him. *Pray these emerging workers journey through WAITING (top photo at right).* **Fruit #2: Morning Service at GGH.** Senator Rev. Ransford Braham (second photo at right) invited Gary to preach. Gary spoke on "Giving God What You Have" from Mark 6:30-44 (third photo at right) and concluded with the Palmful of Maize video (watch it [here](#)). The testimony (bottom right) from Ian Williams summed up the response of the 143 at church. **Fruit #3: Missionary Service at Faith Gospel Hall.** Later, Horace led a 4-hour service with 159 people from 5 churches. Gary talked on "Order and Oversight" from Titus 1:5 and how accountability enhances our witness. John spoke on "Devoted: Giving in God's Mission" calling stewards to give their lives with generosity (top photo below). *Praise God, many gave gifts and committed their lives in service. One youth even gave her life to Jesus!* **Fruit #4: Meaningful Testimony.** Jacqueline Roberts (pictured with Gary below) serves as Treasurer at Church of the Firstborn, the church pastored by Horace. She has certificates for completing all 4 GTP on demand courses. She says everyone should take the "biblical" and "practical" courses because "you can apply them professionally and personally." What a joy to meet her!



Gary's sermon was inspirational and the topic was relevant. The message really resonated with the congregation and I am sure our pastor will implement the lessons we learned together.

*Ian Williams, Deacon, Grace Gospel Hall,
Church of The Firstborn, Kingston*

AIM #2 - HAVE STRATEGIC MEETINGS AND MEDIA INTERVIEWS TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR CCEFA.

We report 5 fruits. **Fruit #1: Zenith.** We started the week on Monday, 2 December 2024, on a high note as guests on the *"Smile Jamaica"* good morning TV show with Neville Bell (photo at top right). This splash promoted our launch event and set our week on an great trajectory. *Praise God for the interest in accountability in Jamaica!*

Fruit #2: Zeal. After the TV spot, we met for 3 hours for a discernment discussion. We each shared what God had done since the first GTP visit in September 2023, how we saw God working in the present, and where we sensed Him leading us to activate CCEFA to serve Jamaica and the Caribbean (second photo at right). God gave us clarity and zeal to complete the process of getting legal registration, form a regional CCEFA board, and enlist workers on national teams. We closed with a time of prayer with thanksgiving. *Praise God with us for clarity and zeal.*

Fruit #3: Zooms. Bishop Christine Gooden-Benguiche, Jamaican Council of Churches (JCC) President; Henroy Samuels, JCC Vice President; and, Newton Dixon, JCC General Secretary opened their schedules to meet with us (third photo at right). They received us warmly and suggested to co-host zooms to spread the word about CCEFA to JCC churches. *Pray for participation on these zooms in 2025.*

Fruit #4: Zest. Horace, Gary, and Lea met with Courtney Gordon, Chairman of the Jamaica Umbrella Group of Churches (JUGC). Since zest implies enthusiasm and excitement, we can anticipate his help to bring CCEFA standards and accountability to the JUGC (fourth photo at right). *Praise God for this support.*

Fruit #5: Zip. Our media work on Tuesday, 3 December 2024, shifted to radio. Clive Mullings hosted Horace and Gary on RJR (Real Jamaican Radio) 94 FM (fifth photo at right). Then we zipped to join Cliff Hughes, who welcomed John and Gary on NNN (Nationwide News Network) 90 FM. *Praise God both radio hosts engaged with the CCEFA vision with interest and promoted the launch event.*



AIM #3 – HOST THE LAUNCH EVENT IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA, TO SHARE THE CCEFA VISION AND RALLY PARTICIPATION.

We report 7 fruits. **Fruit #1: Vehicle.** A driver collected Gary and Lea for the morning event. The Spirit led the discussion and Gary had the joy of leading him to Christ upon arrival at University of the West Indies. *Pray for Michael Clark to grow in Christ.* **Fruit #2: Visit.** Horace emceed the event on Wednesday, 4 December 2024, thanking GTP for making a second visit to rally pastors, ministry workers, lawyers, accountants, and professionals to join the accountability movement (view program with standards [here](#) and pictures on the next page). *Praise God, key influencers showed up!* **Fruit #3: Vision.** After Dr. Barbara Black read Nehemiah 9:1-6 and Lea led us in a song and gave warm greetings from the Dominican Republic, John spoke of his voluntary service with GTP since 2019. He shared how the GTP visit in 2023 formed a standards committee and how this visit cast the vision for CCEFA to have a board with regional representation and national teams to contextualize standards and make compliance checklists for each country to bring order and oversight, to address corruption, and to strengthen Christian witness. *Praise God for this vision and for spreading it at the event and in the newspaper: "Christian group looks to help churches with accountability systems."*



Fruit #4: Victory. The CCEFA committee chair, Flo Garth, told of the work of the committee. She honored committee members in attendance and shared how they reviewed standards from around the world and how they contextualized the CCEFA list for the Caribbean. She released them for the first time in public. *Praise the Lord, 100.0% of attendees (pictured above) affirmed the standards in the event feedback form.*



Fruit #5: Volunteers. Andrea Messam, GTP board member, worked through the standards and spoke of the role of volunteers to advance this vision. She exhorted fellow professionals to offer their technical expertise to shape the future. *Praise God, in the feedback form: 12 offered to serve, 13 agreed to pray, 7 committed to give, and 10 will pursue CCEFA accreditation.* **Fruit #6: Verse.** Gary told the history of ECFA in USA and AfCAA (African Council for Accreditation and Accountability) as the standards of these groups shaped the CCEFA standards. He added next steps that CCEFA can anticipate such as mapping accreditation processes. From Nehemiah 9:38, he reminded the professionals, pastors, ministry workers, accountants, and lawyers to play the role of officials, Levites, and priests. *Pray for CCEFA to get going. And praise God, we collected an offering of \$500 toward the \$10,000 GTP matching gift.* **Fruit #7: Visibility.** Rev. Courtney Gordon (JUGC), Bishop Christine Gooden-Benguiche (JCC), Bishop Dr. Alvin Bayley (JEA), Senator Rev. Ransford Braham gave endorsements, and Rev. Dr. Peter Garth delivered the benediction (see quotes on next page). *Praise God this event got wide visibility.*

I believe that God ordained this day long ago. He created this moment for us to bring together all the efforts and preparation that have gone into launching this vision for our country and the region. There is a palpable sense of excitement, as each attendee plays a vital role within their denomination. Thanks to the collaboration of the most prominent media networks, this message has resonated across the entire island.

*- Andrea Messam
GTP Board Member (Jamaica)*

CCEFA LAUNCH EVENT: SNAPSHOTS AND SNIPPETS

A God-directed move for such a time as this. We are in crisis mode. Accountability, integrity, ethics, and morality are vital in authenticating the integrity of the church.

*- Bishop Christine Gooden-Benguche
JCC President*



I am committed to helping our churches and ministries uphold biblical standards and a culture of generosity as faithful stewards by building trust and accountability.

- John Roomes, GTP Regional Facilitator for the Caribbean



It is imperative that we set our house in order, both in Jamaica and across the Caribbean. This ensures that no one can cast reproach on the church or ministries in Jamaica.

*- Rev. Courtney Gordon
JUGC Chairman*



I fully support CCEFA's establishment and aspire only to be known as a 'Dean of Integrity,' like Billy Graham. What a joy to witness this pivotal moment.

- Rev. Dr. Peter Garth, CD, JP



I am grateful to be part of CCEFA's founding team and remain committed to using my professional expertise for the Kingdom of God.

*- Flora Garth, Chair
CCEFA Standards Committee*



CCEFA will protect the ministry of the Church. It will encourage generosity and help to provide support for raising funds for ministries.

- Horace Bennett, GTP Country Coordinator for Jamaica



The churches and ministries in Jamaica are waking up. We need standards, order, and oversight. No better place to start than the church.

*- Bishop Dr. Alvin Bailey
President of the Jamaica Evangelical Alliance*



We must change the narrative of corruption, whether a country is English, Spanish, French, or Dutch-speaking. I fully endorse this initiative.

*- Dr. Anthony Oliver
President of the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology*



Great job activating CCEFA. But remember that peer accountability does not end corruption; it surfaces it. And it releases generosity now and for the future generations.

*- Rev. Dr. Gary G. Hoag
GTP President & CEO*