

continued from front

The church in Jamaica has also played a key role in the growth of the churches in the wider Caribbean, and is now set to enter a new phase as they have invited Wilner and Chantal Cornely to the island to help train their leaders. For the last 25 years, the Cornleys have served in congregations around the world including Boston, Miami, Jamaica, New York, Johannesburg, and Chicago, including leading the planting of the church in their native country Haiti.

Skilled in Ministry Training, Preaching and Teaching, Marriage and Family Counselling and Event Planning, the couple will leave the Detroit Church of Christ where they have served since 2010, to return to Jamaica on August 1st, with a mandate to help the church in Jamaica continue to have an impact on a local and regional level.

This is much needed as across the Caribbean, there are only 33 ICOC churches in 13 nations - less than 3,000 disciples within a total Caribbean population of over 40 million souls.

And so, there is much work yet to be done, and as we reflect on the past, it is clear that the heart that is needed today is the same as it was over 20 years ago. By God's grace, I feel the same way today as I felt as a young teen disciple - and in a few weeks, Romania & I will have the honour of leading a re-planting effort to strengthen the church in the southern Caribbean island of Grenada. (Click here for an update on how you can support this ministry).

What about you? What are the uncharted territories in your nation? Have you settled into a "comfortable" Christian lifestyle, or are you using your talents in every way that you can to continue to advance the gospel of our Lord? Are you still willing (or maybe this would be a first for you) to go anywhere, do anything, and give-up everything for Jesus and the gospel?

The world is in need of strong disciples who are willing to be missionaries, whether that means maintaining an outward focus to serve, strengthen and build-up your own congregation, or to take on the challenge of moving to a new situation. There are many nations with no "discipling" Christian congregation. Within our family of churches, a large number of "small" groups exist without full-time leaders, and need to be consistently strengthened and encouraged. Teachers and Evangelists need to be trained, and "raise up" to go out and disciple the nations.

Let us yearn for the heart of Christ, who looked out at the crowds and "had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd"; or like the Apostle Paul who longed for salvation for his people - and make decisions to lay down our lives for the harvest, working together in prayer, charity, service and sacrifice, advancing God's Kingdom on earth to His honour and glory.

Go to www.disciplestoday.org to find out how you can be a part of various missionary efforts this year around the ICOC.

www.DisciplesToday.org hosts thousands of pages of news, articles and images to help connect disciples and churches around the world. All information and content is freely available for everyone.

INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL NEWS BULLETIN



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Reflections on "The Mission" — Looking Back, Looking Forward

Latest Stories on www.DisciplesToday.org:

Go to www.DisciplesToday.org to read the latest Hot News articles and to access the archives for all channels.

• **ICMC East & West Inspire 2,700 Strong**

Disciples Today — Monday, 08 July 2013 15:33

2700 campus students from across North America were filled with inspiration and vision this weekend at epic ICMCs in San Diego and Orlando. See some of...

• **European Campus Ministry Retreat**

Paris Church of Christ Campus Ministry

— Monday, 15 July 2013

The campus ministries across Europe are excited to gather for a week-long campus retreat from August 2-9. Email paris.campus.ministry@gmail.com to register...

• **Caribbean Conference Talent Showcase**

Nicole Thomas, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

— Monday, 15 July 2013

Just under four months until the Caribbean conference, "Contending as One." We want to invite you to participate in our talent showcase at the conference! Register for...

• **New England Evangelists Swap**

Congregations Building Unity

Jimmy Allen, Greater Hartford Church of Christ

— Thursday, 11 July 2013

Over the course of the years, our fellowship has tried about everything. Those creative attempts have been fun, creative, exhilarating and even painful at times. This month, the New England congregations joined together in a very simple but profound statement...

• **UPCOMING EVENTS**

European Campus Conference

Paris, France

August 2-8, 2013

ICOC Delegates Meeting

New York, New York

September 11-15, 2013

International Youth and Family Conference

New York City, USA

September 13-15, 2013

New York 30th Anniversary Service

New York, New York

September 15, 2013

"Spurred On"

Texas/Oklahoma Singles Retreat

Ft. Worth, Texas, USA

September 27-29, 2013

Biblical Studies Tour & International Teachers Seminar

Greece & Turkey

October 19-26 2013

CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN
CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD



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*Richard Beadle —
ICOC Grenada*

When I was 19 years old, one year & 1/2 as a disciple in the Kingston Church in Jamaica - the call went out for team members for local missions, to be ambassadors for Jesus in our homeland.



The brother chosen to lead the team was Sam Manning, a man filled with compassion for the lost - and he gave this charge: leave the comforts of your home, find a job and somewhere to live in rural May Pen... and the church prayed for the Spirit to move, to lead, to open the doors for the right team of disciples who would be willing to lay down their lives for the lost of our nation.

I remember those days so clearly - how we shared our faith everywhere we went, preached the word in the streets, went door to door, had bible talks and parties and fellowship and chariot rides and movie nights and concerts... anything to which to invite people! And amidst all the challenges, we saw God's blessings in many numerous ways, as we taught God's love to others!

Through all the storms over the years, the church in Jamaica has survived, and is a strong, encouraging family, deeply rooted in the word of God, and love for people. It was incredible to visit Jamaica earlier this year, and fellowship with brothers from the May Pen church, some of whom I was privileged to participate in their conversions!

Looking back at what God has done since those early days, the local congregations in Jamaica have expanded across the length and breadth of the island. Only last year (2012), the May Pen church - Kingston's first local planting - joined with Kingston to plant the newest congregation in Old Harbour (a family group of 10 disciples) - for a total of 9 churches, with more than 600 members island-wide!

continued on back