



Cee Gee

A BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER - CGST PRESIDENT, DR. DAVID CORBIN

An Encouraging Launch

On Monday, April 03, 2017, I became the Fifth President of the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology (CGST). The staff extended to my wife and me an outstanding welcome. Some openly expressed the view that my arrival was an answer to months of "fervent prayer". Within days, others commented on the increasing boost in staff morale. The cordial spirit and camaraderie began to be evident in exchanges with students and staff on the adjoining campus, Jamaica Theological Seminary (JTS).

Such an encouraging launch was necessary to face the looming challenges. The enormous debt, low enrollment and outdated technology require much more than goodwill and encouragement. Thankfully, we are beginning to see a glimmer of hope after six weeks in office. I still believe, "with God all things are possible."

Accreditation in Process

I arrived in the heat of preparing for another accreditation cycle with the University Council of Jamaica. This exercise, done once every five years, is a critical government quality control process. My academic team believes we will be able to honor our commitment to complete the job during the current extension period granted.

Strategic Plan 2017-21

The CGST Board of Governors recognizes that the next five years will continue to be a period of rapid change in the Caribbean. To propel the institution towards achieving its vision and mission, ensure its continued sustainability and meet its regulatory requirements, a Strategic Plan was put in place. One of my primary responsibilities as President is to implement this ambitious plan.

More Than an Anniversary

Attending the Caribbean Educational Leadership Institute 2017 in Barbados, provides an ideal backdrop for Launa and me to celebrate our 44th wedding anniversary. Honestly, this is a business trip with two items on the agenda. The leadership institute will explore what it means to be a leader of a tertiary-level institution in the Caribbean. This will surely enable me to enhance my leadership competencies at CGST.

Graduation 2017

This year's graduation class will be small, but no less special. Twelve students will receive diplomas on July 14 and listen to keynote speaker, Dr. Gerald Seale, from Barbados. The occasion will also be used to celebrate my installation as President.

Board of Governors

Once a year this Board meets face-to-face. That meeting will take place during the weekend of graduation. Members will fly-in from North America and the Caribbean, to meet their counterparts here in Kingston, Jamaica. The meeting will provide the first opportunity for me to meet the group to which I report.

Preaching Calendar

JULY 07	Graduation, Regent College, Mandeville
JULY 17-21	Regional Church Conference, Trinidad
AUGUST 06	Honor Award - 80 years of service
AUGUST 13	Church 75 th Anniversary Service

Major Assignment

Students' tuition cover about 40% of an institution's budget. The remaining 60% is covered by the administration and more specifically, the President. One of my primary goals in trying to accomplish this feat is through the school's donor base. Unfortunately, this base was neglected and many friends discontinued their financial support.

I am trying to correct this - unfortunately, an earlier appeal by mail produced little result. Despite providing stamped addressed envelopes, there was less than a 2% response. Honestly, without you, my mission cannot be a success.

I am using this first issue of *Cee Gee* to invite you to be a part of a the CGST family. You too can be committed to the school's success. Use my personal email now - thepresident@cgstonline.org. I will provide you with options on how you can give financially and get a tax credit for your generous support. You can also text me or meet me at *WhatsApp* today (954-593-5420). I would love to have you join my team of praying and giving friends. Although under construction, you can also visit the CGST website at www.cgstonline.org.

JULY-AUGUST, 2017.