

Central Jamaica Conference of seventh-day Adventists
Women Ministries Department

PHOEBE: *A ministry for young women between the age of 18-35 years*



“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me.” (Rom. 16:1-2)

History of Women Ministries

In 1898 Mrs. S.M.I. Henry was encouraged by Ellen White to start a “Woman Ministry.” Inspired by this charge, Mrs Henry worked tirelessly to establish a network and support system for women in the church. When she died in 1900, a committee of nine persons worked in the ministry, nevertheless the Women Ministries and its work faded away.

After its reactivation in 1985, Women Ministries grew around the world. In 1995 at the General Conference Session in Utrecht, Netherlands, it was voted to make Women’s Ministries an official Department.

The work of Women’s Ministries in Central Jamaica Conference began long before it was voted as a department by the General Conference in 1995. Our past leaders include Miss Princess Lawes and Mrs Mary Cole. Since the third quadrennium, Mrs Claudia Bailey was selected to lead this ministry to women in the Conference.

At the start of the fourth quadrennium, the Women’s Ministries Department embarked on an initiative for young women caption PHOEBE. This ministry is geared towards empowering young adult women, ages 18-35 to become more involved in the activities of the church and to use their resources towards the church’s mission.

On Sabbath, April 13, 2019 *The PHOEBE Initiative* was launched along with *The Purple Door*, an avenue where the Phoebes may express themselves on issues that impact their Christian lives whether of the church or the society. The topic of the first interactive session was *Unequally Yolk*.

Who is Phoebe?

Paul introduces Phoebe to the brethren at Rome.

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Sister — The term sister, is given to express the new and spiritual relationship which exists among believers as the sons & daughters of God and the brethren of Christ. If Christians be all really brethren and sisters, nothing should disunite them in affection.

Deacon

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Deacons were appointed to attend to the poor, so deaconesses were specially set apart in the churches to attend to the wants of their own gender.

Phoebe presented her credentials as a Christian in good standing with her home congregation and she "put in her membership" with the Christians in Rome for whatever period she remained there. The purpose in calling attention to this is to stimulate more business-like attention on the part of both congregations and individual Christians to the problem of itinerancy of Christians, many of whom are lost to the church through their failure to enlist as working members of another congregation, following a transfer of residence.

The formal commendation of Phoebe to the Christians in Rome shows that something more was required than merely hanging her hat in a new place.

Objectives

- A place to address the spiritual, emotional, physical and social needs of young women in the Church
- A forum to help address topics and issues as they affect young women
- Recognition that women have gifts of the Spirit and can help other girls and women discover and use these gifts to the glory of God.
- Initiative for young women to experience joy in the Lord
- Opportunities for young women to exercise their Spiritual Gifts to the glory of God

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NUTURE

- Providing spiritual as well as emotional and social nurturing to younger women so they can experience a vibrant relationship with Jesus.
- Becoming involved in nurturing younger females

EMPOWER

- Providing leadership training to young women.
- Ensuring that every young woman in the church become involve in an area of service.
- Preparing oneself and others for end-time events and soul winning through the power of prayer & fasting.

OUTREACH

- Conducting evangelistic programmes throughout the Conference
- Helping to bring healing to abuse girls and young women
- Involve in planning and execution of community projects

“The Lord has a work for women as well as men to do. They may accomplish a good work for God if they will first learn in the school of Christ the precious, all-important lesson of meekness. They must not only bear the name of Christ but possess His Spirit. They must walk even as He walked, purifying their souls from everything that defiles. Then they will be able to benefit others by presenting the all-sufficiency of Jesus.” — Testimony Treasures, vol 2, 404.

Women's Ministries in Central Jamaica Conference is involved in sponsoring and developing several programmes and ministries such as:

- International Women's Day of Prayer – 1st Sabbath of March
- Women's Ministries Emphasis Day – 2nd Sabbath of June
- *enditnow* Emphasis Day - 4th Sabbath of August
- Operation Huldah Evangelistic programmes – February - March
- Retreats and Conventions
- Leadership Training
- Ministries to girls and young women

“There certainly should be a larger number of women engaged in the work of ministering to suffering humanity. . . . When believing women shall feel the burden of souls, . . . they will be working as Christ worked. They will consider no sacrifice too great to make to win souls to Christ.”—Evangelism 465.

“There are many . . . offices connected with the cause of God which our sisters are better qualified to fill than our brethren, and in which they might do efficient service.”—Welfare Ministry 147.

CENTRAL JAMAICA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



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