

THE CHARTER OF THE JAMAICA COALITION FOR A HEALTHY SOCIETY

NAME OF ORGANISATION:

The name of the organisation shall be the Jamaica Coalition for a Healthy Society.

MEMBERSHIP:

Any and all individuals and institutions (regardless of political, corporate, legal or formal status) that are signatories to this charter will be considered members of the Coalition. Signatories hereby give full and non-negotiable support to all beliefs stated in this Charter.

VISION:

The ultimate vision of the Coalition is a healthy Jamaican society. We believe this entails physical, emotional, spiritual and mental health. Furthermore, this health rests on a nation-wide understanding, support and realization of Judeo-Christian beliefs as delineated in the Bible.

PURPOSE:

To be cultural watchmen and bearers of God's love and truth.

BELIEFS:

Truth

- is defined as that which corresponds to reality. Since it is impossible for two situations to be true at the same time (the sky is either blue or green, it cannot be both), the truth is therefore absolute and inconvertible.
- is determined and dictated by God, the only being who knows the whole truth about everything
- is delineated in the Bible, which leads us as human beings to a deeper understanding of God's nature and mission
- Jesus Christ is Lord, He is the only way, the only truth and life. (John 14:6)

Family

- is the basic social unit of God created to provide central relationships, growth and support for an individual
- is initiated by God (Genesis 1:28, "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.')
- is the basis for understanding the love relationship between God and His people
- is the education centre for teaching young people about God, His purposes and His ways.

Marriage

- a conjugal union of man and woman, ordained by God from the creation, and historically understood by believers and non-believers alike, to be the most basic institution in society. A marriage provides the framework for healthy and stable families which as a unit in society has the most profound impact on the development of the individual. It should therefore be protected

as the ideal moral standard with which to conform.

- to reflect the eternal love commitment of Christ for His bride (the church), the contract of marriage should be terminated only by the death of a spouse.

Life

- every human being, as a creature fashioned in the very image of God, possesses the inherent rights of equal, dignity and life. (Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”)

Justice and Social Equality:

- In the Jamaican context, vulnerability to various sexual offenses is exacerbated by poverty, which can lead to the perpetuation of sexually immoral behaviour. (For instance, forced and/or self-imposed prostitution is often a means of survival for minors who exchange sexual services for food or shelter).

- The Bible never explicitly commands us to eliminate poverty; however, as Christians we are called to show love, dignity and respect to the poor, as fellow human beings made in God’s image. (Deuteronomy 15: 11 “There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.”)

- This aim is further emphasised once we consider the helplessness of the poor who are victimised in these instances. (Proverbs 31:8 “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”)

Healing and Deliverance

- The name of Jesus the Christ is the power and wisdom of God through which all can receive healing and deliverance

- God offers his unmerited favour, patience and strength during the process of healing and restoration

-God’s process of healing and deliverance may be instant or progressive as individuals spend time in prayer, worship, the Word, fellowship and accountability.

- Deliverance does not guarantee the removal of future temptations or urges to return to former behavioural patterns; however, through the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, the delivered person now has the option of resisting these urges and temptations.

Love

-does not delight in evil but rejoices in truth

-is the motivation and modus operandi by which we welcome and partner with persons during their process of healing and deliverance

- is the acknowledgement of what is true and right while operating in a spirit of mercy and compassion (Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”

// Ephesians 4:15 “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”)

- It is out of love (not "animus") and prudent concern for the common good (not "prejudice"), that we pledge to labor ceaselessly to preserve the Biblical concept of marriage, family and truth and to rebuild and preserve the Judeo-Christian culture.

FUNCTIONS:

- Advocate the daily practice of the aforementioned beliefs in Jamaica
- Educate the public on current issues facing the Jamaican society, and the relevance of the Bible to addressing these issues.
- Confront the prevailing culture with the immutable and infallible truth of the Bible
- Mobilise the church and allies alike to further the work of the Coalition through its various activities.
- Direct interested persons who have intentionally or unintentionally deviated from a Biblical standard in any of the moral issues listed above to counselling resources.
- Lobby persons and/or institutions in positions of political, economic and social influence with the aim of garnering their support in safe-guarding and promoting justice and truth.