

**THE MISSION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN JAMAICA
TO NEGLECTED CHILDREN**

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ABSTRACT

The Mission and Ministry of the Methodist Church in Jamaica to Neglected Children

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Children are described in Psalm 127:3 as a 'heritage to the Lord'. It is a sad reality that many of these precious ones are treated in a way quite contrary to that of being the 'heritage to the Lord' through neglect.

This research paper examines the ministry of the Jamaica District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas to neglected children. Firstly, it looks at the social climate and its impacts on the plight of neglected children, and uses this information secondly to launch into the biblical, theological and historical tenets which validate such a mission, especially in this era. It is hoped that this research will offer the church a way forward for a more dynamic ministry to neglected children.

The analysis is based largely on interviews (oral and questionnaires), documented literature, as well as field visits to schools and institutions.

The research suggests that many children are faced with neglect. Among the membership of the Methodist church, there is a lack of knowledge about the severity of the situation concerning neglected children in Jamaica, and this is coupled with a limited involvement. An eagerness to know more was evident and this can be the opening of the door for educating the church about its mission to neglected children.

Keywords: Morna Stella Christmas-Frazer: mission; ministry; church; neglected children.