

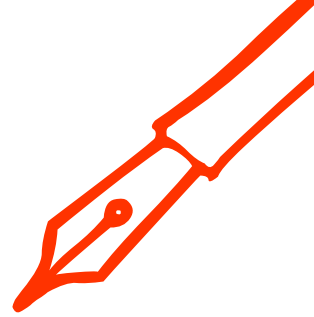
THE SCFSU UPDATE

April – August 2021

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FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK



Dear Supporter,

In these uncertain times, we can be sure of a few things; God is in control and he takes care of his own. That has been the encouragement that has kept our ministry and movement going through these difficult times. I encourage you with the words from Isaiah 41:10, "do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you". As we continue to look to God for help out of this pandemic, we implore our community to prayerfully do their own research and make wise decisions about how to protect yourselves, whether or not to get vaccinated and how to safely continue to practice your ministry even during times of restricted movement. This pandemic, though real and dangerous, is still under God's sovereignty and we as His people have our part to play in overcoming it.



In this latest issue of the SCFSU update we share a series of articles to keep you informed and aware. On page 2, you can read some helpful Bible study tips which you can practice. Scripture Engagement is a core value of our movement, and we encourage all future, current and past students to dig into God's word. Also, as we continue to honour the legacy of the late Gene Denham, you can read a book review from a recent graduate as she shares her insight on Gene's life and work. Copies of *The Gene Denham Story* and other books such as *'Like a Sea Set Free'* are still available for physical purchase, check out the details on pages 7 and 13 respectively.

On Saturday, September 25, 2021, the Alumni community will have a grand Reunion which we at SCFSU are excited about; you can read more on page 8. Bear in mind that while this event is being planned by a past CAST IVCF group it is open to all graduates of SCFSU whether your participation was in IVCF, UCCF or ISCF. Help us get over 1000 graduates or more to attend this event by sharing the information with those from your year group or batch. For more information, go to <https://ivcfuccfalumni.myevent.com/>, sign up, share with your friends and get involved.

As always, thanks for taking the time to read these updates. Please share the PDF with your friends and encourage them to sign up with SCFSU so they too can receive future updates. Please be in prayer with us as we contemplate and anticipate how our students will do school and be ministered to come September. Whether face to face, virtual or blended let us pray that students will continue to know Christ and make Him known.

Peace.

Sheldon O'Connor
General Secretary

FEEDING ON GOD'S WORD IN SMALL GROUPS PART 1



by Nana Yaw Offei Awuku



"Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law...my soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times" (Psalm 119:18,20).

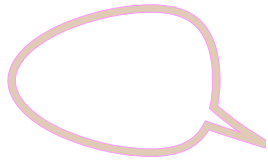
[I came to personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord at a Scripture Union evangelistic rally in Ghana. That was back in 1986, but the most formative SU discipline of discipleship in my journey of faith over the years has been the nurturing of love for God's Word and how to study the Bible faithfully and systematically].

One of the ways an effective Scripture Union School Group disciples young people into believing Christ, becoming like him, belonging to community, being fruitful witnesses is through regular small group Bible studies (SGBS). Every would-be healthy and thriving SU must prioritize SGBS. The well-known story of Jesus feeding the crowd of 5000 men in Mark 6:30-44, possibly with many other women and children, can well illustrate four important lessons I learnt as an SU leader for effectively feeding people on God's Word through SU Small Group Bible Study.

Prayer - "he gave thanks and broke the loaves" (v.41). Leading Bible study effectively always starts with prayer! It's God's Word, we must ask him to open our eyes to see the wonderful things in his Word. The Bible comes alive and lively only through the work of the Holy Spirit in us. Praying deepens compassion in the Bible study leader, and helps all of us to see that we are "like sheep without a shepherd" (Mark 6:34)

Preparation - Effective SGBS needs very diligent preparation by all leaders and members. Just imagine feeding 5000+ hungry people, that could easily be chaotic! Jesus was very orderly; he asked the right questions (v.38) and intentionally used his disciples as leaders (v.41). Setting the right Bible study questions and careful preparation by Bible Study leaders is critical! Three inductive Bible Study questions are key for every Bible study guide to facilitate observation, interpretation, and application of biblical truth.

Nana Yaw Offei Awuku serves as the global associate director for generations for the Lausanne movement. In this role he leads the Lausanne Younger Leaders Generation initiative (YLGen). He was previously the Lausanne regional director for English, Portuguese, and Spanish-speaking Africa (EPSA) for over five years until September 2016.



MY ISCF/ UCCF TESTIMONY



ISCF has impacted my life significantly, I remember my first eastern Regionals at St Andrew High School for girls to see all the eastern regional youths coming together as christians in respective of the difference in denominations worshipping our creator leaving an impact on my life that I will treasure for life.

The first time ISCF SCFSU eastern regional had a concert at my school The Norman Manley High School where Knowledge is for service. I experienced a miracle of the awesome power of Jesus as Kevin Downswell touched the stage at ISCF SCFSU School tour concert. This concert resulted in hundreds of Norman Manley High School students saying yes to Jesus. That day left a mark in in the history of the magnificent power of music.

Through the ISCF club at the Norman Manley High School, one student surrendered his life to Christ in the last two years. Even with the COVID-19 pandemic today I still have a testimony to say through ISCF SCFSU eastern regional many students including myself was impacted, empowered and drawn closer to the Saviour Jesus Christ.

Today I have a testimony a testimony to say that ISCF SCFSU is active out and about and making the impact that all Jamaican students need in order to reduce the occurrence of Juvenile delinquency in Jamaica. Today I stand with a testimony that I am in alignment with my divine assignment, happy to serve the 2020/2021 executive of ISCF eastern region.

-Daniel Campbell, Norman Manley High School

ISCF is an extraordinary place to be. To me it isn't just a club; it is like a family that helped me get close to God and know His word. This school year was challenging because it had to be online, but the executive body never gave up, they still allowed us to push through and made the experience awesome. I personally was having trouble with being close to God and being more comfortable with showing my talents, but the club helped me to open up and showcase all that God has gifted to me. I especially enjoyed the concerts; they were fun and filled with laughter and cheering for God. The students a part of this club were extremely supportive; we also had many cheers that were always fun to recite. I personally didn't find any issues with our ISCF this school year, it was beyond my expectations. I am looking forward to next school year with the ISCF family.

-Aydrianna Hutchinson, Immaculate Conception High School



See **TESTIMONY** on page 4



See **TESTIMONY** on page 3

My testimony is to express how the Lord has used me as an influence to others. Despite the fact that we are still in this pandemic and we are going through our individual struggles, we need to remember that we are God's children and we are called for a purpose. I am a part of this group where I share devotional exercises daily; I recall going through a little depression stage and I felt like giving up because I thought I was wasting my time. I felt like not sharing God's word so I let everything out to God, yes I started talking to him just telling him everything that was taking place and the feeling went away and I praised the Lord; the devil tried to push me down but that didn't happen, because I serve a mighty God. I started the day fresh and started back my devotions; I also left an impact on the persons I share with by helping them improve their relationship with God. I believe this shows that even if you're going through a hard time in life you should share the word because there are persons out there waiting for someone to come and tell them about Daddy Jesus, yes at times they might not want to listen but still share, still share those bible scriptures in the morning because you are impacting someone and God will do the rest Mark 16:15-16 it says "And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." So play your part as a child of God, preach His word and he will do the rest. God bless you.



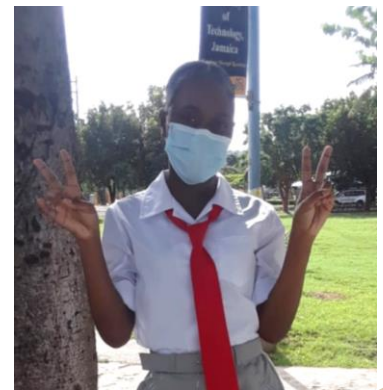
Denicia Thompson, Sam Sharpe Teachers College



Rally! Rally! My experience working with the committee and also being a part of the rally was amazing. The team was organized, understanding, mindful and encouraging. I still remember points from my break-out group, that's how effective it was. Team Joy, knowing that I can still find Joy in adverse situations changed my perception and had drawn me closer to God. It was truly an amazing experience and it had allowed me not only to meet new people in the virtual space but also reignited my love for Christ and finding the joy he brings in every situation.

- Jenieve Richards, UWI UCCF

The CARIFES 40 Days of Prayer was a thrilling experience, one in which I will indeed remember. It was actually an answered prayer for me, praise God, as I asked for my prayer life to be strengthened and it was. In addition to that, it boosted my faith by pulling me closer to the God of times and circumstances as well as giving me the opportunity to pray for and with others. It was truly something I looked forward to every Thursday as I would be touched by the beautiful voices of those who sang, the ones who gave their powerful testimonies and the exhortations. Not to forget, the belly full of laughs I enjoyed at the end of the Prayer Session when the majority of cameras and microphones were turned on. This was really a lovely experience and I'm looking forward to the next edition of the 40 Days of Prayer.



-Beyonce Pringle, Queens High School



Christian community is the place where we keep the flame of hope alive among us and take it seriously so that it can grow and become stronger in us.

HENRI NOUWEN

THE GENE DENHAM STORY BOOK REVIEW

by **Jhonelle Grant**



Whilst serving as a counsellor at an I.S.C.F Leadership conference, my eyes were drawn to the cover of a book that had a picture of an unassuming lady with a guitar. The pages that unfolded of the beautifully crafted biography of Ms. Gene Denham made more of an impact on my life than I initially anticipated. "The Gene Denham Story- from Jamaica to Africa," told skilfully by Mrs. Faith Linton painted an incredibly picture of a life surrendered. The book has challenged me in ways fundamental to my approach to serving in ministry as well as how I steward relationships.

There was a distinct thread woven throughout the biography that left a great impression on my heart; the idea that God blesses faithfulness in the mundane and makes it powerful. Snippets of Ms. Denham's journal recorded how smaller events cultivated within her a proper heart posture that helped her to steward the "bigger" things God would have given her. This theme is a needful reminder to the wary soul that gets spent in serving in monotony; that God uses ordinary day to day situations to build muscles for future conquests.

2 Corinthians 4:7 states "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." Ms. Faith Linton said this verse encapsulated the truth about Gene's life and death. This passage resonates deeply with me and found even more depths after reading this biography. The Gene Denham story shows God's miraculous working through a frail and ordinary woman, who chose to entrust her life to a sovereign God. Though from the descriptions she was stable, decisive and the woman for the job in difficult scenarios, the angst of living in this limited mortal frame is that we are not immune to hardship. The Gene Denham story shows us how beautifully God can write a story amidst our feebleness and humanity.

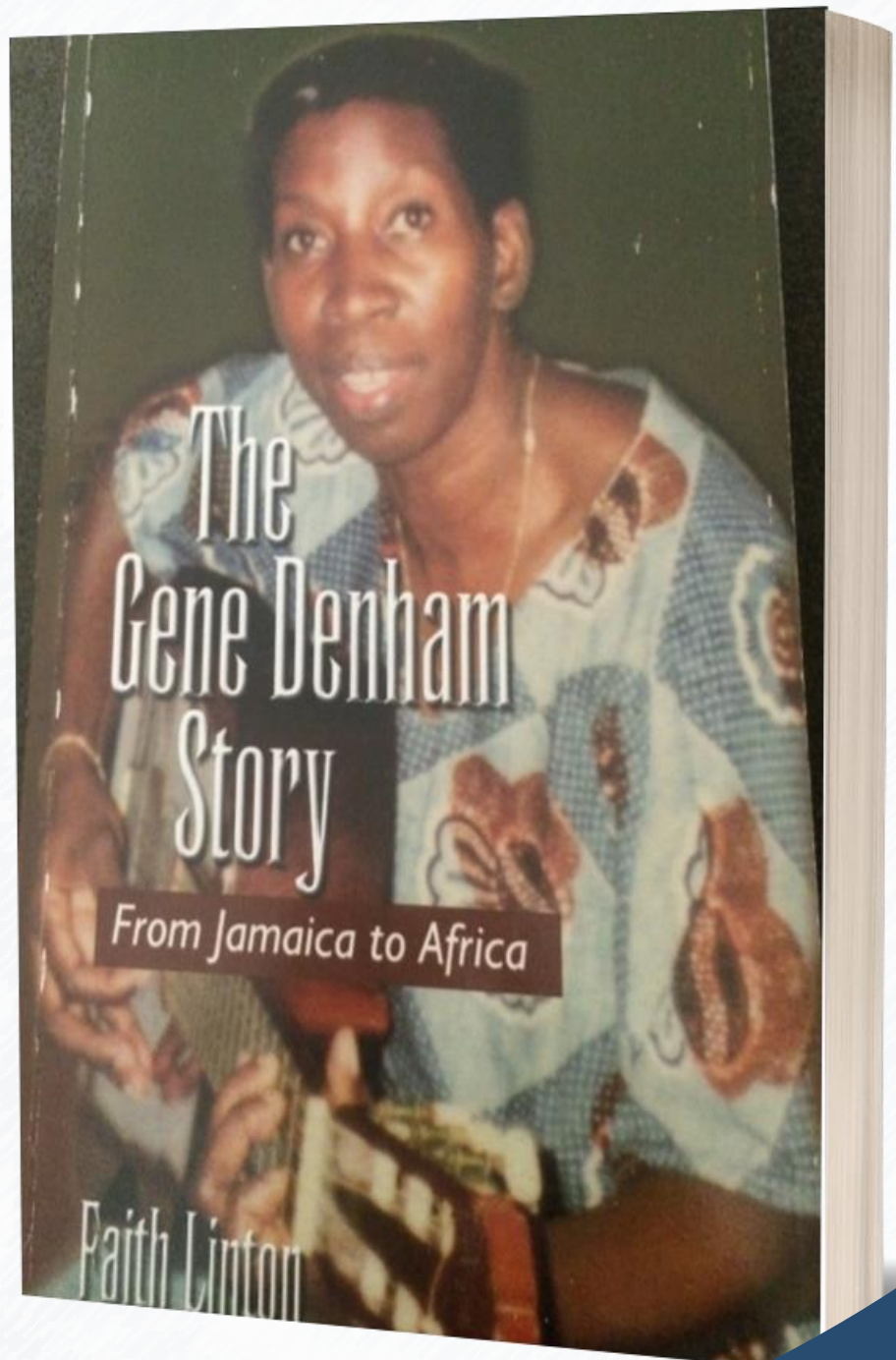
This book is undoubtedly a gift to anyone who reads it. The lasting impact that Ms. Denham's life has had is a testimony of God getting glory even from the grave.

Jhonelle Grant is a former UCCF President for UWI and former President for Merl Grove ISCF. She is currently a volunteer for the movement as well as visionary behind a writing and blogging initiative called Ecclesia Letters.

The Gene Denham Story

“Following her conversion Gene found opportunities for spiritual growth and development not only in church but at school. Between 1966 and 1968 she was active in the ISCF (Inter-Schools Christian Fellowship) group at St. Andrew High. Such was the influence of the ISCF on her life that she ended up spending almost all of her adult life on the staff of this organization.”

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ISCF, IVCF/UCCF ALUMNI REUNION 2021

by Dr Judith A. Johnston

**Friends love through all kinds of weather, and families stick together in all kinds of trouble
- Proverbs 17:17 (The MSG)**

Why are we doing this? For starters, we could say “friendship.” The Proverbs 17:17 quote we started with tells its own story. Many of our lasting friendships were formed while in secondary school, college or university. Then there are those of us who come into faith while attending these institutions, which often makes the friendships tighter as we are bound by the same Spirit; loving in all kinds of circumstances and sticking together in all kinds of trouble like brothers [and sisters]!

The CAST IVCF Alumni Reunions started in 2000, planned by Rosie Walcott and Evangeline (Vangie) Knight-Smith and held at FarQ Hall. On that occasion Dr. Sangster was honoured. For many of us, Dr. Sangster (who had the uncanny and admirable gift of remembering all our names), was a strong, motivating and enabling Christian influence and will be forever remembered for the impact he had on many of our lives.



In 2008 we had our second Reunion when a group of graduates got together in Fort Lauderdale, Florida to surprise our own Clinton Ruddock and his wife, Annmarie, as they celebrated their 15th Anniversary in ministry to their church, New Life Fellowship Center Church of God. This event was planned by Vangie and Grace Tomlinson-Day with support from Claudette Cowan-James.



See REUNION on page 9

REUNION (continued from page 8)

In 2010 Vivienne Pringle-McAllister and Patrick Cole joined forces with Vangie and Grace making it a happy foursome planning team for the event in Trelawny, Jamaica.



In 2019 Clinton Ruddock and Judith Johnston joined the expanding team for the fun packed and spiritually enriching event held again in South Florida.



This year the team, prompted by Vangie, decided to open up the reunion to include the larger network of IS/IV/UCCF alumni. Why? SCFSU needs us! We can walk and chew gum, can't we?! Meaning, we can share good times reconnecting while also blessing the Movement that so wonderfully blessed us in our youth. So yes, this year is a special Call to Action whether you're a Baby Boomer, Gen Xer or Millennial. It doesn't matter in which group you find yourself, we want you to be there!

For more information on the event, check out our website at <https://ivcfuccfalumni.myevent.com/>. Click on all the links! Register yourself! See who has registered and connect with the people you know. Start inviting your friends and encourage your friends to invite their friends to do the same. We look forward to everyone joining us this year. It will be great!!!

Dr Judith A. Johnston is a Community Development Specialist & Social Entrepreneur. She is a member of the alumni.



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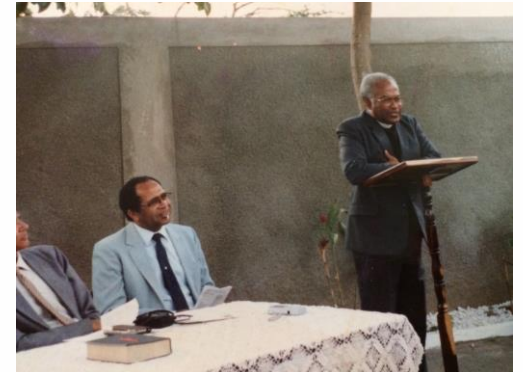
For most of us we have visited the head office at 1 Gordon Town Road Kingston 6. We may have had meetings there, or even events like "freshers Lyme " on the roof of the building. Here are some quick facts about this building:

- 1) This was not our first office space; we used at one point Bethel Baptist and then moved to Hagley Park Plaza upstairs Source Of Light before moving to Gordon Town Road
- 2) The building was previously owned by a business called Prosperity cleaners and subsequently it was put up for auction by the Administrator General's Department in 1984, which came to the attention of the then General Secretary Dr. Las Newman
- 3) The Building was acquired through local efforts but also through the assistance of Scripture Union International
- 4) The Building is called "the Richard Bell Centre" in honour of a pioneering staff worker
- 5) The same year in 1988 that the building was officially occupied by the staff of SCFSU, Hurricane Gilbert hit in September that year and the newly refurbished building needed repairs to the roof which further strengthened the building and helped to add four additional office spaces.

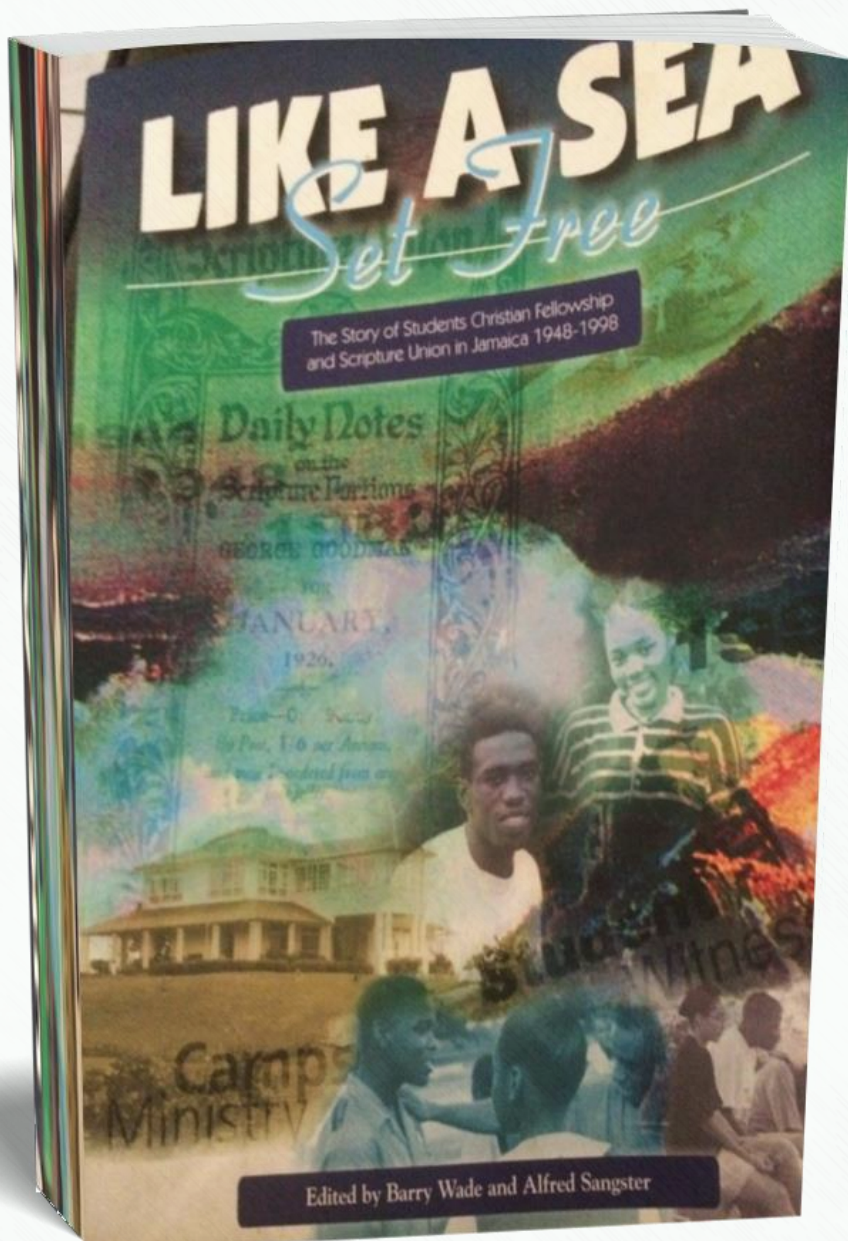
Please see pictures below and for further information on this story please purchase a copy of 'Like a Sea Set Free'.

See FACTOID on page 12

FACTOID (continued from page 11)



Like a Sea Set Free



“The Jamaican Poet M.G. Smith has written in one of his most beautiful poems about the unfolding of a new day in his native land.

The imagery he uses is partly that of the sea with which every Jamaican is familiar... In sharing the story of Students Christian Fellowship and Scripture Union in Jamaica with you, we have tried to capture something of the poet’s image- like a sea set free- a new day dawning through the stories of many different people working in God’s purpose to establish and build a Christian witness to students in our schools.”

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**For the LORD is good and His
love endures forever; His
faithfulness continues through
all generations.**

PSALM 100:5 (NIV)



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