

# FFCA 4<sup>TH</sup> C'BBEAN CONF 2016

## FATHERLESSNESS, THE NATURAL FAMILY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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**“ THE GREATEST SPRITUAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND  
PSYCHOLOGICAL CURSE ON HUMANITY TODAY IS  
FATHERLESSNESS, IN EVERY COUNTRY”.**

**DR. MYLES MUNRO AFTER TRAVELING TO OVER 89  
COUNTRIES.**



# BEING POSITED TODAY


**FATHERLESSNESS AND A DECLINE IN TRUE MASCULINITY, INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO A DECLINE IN HEALTHY MARRIAGES-THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE NATURAL FAMILY, THE NEXT GENERATION, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF JAMAICA AND OTHER CARIBBEAN STATES.**

# THE HEART OF HUMANITY'S PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY IN THE WEST???


- ▶ A DECLINE OF TRUE MASCULINITY AND MANHOOD RESULTING IN A DECLINE IN THE SPIRIT OF FATHERHOOD.
- ▶ IN A DOMINO EFFECT THIS HAS RESULTED IN A DECLINE IN MARRIAGES, UNSTABLE AND UNHEALTHY FAMILIES, AND UNHEALTHY, FAILING SOCIETIES.
- ▶ THE PERPETUATION OF DESTRUCTIVE INTERGENERATIONAL CYCLES.



**WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?**

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- ▶ **IN JAMAICA AND THE CARIBBEAN – HISTORY OF SLAVERY.**
  - ▶ **THE SEXUAL REVOLUTON.**
  - ▶ **A PERPETUATION OF THE INTERGENERATIONAL CYCLE OF FATHERLESSNESS IN THE ABSENCE OF STRUCTURED INTERVENTIONS – CAUSE AND EFFECT.**




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- ▶ **INADEQUATE SOCIALISATION/MENTORING OF YOUNG MALES BY ADULT MEN WHO HAVE ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES AS POSITIVE ROLE MODELS.**
  - ▶ **COUPLED WITH NEGATIVE INFLUENCES OF HIGHLY VISIBLE POOR ROLE MODELS ESTEEMED AS CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT ICONS.**
  - ▶ **A PUSH BY FEMINISTS FOR THE WHOLESALE REJECTION OF PATRIARCHY.**

# PERHAPS THE MOST CRITICAL FACTOR TODAY

- ▶ THE GROWING INFILTRATION OF WESTERN SOCIETIES, ESPECIALLY VIA EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA, BY GENDER IDEOLOGY.
- ▶ 71 GENDERS TO CHOOSE FROM ON FACEBOOK.

# THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES




**GROWING CONFUSION ABOUT  
SEXUAL IDENTITY, MASCULINITY,  
MALE IDENTITY AND PURPOSE.**

**HFLE Curriculum: Grade 8**

**Theme: Sexuality and Sexual Health**

**Module 2, Unit 1, Topic 2: Socio Cultural Influences. Pg 153.**

- ▶ **“Despite the sexual and gender norms in some societies, a person’s sexual identity, desires and behaviours may change over time depending on situations and how they feel”.**



**AS A RESULT OF GROWING CONFUSION,  
ANGER AMONG MALES FUELED BY  
FATHERLESSNESS, MANY MALES ARE SEEMINGLY  
LOST AND ON A PATH TO DESTRUCTION.**

# MALES FEATURE PROMINENTLY AMONG;

- ▶ Prison inmates
- ▶ Youth involved in substance abuse
- ▶ Gangs
- ▶ Unattached youths
- ▶ School drop outs.
- ▶ Students who perform poorly in school.
- ▶ Perpetrators of crime and violence.





# MALES FEATURE PROMINENTLY AMONG;

- ▶ THE PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN – GLOBAL SCOURGE AND RESPONSE BY WHO.
- ▶ THE INITIATORS OF RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR – INCREASE IN MULTIPLE SEXUAL PARTNERS, age-discordant, and transactional sex.
- ▶ Perpetrators of sexual abuse, including CSA
- ▶ Initiators of sexual activity fueling teen pregnancy, out-of-wedlock births, STI's etc.
- ▶ Students who fail to enter tertiary level institutions.
- ▶ Absent or inadequately involved parents – FATHERLESSNESS.

# FATHERLESSNESS



▶ **What this presentation is not about.**

- **Father bashing**
- **Denying the existence of good fathers**
- **Downplaying the importance of mothers and the achievements of single moms.**

▶ **It instead seeks to highlight the fact that paternal deprivation whether from the absence or inadequate involvement of fathers is the most significant variable implicated in most if not all of our social and public health challenges.**

# NEWSWEEK ARTICLE

**DAD IS DESTINY**

▶ **SO GO THE MEN, SO GO THE NATION.**

# PATERNAL DEPRIVATION – A GROWING CONCERN FROM EVIDENCE.

- ▶ DEFINITION – PHYSICAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL ABSENCE, VARYING DEGREES.
- ▶ ALL FUNCTIONS OF FATHERING AFFECTED – PROVIDE, PROTECT, NURTURE AND MODELING.
- ▶ HOWEVER NURTURING AND MODELING FUNCTIONS ESPECIALLY IMPACTED AS THESE WERE TRADITIONALLY DEEMED UNIMPORTANT FATHER FUNCTIONS.
- ▶ ATTEMPTS BY THE STATE IN SOME COUNTRIES (UK) TO 'TAKE OVER' THE FATHERING ROLE HAS FAILED WITH DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCIES – COST TO STATE>DEFENCE BUDGET (CSJ).

# SELECTED RESEARCH GENERATED EVIDENCE OF IMPACT OF FATHER ABSENCE

- ▶ MOST COMPREHENSIVE BODY OF EVIDENCE FROM USA, UK
- ▶ SOME EVIDENCE FROM JAMAICAN/C'BBEAN RESEARCH.
- ▶ NOT ONLY ASSOCIATION/CORRELATION ESTABLISHED FROM ROBUST STUDIES, BUT CAUSATION.

# Sources

Dr. David Popenoe, noted sociologist and one of the pioneers of the relatively young field of research into fathers and fatherhood.

The US Department of Justice and the US Census Bureau.

National Fatherhood Initiative (US).

CIVITAS (Institute for the study of civil society-UK think tank).

The Registrar General's Department.

RPLSB of the JCF.

UNICEF commissioned assessment of parenting in Jamaica, 2014.

Child Development Agency (CDA).



**Fatherlessness or Paternal Deprivation has a negative impact on;**

- **Lone mothers.**
- **The non-resident fathers themselves.**
- **Children – most tragic consequences**



# Impact of absent/uninvolved fathers on lone mothers

- Increased poverty.
- Increased risk of stress, depression and other emotional problems.
- Increased risk of other health problems-significant poorer health than females in stable partnerships when other variables are controlled.
- Increased problems in interacting with children.


# Impact on non-resident fathers themselves.

- Increased death rate
- Alcohol and other substance abuse.
- Greater involvement in unsafe sex.
- poorer general health.

However, by far, the greatest impact of fatherlessness is on the children of these absent or uninvolved fathers.

# Impact of fatherlessness at a glance (early childhood/adolescents).

- Overall well-being of children.
- Mental and Physical Health.
- Behavioral disorders.
- Teen suicide.
- Chemical Abuse.
- Maternal and Child Health (IMR)
- Childhood accidents.
- Childhood obesity.
- Early involvement in sexual activity (STI's etc).
- Teen pregnancy.
- Increased risk of sexual abuse (Mom's consort, etc).

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- Increased risk of dysfunctional relationships, broken marriages.
  - Increased tendency to violent behavior.
  - Poor performance in school.
  - Truancy.
  - Increased tendency to run away from home.
  - Juvenile Crime.
  - Incarceration.
  - Gang membership.
  - Poor work ethics and unemployability.
  - MORE

Supported by research in all areas.

# YOUTH INCARCERATION





# SELECTED RESEARCH FINDINGS

# AN OVERARCHING STATEMENT REGARDING THE IMPACT OF FATHERLESSNESS ON CHILDREN.

- ▶ FATHERLESSNESS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES THE RISK OF CHILDREN BECOMING NOT ONLY VICTIMS, BUT ALSO PERPRETRATORS OF CRIME.
- ▶ FROM RESEARCH




- 90% OF HOMELESS RUNAWAY CHILDREN ARE FROM FATHERLESS HOMES. WITHIN 72 HOURS THE MAJORITY EITHER BECOME PERPETRATORS OR VICTIMS OF A CRIME. **UNATTACHED YOUTH**

- 63% OF YOUTH SUICIDES ARE FROM FATHERLESS HOMES. CHILDREN WHO GREW UP WITH INVOLVED FATHERS HAVE HIGHER SELF ESTEEM.

- 85% OF CHILDREN WHO EXHIBIT BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS COME FROM FATHERLESS HOMES. CHILDREN WHO GROW UP WITH INVOLVED FATHERS PERFORM BETTER IN SCHOOLS.




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- **THE ABSENCE OF BIOLOGICAL FATHERS INCREASES BY 900% A DAUGHTER'S VULNERABILITY TO RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE (US DOJ).**

# Statistics from the OCR

## Reports

- ▶ Child physical abuse – 2008 – 1099  
2014 – 3214
- ▶ Child sexual abuse – 2008 – 1171  
2014 - 3403
- ▶ Emotional Abuse - 2008 – 341, 2014 - 1833

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- **72% OF ALL TEENAGE MURDERERS GREW UP WITHOUT FATHERS (USDOJ).**
  - **85% OF RAPISTS COME FROM FATHERLESS HOMES (USDOJ).**
  - **FATHERLESS CHILDREN ARE 11 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO EXHIBIT VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR THAN CHILDREN WITH TWO PARENTS IN A HOME (US).**



# JAMAICA



**EDUCATION AND CRIME:**  
**Evidence from Prison Inmates in Jamaica**

Report

March 2012


Jamaica Constabulary Force  
Research, Planning and Legal Services Branch (RPLSB)



**60% OF SAMPLE GREW UP WITHOUT A FATHER.**

**CHILDREN WHO GROW UP WITH INVOLVED FATHERS  
HAVE LESS TROUBLE WITH THE LAW.**

**WHY???.**





- In 1992, a study, 'Psychosocial factors associated with teenage pregnancy in Jamaica' (Pubmed) revealed that in urban Jamaica, fatherless teenagers were almost three times more likely to have been pregnant when compared to those living with their fathers.— PERPETUATING THE CYCLE.

- Girls who grow up with involved, loving fathers, have healthier relationships with the opposite sex.

- 100% of cases (eg CSA, PA etc) dealt with by the CDA are from fatherless homes (UNICEF report, 2014).



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- **90% OF ALL GANG MEMBERS GREW UP IN A FATHERLESS HOME (USDOJ) – IN JAM 75% OF HOMICIDES ARE GANG RELATED (MNS). NB FATHERLESS CREW.**
  - **TESTIMONY – I WAS CONTRACTED TO KILL OMAR DAVIES**
    - **The ‘Fatherless Crew’**



**“Given the fact that these and other social problems correlate more strongly with fatherlessness than with any other factor, surpassing race, social class and poverty, father absence may well be the most critical social issue of our time”**

**– Dr. Edward Kruk, ‘Psychology Today’.**



**FOR THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO BE SKEPTICS**

# The Proof Is in: Father Absence Harms Child Well-Being

Posted: 03/14/2014 10:47 am EDT Updated: 05/13/2014 5:59 am EDT

- Review of nearly 50 robust studies - Researchers Sara McLanahan, Laura Tach, and Daniel Schneider.
- In nine countries, mostly developed but also developing.
- Finding – Father absence not just correlates with, but is the **CAUSE** of social and public health challenges plaguing societies in the developed and developing world. Not just a US problem, but a **HUMAN** problem.

# GROUND BREAKING SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

- 2013 study conducted by the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC). Published in journal Cerebral Cortex.
- Study of monogamous California mice who like (some) humans raise their offsprings together.
- Examined the impact of paternal deprivation during critical growth periods of pups.

# RI-MUHC Study – con't

- **Offsprings raised without a father had abnormal social interactions and were more aggressive in behavior when compared to those raised by both parents.**
- **Findings consistent with human studies on PD but go further.**
- **For the first time these behavioral findings were correlated with neurobiological (physical) changes in the brain- the prefrontal cortex involved in the control of cognitive and social activity.**
- **While further human studies are indicated, the evidence so far is compelling and must be considered in context of what is being observed in broader society, especially among youth – aggressive behavior, crime and violence, etc.**



# **MARRIAGE, FAMILY STRUCTURE AND FATHERLESSNESS**

- It is estimated that between 31 and 59 % of Caribbean children from birth to 14, live in homes headed by women and even though some children may live in homes with two adults, they do not necessarily live with both biological parents. Sometimes even when children live with both biological parents, these parents are not married (unicef, 2002).
- In light of these realities, some Caribbean countries, in keeping with international trends, have begun recognising unions other than marriage. Barbados was the first of the non-OECS Caribbean countries to introduce the concept of a "union other than marriage" into its family laws. Such unions have the same rights as married couples, as far as property, maintenance and custody of children are concerned (unicef 2002).



- A further reality of Caribbean society, is that many children are born outside of wedlock (up to 85%) and taking note of this, countries in the region have established laws to end discrimination against these children. Several countries now have a Status of Children Act, which gives children born to unmarried couples, the same rights as those born to married couples (unicef, 2002).
- Two important questions –
  - 1) What are the incentives to get married, especially for men, and how does this impact paternal deprivation in the Caribbean?
  - 2) Does cohabiting afford the same outcomes for family members, especially children? **No from evidence. Unstable (NB unicef statement on Jamaica below.**

# IMPORTANT POINTS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

- A significant contributor to a decline in marriages and fatherlessness in the Caribbean and the developed western world are laws that facilitate divorce and confer the same rights and entitlements traditionally afforded to married couples and their children to other family and parenting arrangements/structures.
- Concerning marriage and the natural family, laws, policies, programmes and interventions are informed and driven by a pathological reality, not evidence-based public health or social best practices and truth. If this is allowed to continue (HFLE), fatherlessness and fractured families will continue to seriously harm generations to come.



**PARENTAL MARRIAGE,  
NATIONAL TRENDS IN JAMAICA.**

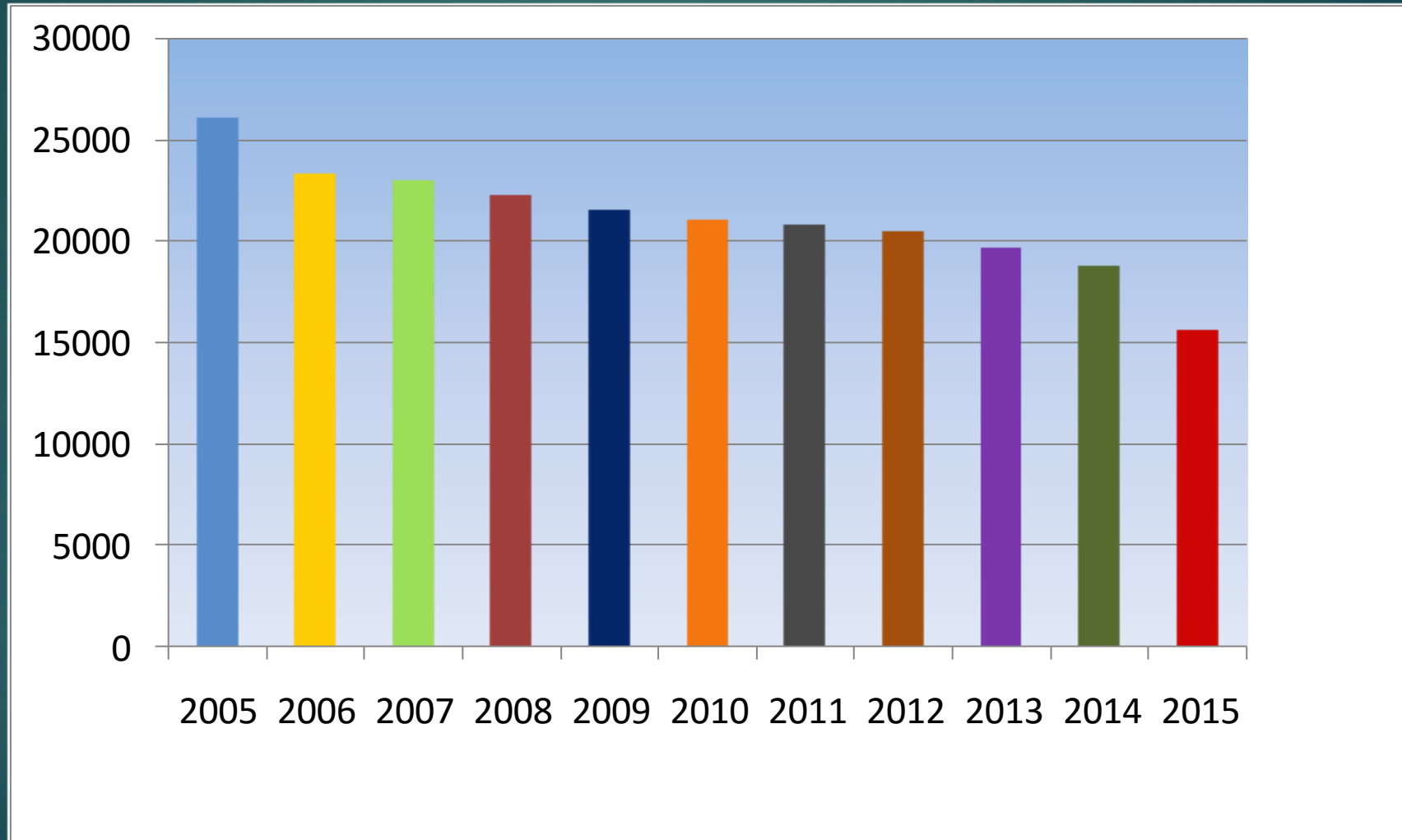
- 
- Jamaica, a world leader-Female headed households moved from 45% in 2002 to just over 47% in 2010 (JSLC).
  - 85% of children born out of wedlock (RGD).
  - Marriages trending downwards (RGD).

2005 - 26,000

2015 – 15,500

- Related to having one of the highest murder rates in the world??

# Marriages in Jamaica (RGD)



## COMMON-LAW OR VISITING RELATIONSHIPS

- **Most Jamaican children are born while their parents are in a common-law or "visiting" relationship, but nearly 50% of these relationships have ended by the time child is five or six years old (UNICEF 2000).**
- **Significantly less stable than intact married families (7% in some studies.).**

# Impact of parental marriage on children.

- ▶ Children raised in intact married families are more likely to attend college, are physically and emotionally healthier, are less likely to be physically or sexually abused, less likely to use drugs or alcohol and to commit delinquent behaviors, have a decreased risk of divorcing when they get married, are less likely to become pregnant/impregnate someone as a teenager, and are less likely to be raised in poverty. ("Why Marriage Matters: 26 Conclusions from the Social Sciences," Bradford Wilcox, Institute for American Values, [www.americanvalues.org/html/r-wmm.html](http://www.americanvalues.org/html/r-wmm.html))

# Impact of parental marriage on children.

- ▶ A child living with a single mother is 14 times more likely to suffer serious physical abuse than is a child living with married biological parents. A child whose mother cohabits with a man other than the child's father is 33 times more likely to suffer serious physical child abuse. ("The Positive Effects of Marriage: A Book of Charts," Patrick Fagan, [www.heritage.org/Research/Features/Marriage/index.cfm](http://www.heritage.org/Research/Features/Marriage/index.cfm))



## **BEING POSITED (BASED ON EVIDENCE).**

- ▶ **OPTIMAL FATHERING OCCURS IN THE CONTEXT OF HEALTHY PARENTAL MARRIAGES.**
- ▶ **PROMOTING PARENTAL MARRIAGE AMONG YOUTH – THE MOST IMPORTANT STRATEGY TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF FATHERLESSNESS.**



- ▶ **Reversing the current trends in parental marriage and divorce - an urgent Social, Public Health, and National Development Issue.**
- ▶ **Learning from the response to HIV among leaders.**
- ▶ **THE PM AS A ROLE MODEL IN PROMOTING MARRIAGE AMONG YOUNG MEN.**

# A CALL TO ACTION - JAMAICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

- ▶ TAKE DECISIVE ACTION AT ALL LEVELS TO BREAK THE INTERGENERATIONAL CYCLES OF FATHERLESSNESS AND REVERSE THE DECLINE IN PARENTAL MARRIAGE, TARGETING PRIMARILY YOUNG MALES.

# “Man-up” Jamaica



FIRST ONE-DAY RETREAT

**VENUE: KENDAL CAMP, SHOOTER'S HILL,  
MANCHESTER**

**FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**



**SOUTHERN REGIONAL  
HEALTH AUTHORITY**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE FAMILY**



# MAN UP

**'A CALL TO HEALTHY, RESPONSIBLE MANHOOD'**





# 'MAN UP' CORE VALUES



## **AS A JAMAICAN MAN, I TAKE A STAND FOR AND DEFEND;**

- Commitment to family as a priority.
- Responsibility and purity in sexual conduct.
- Servant leadership in my home, community and country.
- Marriage as the union of one man and one woman.
- Fathering in the context of marriage - to provide for, protect, nurture and mentor.
- The best practice of the nuclear family with father and mother in a healthy marital union, sharing parenting responsibilities.
- Respect and loving regard for all women, beginning with the mother of my children.
- Maximising my God-given potential to fulfill my purpose.
- Real manhood, including identity and purpose, as determined by God my creator.
- Being an example and positive influence for other men.

# PARTNERSHIP

- ▶ **Southern Regional Health Authority, Ministry of Health, Jamaica**
- ▶ **National Association for the Family**
- ▶ **Mandeville Baptist Circuit of Churches**

# MOTIVATION

- To nurture and promote **wholistic male development** for teenagers and young adults
- to raise up a generation of young men who grasp their **identity** and **purpose**, especially re **commitment to family** and **nation-building**





# FOCUS ON MALES, 15-25 YEARS OLD



*Source: Google Images  
(Jamaica)*



- ▶ To take the participants on a journey towards healthy, responsible manhood by addressing and helping them to explore today's male-related issues.

# Man-up Plenary – February 19, 2016



# Man up small group discussions



# “What I intend to do”

(Statements at the end of the retreat)

- ▶ **Improve the practice of fathering.**
  - ▶ “Try to be the best father”
  - ▶ “it encourages me to be a good father one day”
  - ▶ “have the mine (mind) set to be a good dad”
  - ▶ “spend time to prepare for parenthood”
  - ▶ “try to be a father to your child and don’t abandon him/her”
  - ▶ “always try to play a part in your child’s life”

# “Man-up” Jamaica

FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2016



# Malachi 4

- ▶ <sup>5</sup> Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:
- ▶ <sup>6</sup> And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

# VISION 2030

- Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential.
- Jamaica's economy is prosperous.
- The Jamaican society is safe, cohesive and just.

**WILL NOT HAPPEN IF THE CYCLES OF  
FATHERLESSNESS AND UNHEALTHY  
MASCULINITY NOT BROKEN.**



*“The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.”*

Proverbs 20:7

