

BN- Ward, Rev. Henry  
**SOUVENIR CITATION**



**REV. HENRY WARD J.P., O.D.,  
CENTENARIAN**

On May 28th, 1979

The United Church of Jamaica and Grand  
Cayman in co-operation with  
The Mico Old Students' Association.

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## MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

Living for a hundred years can be a terrifying thing if the centenarian is afraid to turn around and look down the avenue of TIME along which he has come in the journey to the landmark. Unfortunately, for many centenarians the memory goes out of service long before that point is reached thus robbing the traveller of the joys of retrospection.

The Reverend Henry Ward, J.P., O.D., the grand old man of the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman and one of the great Builders of contemporary Jamaica and Modern Nigeria, must be one of the few of God's children who at this grand old age is able to reflect on the PAST and to talk about the FUTURE. This is because unlike many who have exceeded the time allotted to us mortals (Three score years and ten) Henry Ward has been a man of both Faith and Action, a man of obedience who has spent his adult life responding to God's call to duty and the need of his fellowmen for Love, Care and the Word from the Lord.

We of the United Church are grateful to Him who is the King and Head of the Church for calling our elder brother into His Service, for equipping him with the resources needed for the fulfilling of his ministry and for giving him time in which to see some of the fruits of that long and faithful ministry.

It is our prayer that our Brother and Fellow-servant will spend the rest of his years glorifying God and doing for him what, by His Grace, he is still capable of doing. We would also pray that Mrs. Ward will find great joy as she fulfills her own ministry which she shares with her beloved husband, Henry.

Ashley A. Smith  
Moderator.

TO  
"REV. HENRY WARD, O.D."

In the village of Golden Grove in the parish of St. Ann was born on the 28th day of May in the year 1879, the man who was to span two centuries, defy parochial and insular bounds, diffuse his energy and enthusiasm, wherever he was, influence two distinct cultures, and like a veritable Colossus bestride two worlds. This man was HENRY WARD.

A man inspired and inspiring, scholar, teacher, preacher, politician, prophet, pioneer, missionary, ambassador, orator, educator, social worker, farmer, writer, critic, administrator, counsellor, director, dreamer, planner and builder, a man richly endowed with excellent qualities. Oblivious of self he dedicated himself, "an empty vessel for the master's use," to the service of his fellowmen. At a very early age "he died to self." The talents multiplied, the service was manifold, and Henry Ward grew from strength to strength, increasing in physical, moral and intellectual stature. He received his early education at Clapham Primary School, but it was at St. George's Primary School, Guy's Hill he passed the Pupil Teachers' Examinations with distinction, gaining for himself an Exhibitioner's Scholarship to the Mico Teacher Training College. It was at Guy's Hill, as a pupil teacher that his community involvement began. He organised Youth Movements and formed "The League of Honour, for social purity among young men."

From 1898 to 1900 Mr. Ward was a Student at the Mico College under the principalship of Mr. McFarlane. The personality that impressed him most was that of a

soldierly vice-principal, small of stature, but firm in discipline, "a coloured tutor of exceptional mind and spiritual influence." Ward, the freshman, undaunted on his first night in residence boldly made to his room-mates, what could be termed his moral manifesto: "Either you leave this room or I. I will not tolerate such behaviour." He earned the respect of his fellow students from that very moment. His spiritual influence on them was significant. His personal conduct was exemplary during his college career; but Ward was human, and on his last day at College, he slipped. He arrived late for assembly. The master seeing his embarrassment assured him: "it's alright Ward, you have never broken a rule." Mr. Ward was founder of The Mico Debating Society, before graduating in 1900 as THE HONOURS MAN OF THE YEAR.

From 1900-1910 Ebenezer School, south Manchester was the venue from which he was to make his debut on the educational arena. This school under his administration was the cream of the elementary schools of the day. It was an outstanding educational centre more like our modern Comprehensive Secondary school. Students from neighbouring parishes sought residence in the area to gain admission to this school in which emphasis was placed on a firm christian foundation. The headmaster was one with his staff and they worked together in Christian Unity. It was a team that demanded and achieved excellence. There was an atmosphere of intellectual stimulus and ferment, yet the physical development of the individual was not neglected. Henry Ward played at cricket with his boys. He was then as he is now, a keen cricketer. He is batting a MAGNIFICENT INNINGS. The Inspector of Schools hailed the headmaster as a perfectionist and the academic achievement of the school gave evidence of this. In the Pupil Teachers' Examination in one year all the top places in the island were awarded to this Manchester School. In the Third Year Pupil Teachers Division Ebenezer was first. In the Third Year Volunteers Division Ebenezer was first. In the Second Year Volunteers Division Ebenezer was first. In the First Year Division Ebenezer was first.

By the end of the first decade of this century the name Henry Ward was known and respected not only in South Manchester, but had gained island wide recognition. It was already a name to reckon with. The teaching fraternity of 1910, in admiration and recognition of the work and worth of a fellow teacher, and confident in his ability of leadership, voted Mr. Ward at the age of 31, President of the Jamaica Union of Teachers.

"Oh to be nothing, only  
An empty vessel for the master's use."

An empty vessel, Henry Ward grew fuller in proportion as he spent himself. A devout young man, he kept fresh in his mind the example set by his mother a deeply christian woman and the influence of the village church. It was however, in an Evangelistic Crusade of Christian Workers in The Manchester Parish Church that he made his full commitment to Christ. The words which brought him home and to his knees were:

"Lest while I preach to others  
I myself be a cast-away."



It is difficult to separate Mr. Ward the teacher from Rev. Ward the minister. In the earlier part of his career he was first and foremost a teacher, a teacher by profession while preaching was his pastime. The order was to be reversed, however, as he decided at the age of 32, while still in his prime, that preaching would be his vocation. He was called to Minister. He committed himself wholly and irrevocably to the pulpit. There was hardly a period of transition. From 1911-1913 Mr. Ward was a student of the Woodlands Theological College in South Manchester. He was granted the singular privilege of carrying out his duties as President of the Jamaica Union of Teachers, during his first year as a student of the seminary. In the principal of that institution, Rev. Robert Johnstone, the young minister saw a neat, generous considerate man, "the majesty of godness."

In 1916 he was ordained as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church. In this memorable year 1916. The Foreign Mission Committee of the Church of Scotland invited Rev. Ward to fill the position of the Teacher Training Department of the Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar, South. Nigeria, West Africa. The reward for service was the privilege to serve in a higher and wider capacity. The humble beginnings of teaching and preaching at Guy's Hill, which sprouted at Mico and sustained steady growth at Ebenezer, blossomed at Calabar, West Africa where he was to serve as Educational Missionary 1916-1923. Associated with the Rev. Ward on this African Mission were the late ministers Hart, Foster, Sinclair, and his life-long friend Mr. F. E. Jones. Mr. Ward would not consider his mission fulfilled with the mere administration of a Teachers' College. What afforded him the greatest satisfaction was the Restoration of The Church at Ichi, and his years of ministering there. The small congregation of 50 faithful souls in a dilapidated building received a new lease on life. Henry Ward, planner and builder, was at work. The church was built and enlarged 7 times and the membership grew from 50 to 800. Rev. Ward recalls with emotion the contribution of his successor the late F. A. Foster, father of the cricketer.

Mr. Ward is an enthusiast of African affairs being expert on Africa during the first quarter of this century, and following very closely current events in this country. He made Jamaicans Africa-conscious, as he taught the dignity of the black man. He himself is the Quintessence of Dignity. Indeed he would be considered Jamaica's Ambassador to Africa in the days when formal diplomatic relations were unheard of. Henry Ward lived far in advance of his time.

In 1923 he returned to Jamaica was assigned The Salem Cure of the Presbyterian Church, Islington, St. Mary, where he took up residence with his first wife Iris and his two daughters — Ivy, born in Africa, and Ena the well known musician. His period of ministering here was to last 44 years — 1923-1967 when he retired from active service. It was in the roaring 20's when King Banana reigned in St. Mary. Wealth was easy and vice was rife, and education was at its lowest ebb. Mr. Ward was the man for the moment. There had to be a social, spiritual and intellectual awakening. Idols had to be torn down and attitudes built up. He had much Faith in YOUTH and lay great store in THE YOUTH MOVEMENT. "The spiritual foundation is everything. Everything must be built on that, else it crumbles." Fresh from his African experience and keeping fresh in his mind his earliest resolve, he dedicated himself to the service of this rural community. "The empty vessel" was brimming over with energy, and every one caught his enthusiasm. This section of St. Mary became education-conscious, and the Salem Youth Movement 1930-1940 brought the spiritual awakening. Rev. Ward himself has attributed his long and continuous "youthfulness" to his association and deep involvement with young people.

This period 1923-1967 might well be called The Golden Age of Henry Ward. From Salem he ministered to the Castleton, Hampstead, Rose Bank, Zion Hill Presbyterian Churches. He built The Salem Presbyterian Church in 1932 at the cost of 3,000 pounds Sterling (\$6,000) a handsome sum in those days. There it stands, a beacon on a hill, a substantial stone structure, part and parcel of the earth around it, symbol of the work and worth of this remarkable man. He was 4 times Moderator of The Presbyterian Church of Jamaica — 1937, 1948, 1957, 1958, the first moderator of The United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman 1965-1966, and Chairman of The General Board of the Presbyterian Church 1951. Rev. Ward has had a reputation for the building of churches. In addition to The Church at Ichi and the church at Salem, he was involved from the early planning stage with the building of Webster Memorial Church and the Spaldings United Church.

A Marriage Officer, the reverend gentleman has performed a thousand and one marriage ceremonies in his day; but none so significant as the UNION of the Congregational Church and the Presbyterian Church to form the UNITED CHURCH OF JAMAICA AND GRAND CAYMAN 1965, a ceremony witnessed by no lesser personage than the late Sir Francis Ibiem of Nigeria, a past student of Mr. Ward's. This in itself was a significant event. This dignitary attested to his strong influence on South Nigeria, and quoting directly from his former principal, placed on record the Rev. Ward's contempt for "petty mortal with his temporary authority who abrogates and takes unto himself powers that even the master never uses."

Consistent with his belief in the development of the whole man, Mr. Ward dedicated himself to the cause of education in Jamaica. He is one of the foremost educators of our time. His mission of Buildings and Reconstruction was not confined to the church. He rescued from oblivion and placed on the educational map Water Valley School situated among the hills of St. Mary, eight miles equidistant from Port Maria, Highgate and Annotto Bay. This school, caught in the doldrums of 1924 had an enrollment of less than 30 students, and failing to make the quorum, was to be struck from the register of the Ministry of Education. Mr. Ward intervened, then under his management, and with a succession of dedicated teachers, Water Valley School is not only still existing, but has grown to an enrollment of over 800 in the Water Valley All Age School, and almost 1,000 in The Water Valley Secondary School. Thanks to the rescue operation of a man of faith, of foresight and insight. This school by 1938 was like a Comprehensive School. It had an Extension Garden personally supervised by the minister. There were an Animal Rearing Project, A Craft Centre and a Drama Society. In 1938 the Extension Garden was rated best in the Island.

They have often used the word visionary to describe Rev. Ward. Truly, he has had his dreams and seen his visions, but there has been enough of the Practical Man in him to make his dreams a reality. The reverend gentleman dreamed and in his dream he saw a land mark on the edge of a semi-wilderness on the outskirts of the city. It was a centre of light and learning, a centre for secondary education of Jamaican Youth. Thus the idea of Meadowbrook High School was born. "An enterprising spirit lies on his corporal frame" and he would not rest until this dream became a reality. The school was opened in September 1958 with an enrollment of 25. With a second shift in 1978, the enrollment approximates 1,000. Meadowbrook High School is the brain-child of Mr. Ward. He is one of its founders and the first Chairman of the Board of Gover-

nors 1959-1969. He is also associated with the founding of yet another centre of learning — the Cayman High School.

Mr. Ward's involvement in education is both intensive and extensive. He was Chairman of the West St. Mary School Board 1940-1955, and was Manager for Water Valley, Hillside and Rose Bank Schools in that zone. He was a member of the Board of Education for 25 years, and convener of The Education Committee 1942. He represented Jamaica at the International Seminar on Education and Social Contracts at Yale University 1940.

In 1962 Mr. Ward married a teacher, Eva Amanda nee Brown who was to be of invaluable assistance to his work as an educator. He is a teacher by profession, a minister by vocation, but **agriculture** is his burning passion. Henry Ward is a man of the earth, earthy. With his **head** in the air, he has his feet firmly planted in the earth. He loves the earth, the good earth, the good Jamaican earth and St. Mary's fertile clayey loam satisfied this burning passion. With his own hands he tilled the soil. He was a practising farmer, planter, agriculturist, who made a vital contribution to agriculture on the local, parochial as well as national level. He has a scientific turn of mind and showed interest in research. His experimental plots, records, reports, books, findings, experience, were all placed at the disposal of the ordinary man. He was over and over again the teacher — instructing, informing, guiding, sharing, participating with the community. For nearly half a century this versatile man was undisputed Agricultural Extension Officer without portfolio. He formed the Islington Credit Union for the benefit of the small farmers; initiated the Islington Tomato Growers Co-operative; pioneered Onion Growing in Jamaica. A banana grower, in 1940 he became Director of the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association, and in 1951 was nominated Director of the All Island Banana Growers' Association. In fact, his involvement in agriculture dates back to the year 1922 when he founded The School of Agriculture in Calabar, South Nigeria before returning to his native Jamaica.

He never looked back. Once he set his face towards the Manse, going up the hill with measured stately tread, walking in a perfectly straight line, the minister never looked back. You must run to catch up with him. This has been a most admirable trait in his character. Once he committed himself to a task he never turned back, but would see it through to its successful termination. Whatever he did, "he did with his might."

To say that Rev. Ward was teacher, preacher, farmer, is to say that he was people-oriented. He was a Social Worker. Taking into account the time-span of his active ministry in St. Mary 1923-1967, taking into account the area in which he served, his role as liaison between the St. Marian plantocracy and the vast proportion of the underprivileged was invaluable. He could not be accredited with having established an egalitarian society, but he strove to make the privileged conscious of the needs of and their responsibility toward their fellowmen. Thus one of Jamaica's first Basic Schools, was started in the area, as well as a Community Training Centre where various crafts were taught to girls and unemployed mothers. A Benevolent Society was instituted.

The Nutfield Land Settlement, and the Nutfield Housing Scheme one of the earliest schemes of its type in Jamaica became a reality, through the untiring effort of Mr. Ward, his wide community outreach, and the individual contacts he endeavoured to make at all levels.

The minister must be involved in every phase of community activity and as politics touches the life of every individual closely, the minister could not avoid politics. Rev. Ward was an active politician deploring those who were opportunists and self seekers. But his church was always first. He was a Lay Magistrate (1933) and for a short period, member of the Parochial Board now Parish Council. He however declined nomination to the Legislative Council, since in his opinion his acceptance would mean neglecting the church. Himself, alive and alert, he considered it his duty to open the eyes of a sleeping public, stimulate dormant minds and awaken public conscience. This he did boldly, fearlessly, persistently from the platform, from the pulpit and from the columns of the leading cartels of the day. His utterances were prophetic. He was a man who lived far in advance of his time. As a journalist his favourite theme was Education. Education he said was not for the privileged few. Every child has a right to a proper education. He loudly condemned discrimination in this area and warned Jamaica "If you sow the wind you will reap the whirlwind." Rev. Ward was the earliest exponent of the Shift System in our schools as early as the mid 1940's, to ensure more economical use of existing school space. He always favoured compulsory education. The increasing birth rate he wrote is a luxury Jamaica can ill afford, and advocated the teaching of Sex Education in Schools by select persons trained for the purpose.

Reading — A priority subject — was a theme which occupied his mind and his pen. He dared much, he demanded much, he accomplished much. He set a high standard. His motto, THE UTMOST FOR THE HIGHEST; His favourite poem, EX-CELSIOR, his favourite bird, THE EAGLE; his creed, Man was made to soar. The venerable centenarian laughs. The reserved, controlled laughter of the 50's, becomes a spontaneous outburst at 100. "If you are going to live long, you had better laugh." Henry Ward laughs. He has modelled his life on Jesus Christ and found satisfaction. He is happy, his FAITH IN GOD unshaken. The empty vessel dedicated for the Master's use, felt the power of Christ working through it and found fullness, fulfilment and acknowledgement:

In 1963 he was given THE SPECIAL MERIT AWARD FOR GOOD HUMAN RELATIONSHIP by the Jaycees of St. Mary.

In 1972: THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD by The Kiwanis of St. Mary.

In 1972: THE ORDER OF DISTINCTION was bestowed on him by a grateful government.

In 1975: THE WARD SCHOLARSHIP was established by The Jamaica Banana Producers' Association.

In 1978: THE HENRY WARD SCHOLARSHIP tenable at Gordon Cornwall Theological Seminary.

In 1978: CERTIFICATE OF HONOUR was given him for meritorious service in the field of education in Jamaica, by the Jamaica Catholic Education Association.

In 1979, on the threshold of his 100th year, the Mico Old Students' Association cited him for living up to the highest ideals of his Alma Mater and bestowed on him the MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD.

He was a MAN; a veritable TRITON.

"He was one of those persons of the great virtue these islands ever produced." Indeed,

"A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS" (Bolt)



With the  
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of



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