

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Caribbean Peoples Flag hoisted by Marcus Garvey's son

Dr Julius W Garvey, son of Mosiah Marcus Garvey, great grandson of enslaved Africans, hoisted the Global Caribbean Peoples Flag innovated by Austin H Tuitt, founder and president of the Global Caribbean Representation, at the Mahalia Jackson School Auditorium in Brooklyn in May 2009.

Dr. Garvey's father was a Jamaican who brought the rallying cry of black pride and solidarity to the United States in 1916 through the establishment of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) to advance all black people economically, by establishing black-run businesses. Dr Garvey hoisted the flag's as the audience smiled broadly at Brother Tuitt and his honoring of Perpetual Motherhood.

"The Global Caribbean Representation emerges from the grounds that weave a Caribbean cultural fabric by thread of humanity, many were adversely removed from their motherland," said Brother Tuitt.

The flag, in contrasting vertical royal blue and process blue colors, is divided in 2, embedded with a flying white dove surrounded by 2 perspective yellow ochre arches and 27 stars, and the inscription, *By Our People's Will From Grass Roots Up*.

Phyllis Phill-Martin, Esther Sebro, Marvin Dr Witty Carter, Orisha John's spectacular solo and Calypso renditions captivated the audience. Tamika Phill entertained the audience with her spiritual dance.

Below, Professor Safiya Bamidele's Tribute to Motherhood and right, Tamika Phill dances.



Adlin Boyd-Douglas, who is 95, was awarded the Perpetual Mother at the inauguration, "I cannot but thank you for this great honor," she said.

She arrived in New York City one week before her 31st birthday, from the village of Carron Hall, St. Mary, Jamaica — known for its outstanding boarding school and day school for girls from Jamaica and the Caribbean.

She was active in her church life in Jamaica. Her commitment to serving God's children travelled with her to New York City where her first church home was City Tabernacle Church of Seventh-Day Adventists in Manhattan. She was one of the church's charter members, first sabbath school superintendent (5 years), associate superintendent (for 29 years until the age of 95), church clerk (3 years), deaconess (12 years), and she relinquished the position only when she was made elder — a role she savored for 10 years under 4 pastors. For almost 3 decades, she worked as an assistant in the



SOCIAL JUSTICE



church's Treasury Department. She supervised the church's evangelism and community outreach for 2 decades. With her love of children, she was a mover and shaker in Vacation Bible School for over 20 years.

Sister Douglas became Elder Douglas. Her current service as Elder Emeritus has led to many letters from her church and nonchurch children—

thanking her for soothing skinned knees—physically, spiritually and emotionally. Every church is a microcosm of personalities with differences of opinion prevailing. Some leave the church when the going gets rough and feelings get hurt, others stay and soothe healing hearts. For Elder Emeritus "Perpetual motherhood means consistently soothing

hurt feelings, showing others how to turn life's twists and turns into stepping stones," said Dr Susanna J Dodgson.

Her counsel and advice is constantly sought and valued even though she no longer holds elected office in the church. She is the oldest and longest-serving member of the Riverdale Avenue Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Yonkers, New York.

By Lookman Sulaimon MJ

Mr Sulaimon is the Principal in the Lookman Group, and is Managing Editor Emeritus of MJoTA. He can be reached at lookman@optonline.net and 1-718-484-0866.

Above, Brother Austin Tuitt introduced GCR Perpetual Motherhood recipient, Ms Adlin Boyd-Douglas. Right, Dr Garvey hoists the Global Caribbean Peoples Flag; Below, from right, Dr Mohammed Nurhusein, Mrs Zainab Wai-Lansana, Mr Sidique Wai, Dr Gaston Valcin, Mr Karl Cohen, author, Mr Spencer Chiimbwe.

