

RAFFA NEWS Spring edition 2017



Welcome to the spring edition of RAFFA News 2017. This newsletter has been designed to keep you updated about the various projects and activities that RAFFA has been involved with; but also to give you a platform to share information about the various social action initiatives taking place on a national level.

RAFFA is for *social action* but what does that mean?

Today, ‘social action’ has come to mean different things to different people, For RAFFA, our overall vision is to ‘**Serve communities around the world,**’ this statement of social action goes hand in hand with COGOP’s global mission of evangelism and out-reach and can be seen as the coming together of both faith and works. The unwillingness to see injustice and lack within a society and do nothing, and this should be the natural attitude of the church, as it shows a practical love and commitment to the places in which we live.

Faith based social action happens when people of faith work together, often with others outside their faith community, in order to achieve real and positive change within their local community, or in wider society. It springs from the application of spiritual principles, for the betterment of society and the improvement of people’s lives.

In this edition I will highlight just some of the projects that RAFFA has supported so far this year, and will also provide you with opportunities to get involved with national initiatives.

RAFFA SUPPORTS THE REACH SOCIETY 2017 CAREERS CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



On 4th April 2017 the Reach Society put on the 6th Annual Careers Conference for young people at the Royal National Hotel in London. The event was attended by hundreds of young people who were able to access career opportunities and information.

The Reach Society is a social enterprise that encourages, motivates and inspires black boys and young Black men to realise their potential and make viable transitions into adult life.

RAFFA has supported the Reach Society over the years and more recently helped with the collection of the data for the Council of Leaders (COL) data questionnaire. In 2015 the COL conducted its first attitudinal survey of the British Black Community (BBC). This is now the third ‘Wave’ of surveys that seeks to discover how African and Caribbean people feel about certain socio-economic aspects of their lives. **The Reach Society recently received the Queen’s Award for Voluntary service**, a well-deserved national recognition.



RAFFA will present an updated report at the 4TH annual COL (Council of Leaders) Leadership conference on 24th June 2017 where the focus will be on the group’s priorities – The Social Skills of Young People.

MOBILE BLOOD COLLECTION UNIT FOR GRENADA



Global Diaspora Director, Rudi Page with Samuel Sandy, Acting High Commissioner, Grenada supported by Claude Sylvester, Grenada Voluntary Hospital Committee, receives the keys from Gail Mifflin, Medical and Research Director, NHS Blood & Transplant.

This is the 3rd Mobile Blood Collection Unit for the Caribbean Region facilitated by Diaspora-led RAFFA International Development Agency

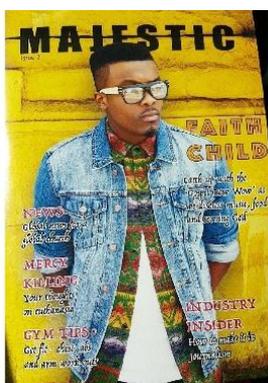
RAFFA SUPPORTS LOCAL AUTHORITY AND CCG TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH IN YOUNG PEOPLE

It has been reported that 70% of children and young people who experience a mental health problem have not had appropriate interventions at a sufficiently early age. The emotional wellbeing of children is just as important as their physical health. Good mental health allows children and young people to develop the resilience to cope with whatever life throws at them and grow into well-rounded, healthy adults



RAFFA has recently provided support to the CCG and a Local Authority steering group to address concerns around the required support for young people. They will be establishing a youth forum in an effort to give children and young people a voice. The first meeting for the youth will be held on 27th June 2017. We will provide regular updates as this progresses as we have been able to invite young people from the local churches to become part of the forum.

RAFFA ENDORSES FAITH BASED MAGAZINE SUPPORTING YOUTH CREATIVITY



So what is Majestic? Majestic magazine is the brain child of Jan-Marie Revers who is the daughter of Pastor Gladstone Revers – COGOP Enfield in London.

Jan-Marie describes the magazine as a print and online publication creating a link between Christians and the world while providing a platform which encourages creative and spiritual growth; going beyond the walls of church.

The magazine was launched earlier this year and has recently released its second edition. For more information or to get involved contact jan@majesticmagazine.co.uk

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES WITH RAFFA

If you have any spare time and would like to support worthy causes, or are already involved in Social action then we would like to hear from you. Please send your details to admin@raffa.org.uk

JA55 – CELEBRATING JAMAICANS AT HOME AND ABROAD



This year marks the 55th year of Jamaica independence. The event will be marked by a series of celebrations here in the UK and abroad.

The official joint UK launch of the Jamaica55 celebrations and the Jamaica55 Diaspora Conference took place at the Jamaica high Commission on Thursday 1st June and was hosted by His Excellency Seth George Ramocan, High Commissioner for Jamaica.

The steering committee will be co-chaired by Rudi Page, who is a member of the Economic Growth Council (EGC) Taskforce and Ms Janelle Raeburn, Events Planner, who will co-ordinate activities with the primary purpose of encouraging 2nd, 3rd and 4th generation Jamaica – UK citizens to expand on the legacy built by their parents for the up lifting of the Jamaica – UK community and Jamaica.

The evening at the Jamaica High Commission commenced with an opening prayer by Bishop Llewellyn Graham and was also attended by Bishop Wilton Powell, Rudi Page in his capacity as Co-Chair of the steering committee and Angela Clarke who sits on the Youth and Social Media Sub Committee.



The High Commissioner told participants which included members of the various Sub- Committees which have been established that ‘our mission is to heighten public awareness of the significant achievements of the Jamaican UK community and its outstanding contribution to the United Kingdom. So this year we will celebrate, collaborate and elevate’.

It was also noted that the High Commission will also be working with the Jamaican community during the year, in relation to the organisation of a number of core and endorsed events which will showcase Jamaica’s rich cultural heritage and its influence in the UK.

The Sub- Committees comprise Jamaicans of various backgrounds and experiences, some of whom are first and second generation Jamaicans.

The Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference, will be held from July 23-26, 2017 at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown, Kingston.

