

Addenda: Sept. 26, 2008 from old Christian Standard files 1935-1940 and Jamaica Gleaner archives.

Early years and early Christian influence: Born 1882, Kingston, Jamaica

C. Vincent Hall's father was born in Virginia and his mother in Nassau, Bahamas. Both were of Scottish descent and moved to Jamaica in 1873. The earliest record has C. Vincent Hall, born 1882 in Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies. His father died and his mother married a Methodist minister, William Priestnal, who served the Baptists as a teacher in Calabar College and later became a Congregationalist, even as President of the Executive Council of that denomination. (Christian Standard 8-29-1936) In a directory of preachers (1900 HANDBOOK OF JAMAICA CHURCH AND CLERGY) Priestnal served at: Kingston, Shortwood, and Rosedale with the Congregational Church. Also listed was Neil MacLeod as a Christian Church minister serving King's Gate, New Bethel, Carmel and Halfway Tree

"Brother Neil MacLeod was the connecting link between this phase of the work and the restoration movement that exists in Jamaica today. Sent by the CFBM, he stayed in the home of a family which had *a young son (15-16 years old) whose name was C. Vincent Hall. This boy learned much about the restoration of New Testament Christianity, but as he grew older he was influenced first by the Congregationalists, then baptized by the Baptists.*" *The Church Abroad* pg. 375 Living in the "manse" or parsonage with the Priestnal's he took C. V. under his wing and would "take him on his missionary journeys." (Christian Standard 9-7-1935) (Note: MacLeod graduated from Bethany College in 1896, preached in Ohio and Indiana, married, widower, volunteered for foreign service and was assigned to Jamaica. His sister Florence went with him and served until 1899 to return on furlough, remarried and then returned to the foreign field, but was cut short by Bro. MacLeod's untimely death from fever. Buried by the King's Gate Church. "He was *a respected Jamaican* with influential connections." another report.

"The spirit of restoration was revived when *national*, C. Vincent Hall, returned from the states in 1935..." Horizons Magazine Oct. 1986.

C.V. had great respect for his step father and his influence and became a member of the Congregational Church. There was no profession of faith. No baptism. Just a general happening. Later he is preaching at the Free Methodist Church of England (St. Anne's Parrish) (Referred in some of the recommendations of his Australian lectures), but he became frustrated and disillusioned with the hypocrisy among church leaders who smoked and moderately drank alcoholic beverages which was the common practice of many ministers. When his mother died, he resigned the Methodist Church pulpit, and sailed to America. He became so bitter he claimed to be an atheist, and lived a worldly life throughout his military career. "So after a wild life, part of it as a soldier, he came to fight for that New Testament purity."

College Years

“Brother Hall gives his step father credit for his education.” (Christian Standard 8-29-1936)
And two words described his zeal: “Intensely evangelistic”. Where did the man get his education.? In Jamaica or in England? Did his father tutor him one on one? Did he attend Calabar Baptist College where his dad taught or did he get his education at Oxford, and thus his alumni connection with Howard Carter and the Egyptian expedition? Usually a College graduate starts out as a Lieutenant in the Military (aged 35 at Cambrai), almost automatically. Did he attend officer’s candidate school or was he moved up in ranks automatically because of the extremely high casualty rate in the French trenches of World War I? His psychology, speaking skills, interest in photography, ability to cook for large groups, his respect among Archaeologists and British Generals shows an ability head and shoulders above his peers. Was he educated in Cambridge or the University of London where many Jamaican preachers still send their sons and daughters for an education? This will require further inquiry. He was a world traveler and circled the globe three times by 1935. Or the University of Iowa, where he eventually married one of the professors?

C. Vincent Hall Repents and Returns to Jamaica to Preach the Gospel

He stood in Palestine, the land of Jesus’ ministry and read through the prophets and repented with a deep hearted repentance and promised God that if he was allowed to return to Jamaica he would preach the Gospel even to the death. This promise was precluded by his joining the troops of the USA and fighting in Flanders’ Field, World War I, and receiving serious injuries in battle. He returned to America and was baptized into Christ by Dr. George Truitt, a Baptist minister, and then returned to Jamaica.

He found Jamaica an island nation of 1,000,000 (2 ½ million today 2008) people. 98 ½% black and 18,000 whites ruling the island under the British flag.

The Baptists sought his services. He became the official evangelist for the Baptist Union and preached on sin in high and low places and encouraged souls to return and live for Christ. His fervency earned him a reputation of being “mad”. As if the Apostle Paul was never so accused.

An issue came up concerning saving Calabar Baptist College and at the same time two leading Baptist preachers had an unsavory lawsuit brewing which C.V. felt made evangelism totally ineffective. In scorching words comparing his success in growing churches versus the dwindling influence of the Baptist Church in Jamaica he retorted, “Tell us the secret of your success. Wherever you go the multitudes swarm about you and they turn to the Lord by the hundreds. You preach Baptist Church and fail. I preach Christ and Him crucified and succeed.” He immediately resigned the Baptist Church.

He then turns to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Alexander Paul of the United Society states, “We have no money to carry on the work of the Christian Church.” C.V. plead with him that he would love to preach the Gospel like Neil McLeod. How I love the Christian Church!” Paul retorted, “The people have out grown that idea. They won’t stand for it!” This shows the spiritual decline from 1899 and the 1930’s within the Disciples of Christ movement on the island. In time C.V. will bring about a revival at the Duke Street Christian Church.

Then the Presbyterians sought his services, but his step father, now with on-coming old age influenced his son to work with him in the **Congregational church** and this is when he began his ministry at Brixton Hill Congregational. The only problem was, he was now preaching old fashioned New Testament Christianity with astounding reception.

His reputation was he was “God’s Man” on the island of Jamaica.

C. Vincent Hall In the United States

A turn of events, changed his destiny. Seriously ill from his old war injuries, he sailed to America and was admitted to a hospital, despairing for his very life. I don’t know if he had veteran benefits that brought him back to American hospitals or the medical care in Jamaica wasn’t sufficient to take care of his particular ailments. And to add insult to injury, he received an official notice from the Executive council discharging him from the Congregational denomination and a supposed letter from the Brixton Hill congregation discharging him from being their minister and another was hired in his stead. His letters were never received and the Brixton Hill leaders’ letters were never sent to say otherwise. There was no truth in the congregation rejecting him, but he had no way of knowing. It was stated that this was C. Vincent Hall’s “Gethsemane”, facing death, rejection, and utter despondency. But during his convalescing he did get better, and the 1st Christian Church of Port Arthur, TX received him into their fellowship and ordained him into the Christian ministry. He held revivals in Albuquerque, NM Oct. 25, 1935 and later left for Phoenix, AZ. Then to the Pacific coast and spoke in 11 churches and colleges, including Pacific Bible Seminary, Nov.10-24, 1935. One church in Los Angeles had Luke Elliott as its minister who later joins C.V. in establishing churches and co-founding Jamaica Bible Seminary and Luke becomes the first president. He speaks in 10 other churches including Eugene, Oregon. There were at least 21 congregations and colleges on this tour. In the Sept. 7, 1935 the Christian Church in West Salem, IL sponsored Bro. Hall \$1,000 salary and requested \$2000 more help for other donor churches. And then he returned to Jamaica living at 69 Church St.. in Kingston, Jamaica. And what a reception he received!

C. Vincent Hall and the Church of Christ

Christian Standard Aug. 29, 1936

“I have been talking with God, and I have made up my mind to go to Jamaica and stand alone with God on that island and establish, if God is willing, a church of Christ. I am absolutely penniless and I know that the people are without money to support me, but God has called me and I am going, and if need be die in the cause.” The First Christian Church of Port Arthur (TX) received him, then ordained him. Then came the great morning when driving toward Mocho and his former church on Brixton Hill, he met his former parishioners, happy at seeing him. After the service conducted by his friend and former leading deacon, William Ashley, they marched in a body to the public square, where they invited Lieutenant Hall to speak, as he was not allowed to in the church. After stating, “I have returned to Jamaica to prepare men and women to meet Jesus

Christ,” he explained his changed attitude; that he was not of any denomination, but planned to establish a church of Christ after the New Testament pattern. He invited those who would accept these conditions, publicly confess Christ as the son of God and their personal Saviour and be immersed into Christ in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to become members. He was asked to return. Crowds came. In January 1935, a small shop was cleaned and bread broken for the first time in Mocho...During the next few months there were outstanding results. **Lieutenant Hall personally baptized 485 people**...Now this entire group of **nine churches with about 1,000 members**, all immersed, have joined this church of Christ movement...Brother Hamilton baptized 80. During those first few months Lieutenant Hall established 14 New Testament churches, with expenditure of \$2,500. With \$2,000 he could easily within six months, establish 20 new churches with average of 200 members, these having had some training in denominational churches.”

Kingston, 500 members built a new church building in the heart of the city. This included 45 police officers with Sgt. Major Humphries, the pastor and one of the Island’s best evangelists.

In a month’s time **one of 14 churches** at Whitney Turn built a cottage and booth for meeting.

At May Pen the first service July 26, 1935 had 1,500 attendance.

In these few months there were now **31 churches with over 3,000 members**. 12 had nice buildings and the others met in temporary booths.

P. H. Welshimer’s “**Fact’s Concerning the New Testament Church**” one hundred distributed to denominational leaders led to 52 baptisms.

Baptist Church in Monegue, Jamaica became a church of Christ.

July 1936: 33 added.

Webster Shipping Co. (out of Port Arthur and Pensacola, FL) supplied much materials and supplies for the church buildings.

Christian Standard May 2, 1936

Mount Airy Church mentioned.

Whitney Turn--the church met in a brush arbor.

Clarendon Park (Scott’s Pass)--the brush arbor would seat 500 and it was full to capacity.

An appeal was made to raise \$15 monthly support for David Brown to preach. 7 deacons were selected.

Mocho church of Christ had Mrs. Brown as the organist. The instrument was donated by the Christian Church in Phoenix, AZ.

\$200 given for baptismal pool at Mocho.

Blackwoods church mentioned.

St. Toolis--the land was given to build a Brush arbor. A Day School was begun with 200 children (as it was 4 miles away to the closest school) and Hall baptized an old govt. school teacher whose eyes had given out. He was from Clarendon Park and was to teach the children. His pay was \$20 monthly and he was to use the Brush arbor for a school house.

A witch doctor (Obeahman) was famous at Scott's Pass and was baptized Mar. 15, 1935 and became a new deacon in the church at Clarendon Pass.

Financial needs were \$5,000 yearly as Hall received calls from 25 different places: "Come over and help us." --April 1, 1936.

Christian Standard June 27, 1936

1st Church of Christ, Kingston baptized 27 Easter Sunday

Richmond Park met in a Brush arbor on the hillside. The crowd filled every nook and corner.

Christian Standard Aug. 29, 1936

Jay maca= "island of springs"

Biographical background of C. Vincent Hall recorded in "Early Years".

He was known to be "intensely evangelistic".

On returning to America after the Great War he was baptized by Dr. George Truitt, a Baptist minister.

J.L. Hamilton, an Episcopal at Chappelton, had been independent for 20 years and had **9 churches and 1,000 members join this church of Christ movement.** Hamilton baptized 80, then he baptized 30 more.

In the first few months **Hall established 14 N.T. Churches** and had a goal to establish 20 more.

During these few months Hall organized 31 churches with over 3,000 members.

Denominations took down their names and replaced them with Church of Christ. Some left fine church buldings and met in booths.

The worldly were not allowed into the membership.

Biggest building projects were Tin Roofs for the Arbor Churches to keep out the rainy weather.

Christian Standard Apr. 24, 1937

C. V. Hall was now called the "Alexander Campbell" of Jamaica or the "Walter Scott" of Jamaica, as to being an evangelist winning souls and preaching Christian Living.

17 UCMS churches are now in fellowship with Hall.

A wealthy business man provided a baptismal pool, as denominational folk sought to prevent baptisms in the community. (Jamaica Gleaner reported much problem of Hall fouling the public waters with all these baptisms, and "letters to the editor" continued to complain. The baptistery became a simple solution).

1,000 converted since Jan. 1, 1937 and expects 500 more.

The greatest need of the churches now were teachers. There was a shortage of teachers.

Hall emphasized Doctrinal purity! "Speaking in tongues" he refused to countenance. "Ecclesiastical setups" he used P. H. Welshimer's tract to diffuse. He was laboring without a salary. Buildings were there with lots of posts, but these needed lumber and roofs. Still there was the cry for "more teachers".

The chairman of the board at Coleman, TX personally provided the \$25.72 to roof the church at Richmond Park.

At Mt. Pleasant, Hall stood in the beating rain, soaked to the skin. There were 21 additions. He slept on some boards with a shawl. (He was probably hardened from his experiences in the Great War in the cold wet trenches of the Somme and Cambrai and Flanders Field in his younger years.)

He put his “soldier’s bonus” in for church support. This may have been his disability pay from the service.

Christian Standard May 8, 1937

E.A Watts reports spending a month in Jamaica “I met and talked with a number of the high officials of the Government, as well as the leading police officers, the leading business men, citizens of the island and a multitude of the common people, who with one accord pay tribute to his outstanding character and his Christ like life. They say his work is the most amazing work ever seen in Jamaica.”

There are eleven congregations with a total of 1,500 members.

Brother Hall has baptized 1,234; there were 266 previously baptized, who came out of denominationalism.

Four church buildings are completed and 3 uncompleted.

The Pruning: “Four men—Hamilton, Brown, Christian and Humphries—who for a short time worked with Brother Hall, are no longer connected with the church of Christ in Jamaica. These men, during Brother Hall’s trip to America, introduced Pentecostal Church of god teachings and practices to the church of Christ, such as fast days, speaking in tongues, baptism of the Holy Spirit, and so forth. They taught, as they teach now, that the Lord’s Supper should not be observed every Lord’s Day...he immediately severed all relationship with these men...Let this be known to the entire brotherhood in America.”

Brother Hall and the U.C.M.S.: “Wednesday, March 17 (1937) is the Duke Street Church in Kingston, the ministers and leaders of seventeen churches of the above mentioned association stated that Brother Hall had accomplished more in eighteen months than all their churches had in the past ten years.” They were to cut themselves off from all human dictation and work on the New Testament platform for the Restoration of New Testament Christianity. Only two eventually did: Oswald Penso, Duke Street Church 500 strong and Horace Wainwright Dalas district, 250 strong. The properties belonged to the U.C.M.S. “Hall refused to work with ‘The Association of Christian Churches,’ which is governed by ‘The Central Committee,’ a denominational set-up.”

At present 27 new places are pleading for a “church of Christ”.

“This makes a total of 2,250 standing for the New Testament. Brother Hall baptized 63 at Clarendon Park, in the pool provided by Mr. Ernest Wilson, on his beautiful lawn; 61 at Mocho, and 62 at Richmond-Manchester, the baby church. Three large baptismal services await Brother Hall at Richmond, Richmond Park, Mount Pleasant. Baptistries have been completed at Mocho, Richmond, Mount Pleasant and Richmond Park. (April 14, 1937)

Christian Standard May 29, 1937

There were 63 baptized before a crowd of 780, with Brother Watts preaching. Over 1,000 have made the good confession since Jan. 9, 1937, and over 300 have been baptized. Watts preached to thousands and has had over 500 come forward. Over 100 came for baptism on Easter morning at sunrise at Mocho. About 50 at 11 a.m. baptized at Richmond.

May 8, 1937, Bro. Wainwright baptized 27 couple weeks ago. There was a crowd of over 1,000.

Bro. Penso baptized 22 Wednesday night.

Last week, Hall baptized 17 at Richmond in Manchester.

At Richmond Park, 27 stepped out for Christ and Hall was to baptized 30-40 tomorrow.

“If I could hold an evangelistic meeting for at least four weeks in each place, I am convinced that we could baptize at least 1,000 souls in each place.”

“There have been over 1,000 conversions in the churches since the first of the year. Over 200 have made the confession in the two weeks I have been speaking...I am expecting from 300-500 more in the next two weeks.” --E. A. Watts, March. 25, 1937.

“The Duke Street Christian Church, the leading church of Christ in Jamaica, has abandoned its trend toward Anglicanism in forms and rituals and now has a simple, effective service as is the custom of the New Testament church in America. It is nothing short of a miracle what God has done....January, 38 have been added by baptism, and over 100 have made the good confession, besides over 300 have re-consecrated their lives to Christ and pledge to have fellowship with the church. --Bro. Penso

“Jamaica for Jesus” is our slogan. In the last 18 months Hall established nearly a dozen New Testament churches.

Christian Standard July 3, 1937

This records his 2nd most recent trip to America. He arrived Dec. 31, 1936 to Jamaica with 27 new places pleading for a Church of Christ.

Expenses were \$75 monthly for a salary for Hall; \$50 for a car and \$80 for the native workers.

Mar. 21, 1937 there were 63 baptisms and 780 attended the services.

Since Jan. 9, 1937 there were 1,000 who made the good confession and 300 baptized.

There were 100 for baptism at Mocho for Easter Sunday.

Another 50 for Richmond in Manchester with a note that it was our last church built.

Church bell was taken from Mocho weighing 500 lbs. And donated by Springfield, OH, and Mocho received a new bell that weighed 2,500 lbs, from a black Baptist Church at Port Arthur, TX with a note that it arrived yesterday from the Webster Steamship lines prepaid.

Clifton notes that May 8, 1937 there were 27 baptized at Friendship Brook, with a crowd of 1,000.

Bro. Penso baptized 22 Wed. night and he is being persecuted beyond expectation.

Baptized another 17 at Richmond.

Richmond Park expects another 30-40 baptisms.

Christian Standard Sept. 3, 1938

Luke Elliott reports 7 congregations leave denominationalism (Pentecostal-Baptist) in St. Catherine. C. Leo Battieste, leader encouraged them to become NT. Churches: **Ewarton**, Riversdale, West Prospect, **Macca Tree**, Pedro, Wakesfield and Red Hills. All have buildings. **Need Baptisteries, Bibles and Bells!**

Wanstead: a Congregational leader came to Hall asking help to start a church of Christ.

A letter from Petersfield asking for more teaching. From July 4-Aug. 4, 1938 196 made the good confession, 8 were baptized and 3,410 people preached to. Battieste reports 20 baptisms and 23 confessions for a total of 247. 196 had been previously immersed for remission of sins and made the confession coming out of denominationalism into the liberty that is in Christ and His church.

Macca Tree became a church of Christ July 25, 1938.

C. V. Hall is in Forrest City, Ark, Aug. 8, 1938 speaking on "Egypt As I Saw it" and "A Peep into King Tut's Tomb"

He speaks at the Wynn Church Aug. 10, 1938. The lecture on Jamaica had already been given, "Taking Jamaica for Christ". With this comment on Hall, "lecturer...build faith in God's divinely inspired Word."

Christian Standard Jan. 29, 1938

C. Vincent Hall speaks of Jamaica in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Tennessee areas.

Feb. 20, 1938 Williamsville, IL

Feb. 21, 1938 Springfield, IL

St. Joseph, IL

South Bend, IN

Terre Haute, IN

Mar. 13, 1938 Montpelier, OH.

Mar. 19, 1938 "Luke Elliott is being successful in getting support that he may go out."

"For two hours or more each evening he held the audience spell bound by his interesting story of how he was **converted from an atheist to be a laborer in the harvest** for souls." Jan 23, 1938

"His pictures and lectures of his travels through Egypt are awe inspiring and marvelous." --South Bend, IN

Aug. 20, 1939 Vestaburg, MI; Michigan & Ohio area.

Christian Standard Oct. 27, 1939

Standard donates \$100 to the cause of Christ in Jamaica supporting Hall's work.

Christian Standard Index (ref. Dr. Rick Cherok) I have the following entries under the subject heading **“Hall, C. Vincent.” I hope this will be helpful.**

- Myers, L. L., Remarkable Movement to the New Testament Church in Jamaica [picture]. 1935 7 S:861
- Jamaica Creates a Spiritual Reaction [editorial]. 1935 9 N:1048.
- Pacific Coast Churches Hear of Jamaica Work. 1935 9 N:1083.
- Lieutenant Hall Returns [editorial].
- A Hundred Additions in Jamaica [editorial with letter by C. V. Hall]. 1936 11 JI:664.
- Lower, Mrs. E. A., Jamaica for Jesus [picture]. 1936 29 Ag:837.
- Inspiring Development in Jamaica [picture]. 1937 24 Ap:341-342.
- The Jamaica Opportunity [editorial]. 1937 8 My:439.
- Keep Lieutenant Hall Supplied [editorial]. 22 My:439.
- Lower, Mrs. E. A., Spreading the Light: The Negro in Jamaica, Africa, the United States [picture]. 1937 29 My:469-470.
- Lieutenant Hall Available [editorial]. 1937 19 Je:536.
- Edwards, E. A., The Readers’ Forum (Dissent from Jamaica). 1937 19 Je:556.
- Lieutenant Hall is Ready [editorial]. 1937 3 JI:584.
- Make Dates for Lieut. C. Vincent Hall. 1937 17 JI:649.
- Brother Hall is Telling the Great Story [editorial]. 1937 24 JI:656.
- Hear about Jamaica [editorial]. 1938 29 Ja:100.
- Financial Report Coming [editorial]. 1938 19 F:172.
- Imported and Imparted [editorial]. 1938 26 F:196.
- An Inspiring Message [editorial]. 1938 5 Mr:220.
- Probing Deep [editorial]. 1938 12 Mr:244.
- Another Mission Field [editorial]. 1938 19 Mr:268.
- Aiems, Mrs. R., The Readers’ Forum (The Touch of the Master’s Hand). 1938 19 Mr:288.
- Sharp, T. P., Lieutenant Hall Continues His Inspiring Addresses. 1938 3 S:854.
- Now in the East [editorial]. 1939 26 Ag:816.
- Time to Pay This Debt [editorial]. 1939 7 O:960.

--Dr. Rick Cherok

