

Rev. Ward, National Hero

Sir: The country as a whole has belittled the calibre of the late Rev. Henry Ward who died very lately at the age of one hundred and two (102). For the work that the Rev. Henry Ward has done to the community of Islington in St. Mary and the nation as a whole, I think it is fitting for him to be made a National Hero.

I stood and saw Nanny and Sam Sharpe made heroes for leading one bloody revolution while the Rev. Henry Ward led a number of successful social and economic revolution for the benefit of this country.

Henry Ward was successful in getting the Water Valley Primary School back on stream after the Government was intended to close it in 1921. He piloted the basic school movement in Jamaica, a major success in social revolution. He was also very instrumental in having Government to buy land and build what is now the Islington Secondary School. The people of Islington in St. Mary can tell how instrumental Rev. Ward was in this, and also the Nutfield Community Centre and Health Centre.

He brings agriculture to the heart of the people in St. Mary by actively participating and giving on the spot training. He was very successful in his religious beliefs.

The consistency of this craft centre at Salem Manse was a testimony to his social life. At Salem he encouraged in the 1960s sisal craft, basket making from bamboo and hook. He was also interested in wicker and straw. A lot of older people today can say they have benefitted from Rev. Henry Ward tuition as a complete social worker.

To mention just a few of the great people in Jamaica who was moulded by the Rev. Henry Ward are: Dennis Forsythe — lecturer, UWI; Nelton Forsythe — Attorney-at-Law; Hopeton Taste — head teacher, Douglas Clarke — educator and

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P.E. Coach (now deceased) and I was also moulded by this great man. I am not great but his life has also moulded me.

Many great people will say I did not call their name, if all names were to be called paper and pen could not be found. I am seeing what move Councillor Rancharan of Islington, who is also one who passed through his hand, will be making to see to it that the St. Mary Parish Council and Government secure some monument in honour of this grand patriot and humanitarian.

The Hon. Alva Ross — then Opposition MP — moved a resolution which was passed in Parliament in 1979 asking Government to name the Islington Secondary School in honour of Rev. Ward — the Henry Ward Secondary School. Although the resolution was seconded by Dudley Thompson, then Minister and chairman of the ruling party, to date there is nothing to show that Government accepted the result of the resolution to name a secondary school after a man who is equally great as Quarrie, or even "Tacky" where the school in Gale, St. Mary got its name.

People are looking to see the result as to who regards the work that such a son does to his native land. If moral service was rewarded in heaven, I am sure Rev. Ward would never be short of a good degree of blessing and a great place in heaven, but this I cannot say as my firm belief is that to receive God's blessing you will have to go the disciples way and be

washed in the blood of the lamb. Will a monument be erected in honour of the late Rev. Henry Ward?

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