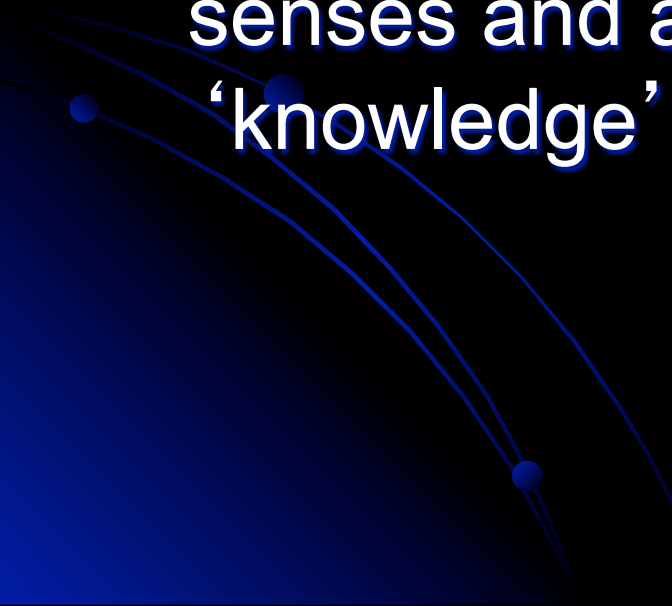


Spiritual Healing—Real Or Imagined

Orville W Taylor PhD

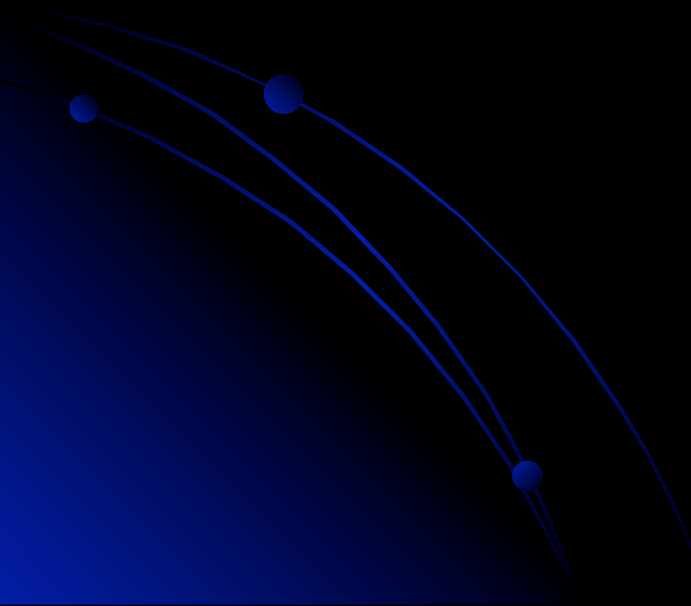


Phenomenology

- Reality doesn't exist
 - Something is real only insofar as it is believed to.
 - Humans are sensory beings: The five senses and any other 'psychic' source of 'knowledge'
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Religious Truths

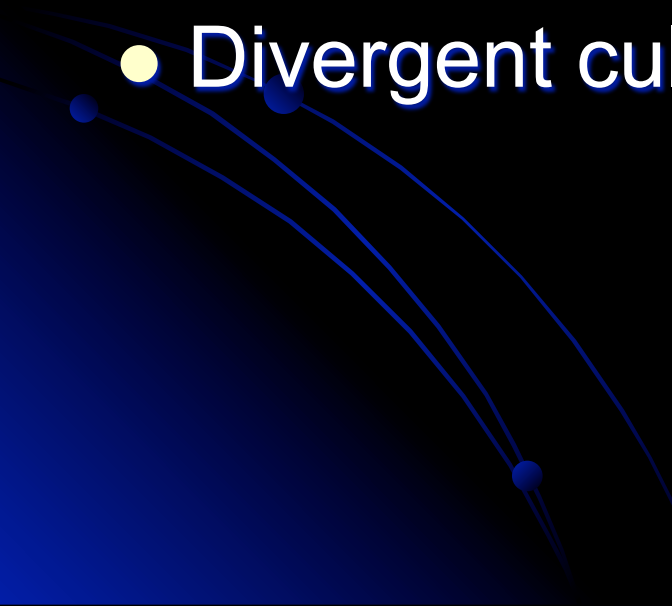
- God; Creation, the Bible.



Healing

- “The process of making or becoming sound or healthy again.”
- Health?: WHO definition “*Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity*”
- **In the context of this presentation; it is the restoration of health via an intervention**

Snapshot of Jamaican Society

- Plantation Heritage; Beckford
 - Plural Society, M.G. Smith, Braithwaite,
 - Historic Divisions along cultural lines.
 - Two to three Jamaicas.
 - Divergent cultures at all levels
- 

Culture always makes sense

- Culture Adaptive. People develop ideas about their environment over time and it keeps them alive.
- Always seek to understand culture before critiquing, debunking or changing it.




Placebo and Psychosomatic

- **Placebo** When individuals are given a non-medicine which they believe contains an active ingredient.
- **Somatization disorder** is a disorder in which a person experiences physical complaints, such as headaches, diarrhea, or premature ejaculation, that do not have a physical cause.

Belief Kills and Cures

- Placebo Effect ranges from 20 to 60 percent in some studies
- Psychosomatic illness
- **Biofeedback –Treatment of Stress**
 - Thermal biofeedback - which measures skin temperature
 - Electromyography - measures muscle tension
 - Neurofeedback - measures brain wave activity
- **THE MATRIX**

Psychological interventions

- Hypnosis
 - Word Therapy
 - Smoking therapy
 - Simple coaching
 - Motivational speeches
- 

Jamaican religions

- SDA 12.0%,
- Pentecostal 11.0%,
- Other Church of God 9.2%,
- Brethren .9%,
- New Testament Church of God 7.2%,
- Moravian .7%
- Baptist 6.7%,
- Church of God in Jamaica 4.8%,
- Church of God of Prophecy 4.5%, Anglican 2.8%, United Church 2.1%, Methodist 1.6%, Revived 1.4%,), Roman Catholic 2.2%, Jehovah's Witness 1.9%, Rastafarian 1.1%, other 6.5%, none 21.3%, unspecified 2.3%

Religion Correlates with Social class

- Faith and education/social class are negatively correlated
- SDA's have increased in their middle class membership
- Catholics are shrinking
- Pentecostals and 'others' rising
- Non traditional Churches

‘Spiritual Healing’ and Social Class

- The legacy of the plantation is still with us. And it pervades the lower classes. **THE MONKEY?**
- Black people are very "spiritual" and the belief in duppies and Obeah still persists. Depending on how the questions are couched, up to 80 percent of Jamaicans admit that they believe that ‘it deh’. However, the quick disclaimer usually comes after, ‘but mi no dweet’ ‘Jezaz a my Obeahman’
- **All Strata ‘nominally’ disapprove of Obeah**
- **Obeah, Pukumina, Revivalism and Myal are different**

Demographics of the Spiritual Healers,/Healed

- Any individual when desperate, will seek desperate measures, regardless of class
- However, given the profiles of the Jamaican non-traditional religions, there is greater admission in the normal discourse
- Nonetheless, at least **50 Percent** of Jamaicans are exposed to spiritual healing of some sort.
- Even violent criminals are '**Religious**'

Why does spiritual healing persist?

- Science incomplete
- Medical doctors are often not scientists themselves
- The dynamics of human genetic diversity prevent absolute 100 percent diagnosis and cure.
- Viruses make mockery of modern medicine

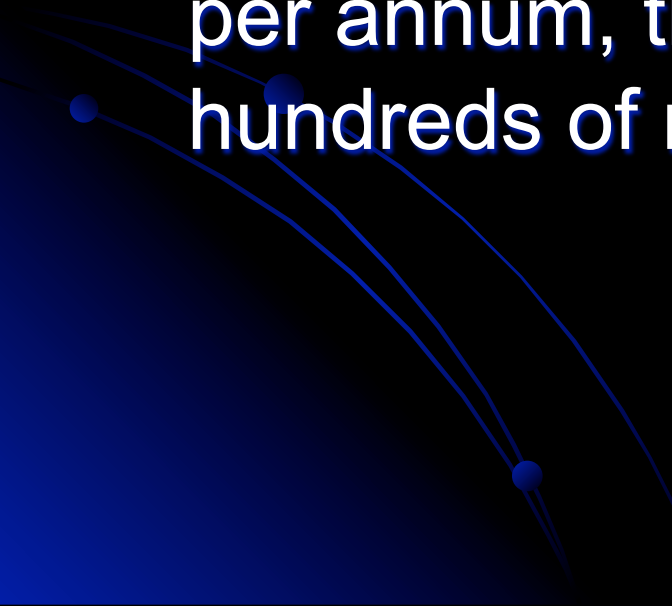
Nexus Between tradition and Modern Healing

- **Haiti Model;** Traditional healers also use medicines and herbs. These are older than modern medicine and are deeply entrenched
- Modern Medicine has validated much of the tradition even here in Jamaica
- Conflicts will arise when modern attempts to disrespect the traditional
- In Jamaica 'spirituals' oftentimes interfere with diagnoses

Health expenditure in Jamaica

- Jamaica is a health enigma
- Average Life Expectancy **74 years**
- Low infant mortality **14.4**, per 1,000 live births. LAC15 and MIC's 14
- < 5 mortality **16.8/ 1,000** live births, LAC **17.62**, LAC
- Total Health Expenditure (WHO says US \$34 pa needed
- **YET Health expenditure is 5 % GDP, world rank 139, LAC 8%. 270.38 in 2011**, as compared to the regional average of **728.5**, and the average for **Upper middle income** countries of **445.86**.
- **In 2011 70.95** of households finance THE;

Spending on Traditional Spiritual?/

- Will never be accurately measurable
 - But as many as 20 percent of Jamaicans have accessed a 'reader man'
 - Using a conservative average of \$5000 per annum, the amount could run from hundreds of millions to a billion
- 

The Threat

- HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria pose major health challenges in many countries. A high prevalence of HIV/AIDS indicates a high burden on the health care system (in terms of infrastructure, staff, and financing needs) (HSAA 2012). **The HIV prevalence percent in Jamaica was as of 2011 1.8** compared with **0.39** in the **Latin America & Caribbean** region and **0.63** across **Upper middle income** countries. **On malaria**, the percent of children sleeping under insecticide treated bed nets in **Jamaica** was compared to an average of in the **Latin America & Caribbean** region and among **Upper middle income** countries in that year.

Chikungdenguebola: The Real Test

- Low Levels of trust of official sources
- Disbelief in Vector ‘Theory’
- Speed of epidemic ‘rubbishes’ mosquito blame
- Admission of ‘no cure’ revalidates the importance of tradition (**Bissi we seh**)
- Evidence of at least a third virus gives support to the scepticism
- People will buy medicines that work

Way Forward

- Do not disregard the traditional
 - R & D into traditional compounds needed
 - Incorporate belief healers into the process
 - Public education regarding modern medicine must not ignore the spiritual intangibles
- 