



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

December 23, 2019

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 19

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

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Christmas Reflection

By the Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield, Deputy General Secretary of the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council

We are invited by the Spirit to pause from the busyness – ‘**the state or condition of having a great deal to do**’ and from the business – ‘**trade considered in terms of its volume or profitability**’ of Christmas and to reflect for a moment on the **heart and artistry of Christmas**. There is the tendency each year for us to pledge not to get trapped in the hyper activities and commerce of Christmas. We vow to do less, spend less, shop less, eat less but at last, sometimes the very pledges we make are broken even before the bells begin to ring and the carols fill the air and the cakes emerge from the ovens.

The **heart** of Christmas is found in the profound presence of God in Jesus Christ - **Immanuel** – God with us. It is the recognition of the tremendous love of God for humanity deeply expressed in the offering of Jesus to dwell among, to become like us – yet without sin- and to die for us so that we may have life eternal. It is to understand and accept this deep love of God for us and to allow that love to call us to devotion and commitment.

What have you done with this love? Have we honored this love especially at Christmas?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer asked a pertinent question, ‘**Who will celebrate Christmas correctly?**’ He gave the poignant answer, ‘*Whoever finally lays down all power, all honor, all reputation, all vanity, all arrogance, all individualism beside the manger*’.

Might there be insight to be gained from Bonhoeffer’s question and answer for us this Christmas? It is beside the manger, an English word which comes from the French ‘manger’ - meaning “to eat” and from the Latin ‘mandere’; meaning “to chew”, we are invited to encounter in a powerful way the release of the self and all that makes us important. It is a call to ponder and to process how we live our life and how we allow God and God’s ways to inform and direct our course. It is a space to chew as we consider the very meaning of our life and how we ought to conduct our activities.



In the midst of the maelstrom of corruption, the uncertainty of some nations’ future, the inhumanity to man and the poverty and suffering of too many in our world, at this Christmas time let us know that we have no power, no honor, no reputation unless we dwell beside the manger and ultimately beneath the Cross of Jesus.

The **artistry** of Christmas speaks to the quality and profoundness that we bring to our understanding and celebration of Christmas. It is beyond frivolity and empty merriment. Rather, it is the engagement of the soul in the recognition of the divine nature of the very God in our midst. It is embedded in the acceptance of the justice of God and living by the principles of God’s commands.

Many this Christmas will be awestruck by the things money can buy and some will be disappointed as expectation will not be met but, let us come to the manger instead. Its humility and lowliness yet power and grace will be sufficient to strengthen our hearts and our resolve to truly celebrate the meaning of Christmas.

May the peace of the Christ Child and the power of the love of God dwell in your heart this Christmas. May you leap with joy and may you in humility share the love of Christ with those whom you meet.



Children and Youth Christmas at Webster Memorial, Robert Young Memorial and Savannah United



At Webster Memorial



At Robert Young Memorial



At Savannah United

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 24 (Tuesday) Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve service - 7:00 pm John Gray Memorial
Joined Christmas Eve service - 6:30 pm Elmslie Memorial /South Sound

December 25. (Wednesday) Christmas Day

Services

7 am - East End/Gun Bay United
 8 am - Robert Young/Savannah United
 8:30 am - William Pouchie Memorial
 9 am - Elmslie Memorial /South Sound, Webster Memorial
 10 am - John Gray Memorial

December 26. (Thursday) Boxing Day

December 29. (Sunday) 1st Sunday after Christmas

Christmas Drama – 6:30 pm East End United Church



-on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am-

December 29: Moderator-Rt. Rev. Dr. Cowans
January 5: Moderator-Rt. Rev. Dr. Cowans
January 12: Rev. Rohan Forrester

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