



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

January 29, 2020

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4

SEASON OF EPIPHANY

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Shaken and/or Unshaken!?

On Tuesday, January 28 our normal, everyday life was suddenly interrupted by a 7.7 magnitude earthquake that shook the western Caribbean (including the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Cuba, the Yucatan-peninsula of Mexico and was felt even in Miami).

While most of us have experienced an earthquake before, it never ceases to be a frightening and unsettling event, mostly because unlike other natural disasters they happen without warning. Further, it is a potent reminder of how tiny and vulnerable we are and how much we have grown to expect normalcy and stability in our daily existence.

Events such as this can cause serious damage to lives and physical structures but they can also bring forth what lies deep within each of us such as anxiety, fear, panic, calmness, trust, helpfulness, etc.

Just like solid, physical structures can crumble and fall, so can we 'collapse' (even if actually unhurt), or we can remain 'standing' (solid and strong) even if otherwise hurt or damaged.

With grateful hearts we give thanks to God who spared the lives of all who have been affected and that there were no significant damages to structures and infrastructures in general. We pray that we may learn from this experience to be more grateful for those around us and for the many things that make up our 'ordinary', everyday life. We pray that we may become people who can say with the psalmist:

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
always ready to help in times of trouble.
- ² So we will not fear when earthquakes come
and the mountains crumble into the sea.
- ³ Let the oceans roar and foam.
Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!
(Psalm 46:1-3 New Living Translation)

Moderator's Message for Women's Fellowship Sunday

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to its Women's Fellowship, which is the longest continuously serving auxiliary, and which, today (January 26, 2020), celebrates over one hundred years of life and service.

Its motto, 'By Love, Serve', has been a source of inspiration and motivation to many, as has been the many acts of grace which the Fellowship demonstrates across the many congregations and their communities.



The women of the John Gray Memorial Church singing on Women's Fellowship Sunday during the service

It is my distinct privilege as Moderator to thank and congratulate you, our most treasured women, for the generations of caring, compassionate service to the Church. By being such a stable, effectively organized movement, you have provided, and continue to provide, a template for conscientious collaboration in God's mission and ministry in the world.

As you know, the year 2020 has been declared in the United Church to be the year of Evangelism. That declaration is beginning to spur its membership in Jamaica and Cayman to more focused commitment to bring the knowledge of the joys of the Christian walk into the lives of whomsoever our paths may cross.

I am assured that your understanding of the variety of ways in which the Gospel of God's love for humanity can transform lives, will continue to direct you to act with increasing evangelistic fervor, stirring in the hearts of your constituents the urgency of the Gospel calls in our times.

May the God who has kept you, prospered you, and blessed your efforts to date continue to hold you in the palm of His hand, guiding your path of dedicated service to the benefit of women, men and children, and all to the Glory of God.

Sincerely,
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans Moderator

The Message of the Women's Fellowship President-General



Once again, we pause to recognize the work of the Women's Fellowship in the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, as we celebrate 28 years of our existence since the Union which made us the Women's Fellowship. Our organization has proven to be a formidable one, as we live out our motto *'By Love Serve'*. Throughout Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, we continue to make our presence felt, as we face the challenges of the day and seek to make a difference in the lives of those with whom we interact.

Our theme for the year is: **"Worship: The Essence of Acknowledging God"** and what better way can we express our worship to God but by being obedient to God's call for us to be true disciples. Our Church has declared this the Year of Evangelism, and in response, each of us is required to do our part to ensure that we bring the Word of God to all with whom we come into contact. We must be bold in proclaiming the Good News to our own family members, neighbours, friends, colleagues and acquaintances.

Already our sisters in the various Councils have begun to put in place plans for training for those who feel inadequate in this area of ministry. The goal is to empower our members to be bold in witnessing to others. Please avail yourselves of these opportunities for training as they present themselves.

The Women's Fellowship is in an ideal position to be evangelists, as in our Fellowships, our programmes focus on outreach ministries. While we provide for their physical needs, we must be more deliberate and intentional in creating the opportunities to feed persons with spiritual nourishment as well. During the course of this week, I urge all Fellowships to reach out to the unsaved and unchurched, and to continue to do so throughout the entire year. It is indeed our Christian duty and responsibility.

John 4:23 says: "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks" (NIVUK). May we be counted among this number.

Pauline Bryan President-General

Worship the Lord

-on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am-
February 2 Mr. John Macmillan
February 9 Mr. Bryan Bothwell

New Council Members

On its first ordinary meeting of 2020 held on Saturday, January 25th the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (CIRMC) welcomed among its members two new representatives from the Savannah United Church, **Mrs. René Barnes and Mr. Edmund King Jr.**

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
ANNUAL BREAKFAST**
February 1, 2020 8:00 am
George Town Yacht Club
Cost: \$25.00



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1. (Saturday)

Women's Fellowship Annual Breakfast – 8:00am - GT Yacht Club
Church School Teachers MAT – 11:00am Council office
YLNE meeting -

February 2. (Sunday) 4th Sunday after Epiphany

February 4. (Tuesday)

Special Meeting of Council – 6:00pm – Council office

February 5. (Wednesday)

Treasurers' Training – 5:30pm – Council office (please, bring logbooks and records for examination)

February 6. (Thursday)

Synod 2021 Planning Committee meeting – 6:00pm – Council office

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