



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

May 6, 2020

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SEASON OF EASTER

Mother's Day Message

by Ms. Angela Martins



During these weeks of being locked down it has been a different time for us as mothers. Nothing seems the same as we knew it. We have struggled to find balance at times. We are mothers working from home, mothers homeschooling our children, women who just became a mother, mothers with young children and without our helpers, mothers who are daughters caring for elderly parents, mothers who are sisters who can only see parents and siblings on video chat, mothers without enough money to buy food, mothers with no transportation, mothers needing to find another place to live. Mothers with nothing but prayer in these dark days of Covid-19.

Someone once said "Mother is a verb. It is something you do. Not just who you are". As I reflect on this I am reminded of 1 Timothy 6:7 and 11.

"⁶But, godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out... ¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness".

During these last 6 weeks of lock down with my 3 adult children, my helper and baby Minjin, her mom Bogi and their Interpreter Otgoo (group from Mongolia) I have learned some lessons as a mother and a friend:

1. Live life with your eyes wide open.

The needs of others are not a project which you can just give some money to and its solved; they are real and oftentimes complex. It was important for me to have patience, to show love and share my **Faith** in the everyday spaces, there was always some need there. I needed to always be alert and looking out to be available to give care. I needed to be selfless at times.

2. Watch out for the vulnerable in every situation.

No matter how well I thought I knew those around me, each one had some kind of hurting. I needed to be intentional in seeing each one through a lens of compassion. I needed to reach out

even when I did not feel like I had it in me to do so. I needed to be gentle in spaces.

3. Recognize that you are not in control.

1 Chronicles 29:11

"Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all".

The Bible calls this God's sovereignty. That means God is the absolute authority in life. God is the ultimate ruler. God is in charge and God is in full control. The Bible teaches us that God is in control of the world. God created the world and all that is in it. God sustains this world by the power of God's Word. I knew that in every corner when I felt stressed, depressed, confused with all the oddness swirling around me I had to let it all go. I had to just believe and hold fast to my faith. That kept me grounded and sane.

4. Appreciate anew the value of the family sitting at the table together for a meal.

1 Corinthians 10:31

"So whether you eat or drink, or whatsoever you do, do it all for the glory of God".

We quickly became One family - me, my children, my helper, and my Mongolian group. Sharing a meal is a symbol of Jesus calling us to remember him and his sacrifice for us through a meal. When we eat together, we commune around His truth. At the table, we shared stories, we listened to each other and, we experienced grace as a result. The New Testament describes this act as 'breaking bread' and invokes a giving and receiving of relationship in simple and unspoken ways. As a new family we have learned so much in big and small ways from Otgoo, Bogi and Baby Minjin. We share a certain softness now arising from the experiences of these Covid-19 days at our dinner table.

It is only through daily prayer, exercising our faith with patience, love, and compassion as mothers will we be able to brave not just Covid-19 days but all our days.



There were other things I learned from a friend who is a mother and grandmother. As she lives alone we spoke most days of the week if only for a WhatsApp 'hello'. These days of social distancing taught me again what it means to be a Friend.

Proverbs 18:24 says

“there are ‘friends’ who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother”.

I learned that we should:

1. Be that friend for all times, not just certain times.

Connection during these COVID-19 days has been so important, the sound of that friend’s voice on a quick call – “How are you?” Sharing stories about her grandchildren, sharing a recipe, dissecting press briefings. It is so much easier to be a friend when you are available to meet your friend in every circumstance of life.

What Covid-19 has also reminded me is that it is the little things which matter most among us as friends. It is all you are, not what you have that matters in these spaces. Here we are reminded of the words of Jesus in John 15:12–15

“This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

Jesus calls on us to give of ourselves unconditionally in friendship as mothers and mom - friends.

2. All you need to do at times is just be present and listen.

Jesus showed up – among the sick and dying, amidst the prostitutes and those who were shunned. He showed up in all the wrong parts of town. There was no ‘other side of the tracks’ for him. Jesus befriended tax collectors, and soaking wet fishermen. He joined folks for meals, invited Himself into their homes, and mourned side by side with friends. Jesus talked a man down from a tree. He invited the children to come to Him. In all these spaces Jesus simply showed up. That was the lesson for me; it was by showing up that He made a difference to each of these lives. We need to show up and be present too for friends, they need us.

3. When given the opportunity to speak, share your faith with love and compassion.

God does not call the equipped, God equips the called and, as Christians, we are called to share what Christ has done for us. Some of the last words of Jesus on earth were in Matthew 28:19

“Go and make disciples of all nations”.

Sharing our faith is not just a suggestion, it is a command. God will be with us when we obey him.

These long weeks of lockdown were hard and very personal for each of us as mothers and days lie ahead of us still. The things I learned made it easier for me to walk the path each day in Faith. I offer these to you today my Mom friends. As we read in 1 Timothy 6:11 “But you O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness”.

It is these attributes which must become the garment we wear each day as we walk this path of Motherhood.



Let us pray

Lord in Your mercy bring Your Grace, Your Peace and Your Joy to all the spaces of mothering today where we find ourselves, help us to look above the trials of everyday living holding fast to Your Word in which you said “I will be with you always, even unto the ends of the earth”. (Matt 28:20).

Lord, we come before you, mothers across these Cayman Islands, Jamaica, and the world, where there is pain and anxiety hear us as we cry out to you. Be with those of us who have lost a mothers or grandmother or other relative from this virus or otherwise during these dark days, Lord, bring peace to these spaces.

Oh Lord, where there are families separate from each other , yet worried and anxious - mothers and grandmothers we seek Your calm for them, where there are mothers who need clarity, mothers who feel burdened and stressed bring strength and resolve we pray.

We come not just with our requests but with our gratitude for these days of being locked down with our children and others near and dear to us.

Lord we give thanks for the smiles of the big ones and the funny faces of the small ones, for the love shared in countless ways, even when at times our first inclination was to be irritable. We thank you for creative meals and sweet desserts prepared by young adults and even those much younger. We thank you for quiet times, times of sharing, the love gently wafting between us. Help us Lord to always notice the small things and to be really present with all the capacity you have given to us to nurture others.

For all mothers everywhere, Lord create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us. Grant us the strength and the forbearance for whatever lies ahead. Lord in your mercy hear us this Mother’s Day. Amen

Mothers’ Day 2020 is one that mothers around the world will not forget. It is unlike any we have ever experienced. It is a vulnerable time for us as mothers – a time in which we acknowledge how we have struggled to keep smiling at times even as we celebrate all the precious moments with family and friends near and far. May the peace of Christ and the Light of His love rest upon each mother today. May we walk in peace with His love and Grace around us.



Basket of Love



The Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) in partnership with the Caribbean and North America Mission Council (CANACOM) had responded to a proposal from the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands to provide food baskets to two hundred (200) families in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

Dubbed 'Basket of Love', each of the four Regional Mission Council will receive USD \$900.00 from a total of USD \$3,600.00 given by the donors.

In the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council grocery gift cards valued at KYD 25.00 will be purchased at Foster's by the Council Office and given to the Congregations for distribution to those most in need.

In the other Regions, grocery items will be bought in bulk, divided, and distributed from the Council Offices.

There will be a process of accountability and a report will be sent to the PCUSA and CANACOM.

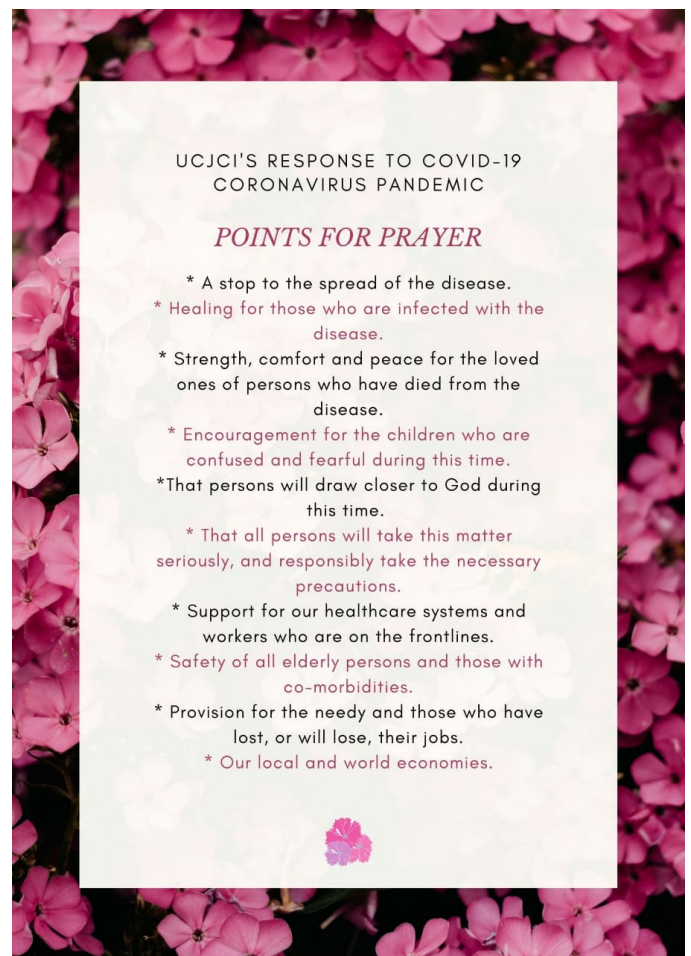
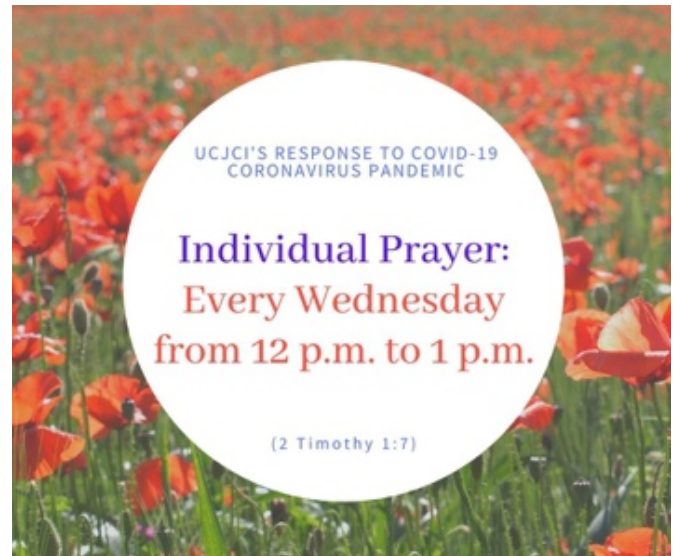
**TO ALL THE FIRST RESPONDERS,
HEALTHCARE WORKERS
AND THOSE
PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES
WHILE PUTTING THEIR LIVES AT RISK
FOR THE REST OF US**

THANK YOU!

**STAY HOME
STAY HEALTHY
STAY CONNECTED**

Worship the Lord

-on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am-
May 11. Ms. Angela Martins



May 11. (Sunday) 5th Sunday of Easter

Local United Church Worship Services will be distributed via video links.

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