



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

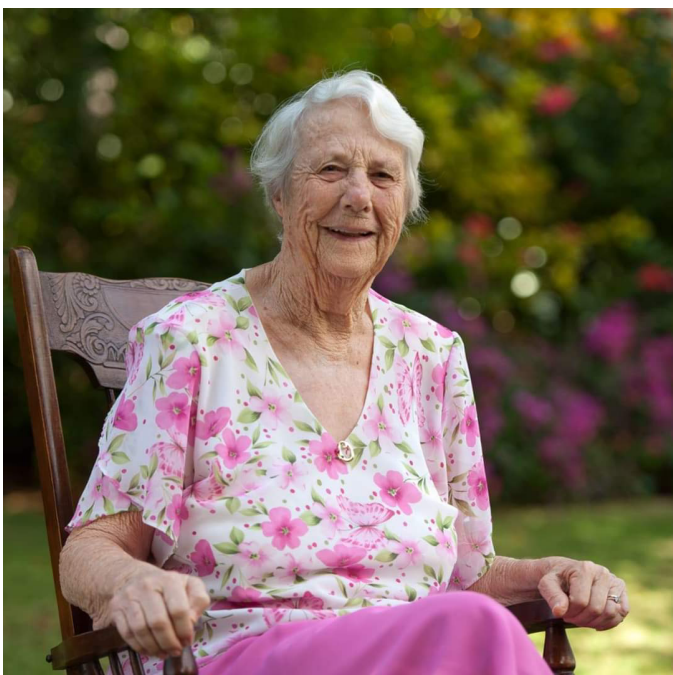
May 20, 2020

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 20

SEASON OF EASTER

Tribute to Mrs. Olive Miller

By Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield (RDGS)



Very rarely should we use the word legacy as this conveys a powerful image whether negatively or positively. Neither should we become preoccupied with leaving a legacy, as if we become too obsessed our legacy will develop into a selfish agenda as against a program of doing all for the benefit of others and to bring glory to God alone.

For Mrs. Olive Miller, there is no hesitation to speak of her life itself as a legacy to the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands and indeed to the wider Cayman Islands. She served lowly and she intermingled with the best in the societies. Her name became a household one among the Girls' Brigade Explorers and her name has lingered on the lips of the Premier and the Governor. Such was the nature of Ms. Olive.

The Girls' Brigade, Cayman High School, Pink Ladies, NCVO, The Pines, Elmslie Memorial Church, Happy Seniors, and the list goes on as so many sectors in the Cayman Islands can speak of the legacy she created and the memories she has left behind.

Her love for family and her continuous concern about the wellbeing of young people speak of the heartbeat which kept her going over these years. She had no hesitation to be present wherever the girls of the Girls' Brigade attended, and she was constantly loved and revered. She gave much love and she received much in return.

As a worshipper, even with dimness of sight, she participated in the hymns and readings and never missed the key points of a sermon. **She loved her Lord and her Church dearly and sat upright and riveted as she worshipped.**

A mother, a lady, a friend, a thinker, a pragmatist and an example to many, Ms. Olive will be missed but her life and legacy will remain with us for an exceptionally long time.

We offer to her beloved family our prayers and condolences as they grieve at this time.

May her soul rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon her.

You Will Be My Witnesses!

By Rev. Godfrey Meghoo

Please read Acts 1:6-14

For several weeks now many families are worshipping at home instead of in churches because of a dangerous virus. The first Christians had to worship in secret because of the danger of persecution and the threat of death.

For about 300 years, Christian corporate worship took place mainly in the homes of believers. According to Acts ch. 4 the believers regularly gathered in homes scattered around the city as well as in the Temple courts until the authorities started the first persecution against them. After the Temple had been destroyed in AD 70, a new persecution instigated by the Roman Empire made matters worse for the believers. It was not until 300 years later during the reign of the Roman Emperor Constantine that Christianity became a 'religio licita', a 'legally allowed religion'.

Acts 16 says that after a severe beating Paul and Silas were thrown into jail. The jailor was ordered to lock them up tight. He threw them into the inner cell of the prison and fastened their feet between heavy blocks of wood. About midnight Paul and

POPULAR REPORT FROM THE CENTRAL MISSION COUNCIL

Silas were praying and singing hymns to God and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake which shook the prison to its foundations. At once all the prison doors were opened and the chains became loose. However, Paul and Silas did not try to escape and due to their testimony the prison guards and their families became believers as well. In the long run the authorities apologized to the missionaries and they were released.

Sometimes in life, we ask God for one thing, but God gives us something else. After the Resurrection, the Disciples asked Jesus about the restoration of political power for their country,

“Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

In His response Jesus pointed out to something much more important,

“It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:6-8)

The word ‘power’ in the Greek language is dynamis, meaning dynamite. To deal with persecution and the devil’s tricks and viruses we need the Holy Spirit’s power, God’s dynamite. We need the persistence of Paul and Silas, we need love in our hearts for unbelievers and for ‘lost sheep’. We need to be patient in prayer to be rid of worry and anxiety when it seems our prayers are not answered and our employment and income are curtailed. God’s power, His ‘dynamite’ will banish Satan out of our life.

To be a Christian is not easy. Jesus said,

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves”.
(Matthew 10:16)

What a dangerous mission this is, a mission impossible! The believer is called to be a witness, a word that at that era usually meant ‘martyrdom’ (and even nowadays in some places!). To be a Christian and especially a witness, one has to deny one’s own self, take up the cross and follow Christ.

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

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

THANK YOU!

The meeting of the Central Mission Council (CMC) of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands was held on May 8, 2020. The Council received the reports of the four (4) Regional Mission Councils, the three (3) Commissions of Synod, three (3) Auxiliaries, the United Church Mission Enterprise (UCME), the International University of the Caribbean (IUC), the Finance Committee of Synod, and the General Secretary. The meeting was held virtually using the Zoom platform.

While seeing herself as an emerging, proactive church, and in the midst of unprecedented national and global circumstances, the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands has deemed it necessary to be immediately responsive to the emerging needs and realities of her members and the societies-at-large.

The Central Mission Council met chiefly to take decisions on what would be the church’s continued holistic response to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, ensuring that the mission of the church is not hampered. The following pertinent decisions were taken:

MEMBERSHIP REACH

The Central Mission Council deems it necessary to adopt increased measures for reaching all UCJCI members, including those persons who are without internet connectivity and therefore unable to participate in streamed worship services.

THE ADOPTION AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY

1. The use of information communication technologies in worship is believed to be a significant part of the post-COVID-19 future, as it offers convenience and a much greater reach. As such, each region will establish a technology committee to assist with assessing congregations’ readiness for, and the current extent of adoption of, available communication technologies, while assisting with the implementation of such. These committees will assist with developing the technological competence in the regions, so as to ensure that at least one congregation in each charge will be knowledgeable of the use of the information communication technologies that can assist with creating and streaming online worship services.

The committees will include:

- All Regional Vice Chairs
- Youth from our congregations
- Persons with the technical expertise

2. Initially, at least one (1) congregation in each zone/cluster within each region will be trained (through the technology committee) in the use of appropriate information

communication technologies (e.g. social media platforms) for the streaming of services. Ultimately, through this zonal approach, one congregation in each Charge will be trained, as the selected congregations in each zone will assist the Charges to develop the technology.

ELDERSHIP AND LAY TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Central Mission Council proposed that the Eldership and Lay Training Programme be re-designed and framed around the question, “How do we respond to the changing circumstances in the short term, while preparing for life after COVID-19?”

The following approach may be taken in the programme design:

1. After a period of three (3) months used to reframe the offerings, the Eldership and Lay Training Programme could resume in September 2020, based on the following guidelines:

The use of online training methodologies.

- a) Allowance for cross-regional engagement, facilitated by the technology used in the programme delivery.
- b) One module focused on training in the use of technology (e.g. social media) based on the current and critical needs that exist in the Church.

2. The cost of delivery of the programme would be substantially reduced, given the online facilitation model.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Central Mission Council agreed that the Church will not have VBS and Camps in both countries in the usual ways this year, but will seek to pursue the objective of engaging our children and young people through virtual methods.

CENTRAL FUND ASSESSMENT AND COUNCIL DUES

The Central Mission Council agreed to write to congregations expressing appreciation, given that they contributed over 60% of the expected funds during the past two months towards the Central Fund Assessment and Council Dues.

FOOD SECURITY

With the abundance of arable land in Jamaica, we are able to cultivate many crops, and as such, the Central Mission Council seeks to use the COVID-19 crisis to encourage our members in attitudinal change towards backyard and churchyard farming, while setting an example for other Jamaicans to follow.

CAYMAN REGION-SPECIFIC FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council is working with all stakeholders and the Cayman Corporation to address the economic challenges facing the Region.

SYNOD 2021

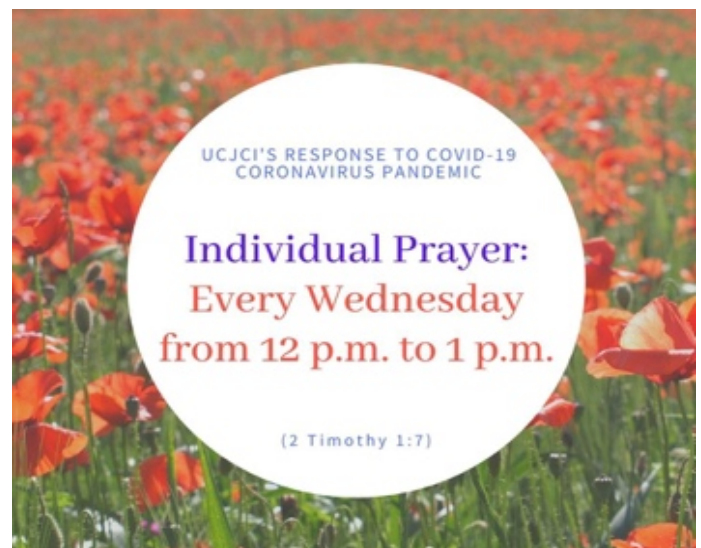
The location of Synod 2021 is to be determined, as the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council has indicated their inability to host the Synod, due to the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Strategic Planning Committee of Synod will meet on May 20, 2020 to address the strategies to achieve the objectives regarding the use of technology, the Eldership and Lay Training Programme, reaching all of our members, land use for food security, and Synod 2021.

APPRAISAL OF GENERAL SECRETARY

A Committee was established to evaluate the performance of the General Secretary, whose term concludes on December 31, 2020.



Worship the Lord
-on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am-
May 24. Rev. Godfrey Meghoo

May 24. (Sunday) 7th Sunday of Easter
Local United Church Worship Services will be distributed via video links.

May 31. (Sunday) Pentecost Sunday