



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

June 3, 2020

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 22

SEASON OF PENTECOST

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Tribute to Mrs. Yvonne Miller

By the Women's Fellowship (CIRMC-UCJCI)

Mrs. Yvonne Miller was a faithful and dedicated member of the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council Women's Fellowship of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.



In the Handbook of the Women's fellowship it is recorded that the Branch of Gun Bay was formed in 1955 and it was in this organization that Yvonne became a highly active member. Despite the heavy responsibility of a fulltime job with The Cayman Islands Government Hospital and the raising of her four young sons, Yvonne made time to participate in all aspects of the Women's Fellowship.

It was during these years that Yvonne recognized that God had blessed her with excellent leadership skills, and she offered herself not only to the Branch in Gun Bay but also to the Council Executive of the Women's Fellowship of which she eventually became President.

As President of the Executive she was responsible for overseeing all the Branches of Women's Fellowship island-wide. It was during these years that Yvonne, would in her quiet unassuming way, take the opportunity to make her mark on the work of the women while also building lasting relationships with ladies from the various congregations.

During the years as President, Yvonne represented Cayman on the Synodical Executive of the Women's Fellowship which

afforded her the opportunity to travel often to Jamaica to participate in the planning meetings for all the Branches in Cayman and Jamaica. She was also always a willing participant in Women's Fellowship Conferences and Gatherings whether in Cayman or Jamaica.

In 1995, the 50th anniversary of the Women's Fellowship was celebrated in Cayman and Yvonne played a major role in the organization of this celebration.

In the last year or two she was not very active, as in previous years due to failing health. However, Yvonne remained extremely supportive of the work of the Women's Fellowship and was always interested in knowing how we were doing. She often voiced her concern for the continuance of the organization which she held near and dear to her heart.

Yvonne, a gentle soul will always be remembered for the vital roles she played in the organization which she loved. We thank God for her work and we express deep condolences to her family.

As we say goodbye, may her soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon her.

Obedience to the Command to Go

By Ms. Camile Watt, Youth Worker (SAV/RV, CIRMC)

Please read 2 Cor. 13:11-13

The **Command to Go** is seen given to the disciples at a time in their lives when they grappled with the reality of losing their Leader. One would say "He is not dead, He is risen", but their reality at the time presented many emotions and challenges as they were faced with a crisis.

In Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus met with the disciples for the final time before ascending into heaven. Being aware of their emotional state, Jesus gave them a promise. He instructed that they should wait on the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. The disciples, in their crisis, needed to be comforted.

One could imagine they were fearful of the governing authorities who crucified Jesus, that perhaps they all would be martyred, perhaps they lacked the confidence to continue in the

work of Christ. No doubt that as the selected leaders, they could not afford to display any semblance of fear, lack of faith or doubt in the person of Christ. They knew it was their responsibility to carry on the mission.

But Jesus, being aware of the dilemma and challenges His disciples faced, already had a plan. He had a promise. And so, be reminded today that in the midst of our Crisis, be it a global pandemic, an economic crisis, health crisis or personal dilemmas or internal challenges, remember Jesus gave us a promise, never to leave us nor to forsake us and best of all He sent His Spirit of peace and of comfort.



In Matthew 28, Jesus also gave a special commandment, which we know as the **Great Commission**. Jesus, amid the Crisis gave special orders, a mandate that He expected His disciples to carry out. To be commissioned means to be authorized, appointed, or sent all conveying the idea of a job of importance, an entitlement or responsibility that comes with the role or title of being a disciple. So, the Great Commission is everyone's business as a child of God. But are we Obedient to this great command to Go?

It is important to note that the word **GO** in Matthew 28, speaks to the present continuous tense meaning, while you go make disciples. Could this speak to a way of life? In other words, this speaks to a lifestyle Evangelism.

2 Cor. 13:11-13 says,

“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God's people here send their greetings”.

To be obedient to the command to Go, begins with a **Lifestyle Evangelism of Gratitude**. Vs 11 says, Rejoice. Being thankful should be a lifestyle not a condition. When we are thankful in the bad times, we are declaring our trust and faith in God to honor His word and fulfill His promises. Jeremiah 29: 11, reminds us that His desire is to prepare us and give us hope and an expected end. Hold fast to His promises in our crisis and show forth His goodness by being thankful.

It also says, strive for full restoration: Our attitude towards our Crisis also testifies of our mandate to go. To strive for means to aim for, push towards, fight for. Daniel was purposed in his heart not to defile his body by eating the meat from the King's table. We ought to look towards the expected end we hope for.

As believers we strive towards the full deliverance from our crisis, from our situation. Next, we strive for complete healing and restoration. So, we must demonstrate a faith that says in the midst of the storm we know the sun will shine brighter at the end. Let our testimonies be one of faith.

This race was not meant for us to run alone. Vs 11& 12 speaks of encouraging one another and greeting each other with a holy kiss. This lifestyle evangelism speaks to **brotherly love and consideration. sticking together in hardship, strengthening each other, love, acceptance**. In our global crisis we are forced to find meaningful ways to help each other, to show moral support and counsel.

But most of all we must **be of one mind, living in peace with each other**. Peace comes from within and it begins with a relationship with the giver of this peace. The Bible says the Holy Spirit gives a peace that surpasses all understanding. Our Comforter, the Holy Spirit is the giver of peace. When we first make peace with God, we are then able to share that peace with others. Let us then be on one mind, one heart as we connect with one Spirit who lives within our hearts.

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 sets the platform for us to walk in this mandate, a lifestyle that is different, patterned as Jesus asks us, by first helping us to recognize that this journey is a team effort. The Bible tells us in Acts chapter 2 that the disciples had **ALL** things common, they sold their possessions and gave to the needy and persons were added to the Church because of the lifestyle and fellowship they saw among the people of God. Lifestyle Evangelism was born in Acts 2.

And so, I leave with you the challenge to be **Obedient to the Command to Go** and while we go about our daily everyday life, facing our daily crisis and challenges, let us be mindful to make disciples.



As we continue to make our way through the churning and unsettling waters of this Covid-19 year let us bring back into focus our collective and personal mandate for 2020 which is **Evangelism!** In the period of June to September we direct our thoughts and efforts to the matter of **Stewardship**.

The topic of stewardship can be a sensitive one even under normal circumstances for it evokes such issues as giving, sharing, caring, serving, money, time, skills, availability, accountability, generosity, sacrifice, etc. As disciples we all are also stewards and are expected to live and act accordingly for God's purposes and glory. **Stewardship** is not really a choice; it is part and parcel of authentic discipleship!

However, the last three months made stewardship an even greater challenge! Our lives and our very existence have been profoundly changed in unexpected and unwelcomed ways. A significant portion of society lost their livelihoods, families have depleted their carefully accumulated reserves and the mental and emotional toll of this new reality is equally heavy and worrying.

And yet, despite of all the economic, social and psychological hardships, the people of God still find ways to serve, to give, to share, to go the 'extra mile' unselfishly, generously, with love and with no bounds. After all, true biblical stewardship does not depend on normal circumstances; it is for 'all seasons'!

Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield says about stewardship and the disciple in relation to the **Year of Evangelism**, "Stewardship happens when we as disciples return to the essentials of our faith. People will be drawn to Christ when congregations experience authentic fellowship, life-giving worship, discipleship that reaches every person, and good stewardship of all resources.

The proper use of time, talent and resources are of great importance to the disciple who is committed to being a good steward. Congregations are encouraged to build strong internal relationships through worship and - **subject to official regulations at present!** - other regular gatherings, engaging in prayer, studying the Word in small groups, singing, fellowship meals, visitation and staying in touch in authentic ways with members and adherents so that they will be encouraged to offer all that they are to God in Jesus Christ.

The community surrounding the Congregation should also feel the positive impact through dynamic interaction and the meeting of needs. The Congregation should strive to build solid relationships externally so that persons can come to know the Christ in whom we believe. There must also be keen stewardship of the environment and the care of all creation even as we steward our time, talent and resources."

Basket of Love

As we have reported earlier in the Vol. 5 Issue 18 of our CIRMC Weekly Update 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' a total of USD \$3,600.00 were given by the generous donors. Our CIRMC has received USD\$ 869.00 which enabled our Council to purchase 30 Foster's Gift cards at the value of KYD 25.00 each. The cards have been distributed as follows: East End/ Gun Bay – 12, Bodden Town/ North Side – 12, Savannah – 6.



PCUSA / CANACOM
THANK YOU!

BE STORM READY!

MAKE A PLAN!

MAKE A KIT!

JUNE 1 – NOV. 30

UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

**Individual Prayer:
Every Wednesday
from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.**

(2 Timothy 1:7)



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

June 7. Ms. Camile Watt

May 31. (Sunday) Pentecost Sunday

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

June 8. (Monday)

Covid-19 Now and Then 6:00-7:00 pm - Online Public Webinar of the CIRMC

Published by the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
292 Prospect Point Road
P.O. Box 1700 Grand Cayman KY1-1109 CAYMAN ISLANDS
Tel: 1 345 947 1963 Email: rdgs@cicucjci.com or cirmcinfo@gmail.com
Website: unitedchurch.org.ky