



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

August 05, 2020

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 31

God's Promises

By Mr. John Macmillan

Please read Genesis 12: 1-4

How do you like to receive gifts? I am sure that most of us do, and we see this here with Abram, but of a different nature: he will get a whole country!

*"I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing...
To your offspring I will give this land."*

Genesis 12:2.7

What a gift and promise that comes with it, except that he has to leave where he is. Many persons have come to Cayman seeking to make their fortune without the assurance of that hope becoming a reality! Abram, on the other hand, have received a guarantee from God!

But how do you respond to this passage? God's gift (promise) may have strings attached, but none that Abram has not experienced previously (he had moved before to where he was now). Have you had gift opportunities? Did you accept or decline feeling that too much was asked of you? Did you regret your decision? Would you make the same decision today?

I would like to direct your attention to a very special gift. This gift comes with no strings attached and has lasting benefits and opportunities. This gift follows on from the one given to Abram. It is **the gift of family, the gift of relationship, a relationship with God.** Abram got the gift since he obeyed God's command to go. **You can receive yours by the simple act of acceptance.** This gift is the **one of eternal life-- a walk with Jesus—a new relationship with God.**



The promise God gave to Abram can be seen today. His descendants are numerous and through him we have God's blessings. Why not make these gifts a part of your life? God does not *demand* that we do so. God gives us the *option of choice*.

I made my choice to accept God's gift and make salvation and eternal life mine, and I would like for you to make the same choice while you can. While we have life, we can make that choice, but do you know how much more time you have? The time is now to make that decision and so I ask you to make the decision now. All you need to do is to say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept the gift of salvation and eternal life. Please forgive my sins and make me a part of your family. Amen"

If you have done this, please call 947-1963 and let me know. You may inform anyone who answers the phone and they will pass it on to me. Should you have further questions, you may also let us know.

**From one end of the Bible to the other,
God assures us that He will never go back
on His promises.**

Billy Graham

Call to Prayer and Support for Beirut

By Phil Tanis

August 5, 2020 WCRC website

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

The **World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)** calls on its member churches to pray for all those who have been impacted by the explosion in Beirut's port on 4 August and to provide support as they are able.

The blast, which Lebanon President Michel Aoun said was caused by 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, killed at least 100 people and injured more than 4,000, damaging much of Beirut.

The damage has included buildings of member churches, including the **National Evangelical Church of Beirut**, where the WCRC Executive Committee held its opening worship service in 2015. The church's windows were destroyed, doors were blown off their hinges, and several ceilings collapsed.



Habib Badr, senior pastor of the church, had just left his office when the ceiling there collapsed due to the explosion. “The damage and destruction is incredible ... just incredible! Now pray for us. It’s a very serious development,” he said.

WCRC President Najla Kassab, who also works for the **National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon**, reported that church buildings and homes were damaged, with windows and doors blown out. “Many Lebanese were not able to sleep in their homes and some found their homes in rubble,” she said.

The **Near East School of Theology (NEST)** also suffered extensive damage. “Never has NEST been hit so badly as yesterday, not even during the worst days of the 15-year war in Lebanon. Of course, we are not the only ones. The devastation in the rest of Beirut is vast,” said George Sabra, president of NEST.

According to the BBC, “The explosion comes at a sensitive time for Lebanon. With COVID-19 infections on the rise, hospitals were already struggling to cope. Now, they are faced with treating thousands of injured people. The country is also going through an economic crisis. Lebanon imports most of its food and large quantities of grain stored in the port have been destroyed causing fears of widespread food insecurity to come.”

“Living in the Middle East has taught us the art of continuing, of hoping and trusting that our Lord is with us on the journey,” said Kassab. “Every day is a new day. Today we decide to remain hopeful and continue to stand up against hopelessness.”

“We continue to hope for peace, for a better tomorrow, and for strength on the journey,” she said. “Our main concern is to preserve the dignity of the people and be able to hear their cry and commit ourselves and resources to make a difference.”

Lebanon will observe an official period of mourning for three days from Wednesday.

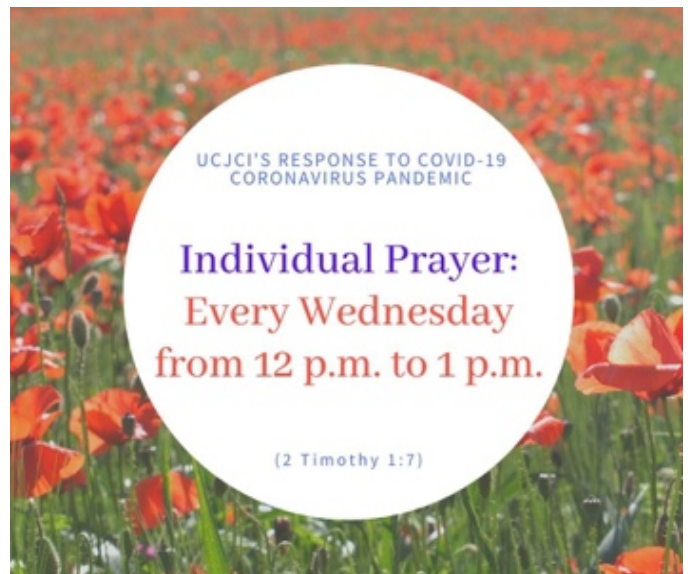
(Evangelische Mission in Solidarität (EMS) contributed to this report; image courtesy of the National Evangelical Church of Beirut.)



The **World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)** is the largest association of Reformed churches in the world. It has 233 member denominations in 110 countries, together claiming 100 million people. The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands is a member of the WCRC.

Prayer

Almighty God, you are our comfort and strength in times of sudden disaster, crisis, or chaos. Surround our sisters and brothers in Lebanon now with your grace and peace in the midst of devastation and loss. By your Spirit, comfort those who mourn, sustain those who work to rescue or rebuild, and fill them with the hope of your new creation; through Jesus Christ, our rock and redeemer. Amen.



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

August 09. Mr. John Macmillan

August 09. (Sunday) 10th Sunday after Pentecost

All local United Church congregations are open- Please contact the offices for details.

Worship Services are also available via video links.

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