



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

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Known as a woman of prayer and faith, Rev. Alice Blair's journey to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament began in the early days of her childhood. For her, the Church was a place of solace and prayer and although initially resistant, she discerned that there was a call on her life to serve Christ and the Church. Believing that she could circumvent the Call, she entered the teaching profession specializing in Religious Education and Guidance and Counselling.



and consistent manner.

Rev. Blair was invited by the East End/Gun Bay Charge to serve as the Minister and she commenced her duties on May 1, 2016, through the Settlement Policy of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

During her tenure as the Minister of the Charge, Rev. Alice has endeared herself not only to the members and adherents of the Charge but to the wider District of East End. She has worked assiduously to develop a needs meeting ministry in the context and in so doing has earned the love and respect of the membership and the community. She was often under the 'cabana' with the community folk or could be seen engaging in friendship evangelism on the veranda of the manse. In 2017 Rev. Alice received the Synod's **Award for Outreach** based on her ministry in the context.

She brought years of experience and a depth of spiritual maturity to this ministry. Her faith in Jesus Christ and her devotedness to study and prayer enabled her to discern the will of God with the Charge and this has augured well for the ministry in the context.



With a keen love for beauty and cleanliness, Rev. Alice has transformed the appearance of the manse yard by adorning it with flowers and shrubbery which gives it the appearance of an oasis across from the foaming sea.



Council has benefited from her deep sense of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of the Church and she has constantly called us to prayer and fasting as we faced the challenges of the time. Rev. Alice is treasured by her colleagues and she has been a model of commitment and care for all to emulate. The Women's Fellowship, Seniors' Ministry and Camp Ministry inter alia can all testify to her spiritual depth, powerful prayers and jovial spirit.

The generosity of her spirit and her understanding of and love for people enabled Rev. Blair to develop dynamic and long lasting pastoral relationships with the people in the Charge and in the wider Cayman Islands.

The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council is appreciative of Rev. Blair's ministry over these four years and wishes her every blessing in all her future ministry and endeavor.



Exploring the Meaning of 'Dominion'

by Mr. Herman Wilson

The Triune God Who is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, created the universe and is sustaining it. God exists beyond time, space and matter.

God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, the progenitors of the human race. God gave them what we term the creation mandate. Genesis 1:28 says:

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

This mandate entailed exercising dominion over the earth inclusive of the animal kingdom. God had created humankind to embrace an agrarian culture.

According to Genesis 2:5.8.15, the Scripture states:

(5) Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground. (8) Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. (15) The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden (to work it and take care of it).

Despite God's prior warning, Adam and Eve subsequently chose to know good and evil. They sinned against God, acquired a sinful nature, and inevitably compromised man's ability to exercise dominion in accordance with God's will due to spiritual death. Humankind acquired a corrupt heart that is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. (cf. Jeremiah 17:9)

To Adam God said, "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. (Gen. 3:17)

In spite the shortcomings due to sin, the creation mandate is still being exercised. It is a quest to order human activities aimed at gaining and enjoying the yield of rich resources that God has created for God's glory.

The processes of subduing the Earth gave rise to the evolution of farming, the fine arts and technology. These initiatives

started in the world before Noah's Flood through the descendants of Cain. Genesis 4 makes brief mention of Jabal who raised livestock, Jubal who played stringed instruments and pipes, and Tubal-Cain who forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron.

Dominion in keeping with God's design requires divine wisdom, and sinful humanity is not naturally inclined to gain it. The Scripture says:

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." (Romans 3: 11-12)

After Noah's Flood

At the end of Noah's Flood, the fear and dread of humankind was placed on the animal kingdom, hence the relationship between man and animals has changed. Since that time, knowledge for exercising dominion over the earth's resources has been increasing significantly; but the quality of interpersonal relationships in exercising this dominion continues to decline.

Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, later gave a comprehensive description of the heart. He said:

"What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person." (Mark 7:20-23)

Humankind failed to recognize that the only true God is the absolute Source of dominion. An example of this was in the case of Nebuchadnezzar. In interpreting a dream for him, the prophet Daniel said:

"This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. (Daniel 2:36-38)

At some other point in time, Daniel interpreted a second dream for Nebuchadnezzar. He cautioned him:

Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue." (Daniel 4: 27)

Sadly, Nebuchadnezzar failed to yield to the Most High God. Twelve months later, he said,

“Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?” (Daniel 4:30)

He immediately suffered insanity for a period of time. He initially considered the Most High God as one of the gods in his pantheon of gods; but was sadly mistaken. Upon regaining his sanity, he relented as recorded in Daniel 4:34-35

At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: “What have you done?”

Science and Technology

Many centuries after the biblical flood, mankind discovered and engaged in extensive study and application of God’s laws of nature. These laws are:

- The Law of Life (Biogenesis)
- The Laws of Chemistry
- The Laws of Planetary Motion
- The Laws of Physics
- The Laws of Mathematics and
- The Laws of Logic

Technological advances arising from these laws are now increasing at meteoric rates. Humankind’s ways of sustaining livelihood during the days before the biblical flood were allowed by God’s permissive will; but they were never in keeping with the initial divine directives, and that situation still obtains. Degeneration due to satanic influences prevails. Greed, arrogance, selfishness, destruction, exploitation, and other negative characteristics are dominant.

Given the natural tendency of everyone to be a law by him/herself, and to avoid mass anarchy, God ordains submission to governing authorities. In Romans 13, the Scripture says:

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong...

Ongoing Challenges

Because of the curse, the Earth does not readily yield its resources and negative consequences are inevitable. An

example of this is the potential health risks due to the inability to safely dispose of residual matters from some manufacturing processes. The existence of viruses such as ‘COVID-19’ arises from the effects of the curse within the animal kingdom. Additionally, lack of perfection due to the Fall of Humankind causes significant challenges to human existence, as progress is made only through long series of trial and error and resultant disasters.

What is the Christian worldview with regard to these matters?

Christians, the new creation in Christ Jesus, maintain that there is hope. We have an eschatological (end-time) view with regard to the exercising of dominion.

A proper perspective of natural and spiritual realities is paramount. God ordains the beginning and the end of all things. Believers in Jesus Christ are called upon to continue to engage in this world through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are inspired to exercise our talents and spiritual gifts, and to embrace the fruit of the Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control) as a way of life.

We know that all activities in this world are temporal, and that the challenges experienced are due to worldly wisdom, the flesh and the devil. Although not yet perfect, Christians are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do. We are called upon to seek divine wisdom and knowledge in exercising the creation mandate as enabled. We are mindful of the fact that it is God who works in us to will and to act according to God’s purpose. The focus is eternal life; that is, to know the true God and God’s Son, Christ Jesus, the last Adam, whom God has sent to save humanity. Christians are mindful of the fact that Jesus’ kingdom is not of this world. (John 18:36) and that the creation has been subjected to frustration until the children of God have been revealed. (Romans 8:18-21)

The inspired author of the Book of Hebrews wrote:

But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor and put everything under their feet.”

In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their

salvation perfect through what he suffered. (Hebrews 2:6-10)

On an occasion during His ministry Jesus Christ demonstrated dominion to His disciples. The Scripture narrative states:

Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!" (Matthew 8:23-27)

Jesus' action was indeed 'dominion' in the true sense of the word. Christ Jesus, the Son of God, the last Adam and the Saviour of the world, has satisfied God's justice. Following His resurrection from the dead, and before His ascension to heaven, He gave us the Great Commission. He said:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:16-20)

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Church is mandated spread the Gospel, the Good News of Christ Jesus throughout the whole world. Communications technology is available to do so. Finally, we all look forward to the Blessed Hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We await the consummation of His coming millennial kingdom.

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"The first requisite of stewardship is to give ourselves to God.

Thus, a logical recognition of God's absolute ownership should follow."

Stephen F. Olford

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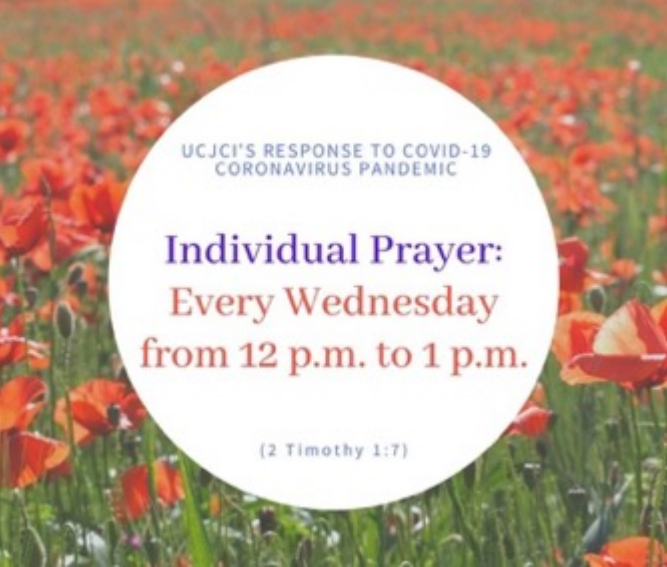
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**Service of Appreciation
for
Rev. Alice Blair**

**10:00 am
Sunday, August 30, 2020
EAST END UNITED CHURCH**

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!



UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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

(2 Timothy 1:7)



**WORSHIP
THE
LORD**
Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council
Sundays at 7:45am on Radio Cayman

on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

August 30.
Mr. Herman Wilson

August 30. (Sunday) 13th Sunday after Pentecost
All local United Church congregations are open- Please contact the offices for details.

Worship Services are also available via video links.