



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

October 14, 2020

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 41



Fishers of Men

Rev. Godfrey Meghoo

Please read Mark 1:17-20

During the days of the Coronavirus, when there was a lockdown, and people were not allowed to go into the sea, or to go fishing, many persons missed the opportunity to do that very thing—to catch fish, not only for putting food on the table, but also for the fun of it!

I have felt the exhilaration of catching a fish. One has to get ready for it. You need hook, line and sinker, and equally important, some good bait. Catching a fish gives you a good feeling inside. Sometimes, you are not sure whether the hook is caught in a rock, or it is a heavy fish trying to get away! I have even seen a young man catching 3 fish on one line—by connecting more than one hook to the line. Some big fishermen go fishing, not only to put supper on the family's table, or for the fun of it, but also for commercial use, as a business.

You can imagine how the four fishermen (turned disciples) felt when they toiled all night and caught nothing. Jesus came along and said to them, including Simon Peter, *"Push the boat further into the deep, and let down your nets."* They did so, and so many fish were caught, that the net began to break. The fishermen beckoned to other fishermen nearby for help. Both boats were so full of fish that they started sinking! When Peter saw what had happened, he fell down on his knees before Jesus, and exclaimed, *"Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"* But Jesus replied, *"Don't Be afraid; from now on you will be catching men!"* Andrew, James, John and Peter were amazed. They were turned into disciples, meaning students, pupils, or learners. Jesus had taught them how to catch fish more effectively. Now he would teach them to catch men, women and children for the Kingdom of God.

If you are a follower of Christ, one of His disciples, you are also called to share the good news with others. That is not always easy. In fact, the Lord told the original twelve disciples that He was sending them out like sheep among wolves. That is a dangerous game. A risky game. You could be eaten up. Many

believers have suffered persecution or were even martyred in carrying out that mission. The disciple Andrew went home, and told his brother Peter that the Messiah had come. Eventually both Andrew and Peter bore the penalty of crucifixion as imitators of Christ.

But just as you have a special satisfying feeling in your soul whenever you catch a fish, so too, you feel contented when you can convince someone, by word or example, by your friendship or kindness, to become a follower of the Lord. Whatever your occupation or calling may be, you know that it is a good idea to lead someone to Christ. If you are employed as an accountant, and find that your job is contributing to the success of others, you start thinking that that is your calling—a call from God. If while you are in High School or College, you decide to be an attorney, maybe because of a subject in which you are doing well, or because of the example of a good teacher, you come to the conclusion that law is your calling in life: a call from God.

Amos was like that. He was born in Tekoa, in the southern Kingdom of Judah, however, he ended up preaching in the northern Kingdom of Israel. He was called to warn the citizens of Israel, to tell them that the injustices in their manner of living were not right. But the powers-that-be rebuked him, telling him to go back to his own country (Judea) and get a job there. Amos replied, *"I was no prophet, neither a prophet's son. I was a shepherd, and a pruner of sycamore trees. But the Lord called me, and said, 'Go. Prophecy to my people Israel.'"* (Amos 7:14-15) In other words, "I had a good job already, but God sent me to carry out God's mission." It took guts to stand up for the truth! Amos was sent by God.



The word sent comes from a Greek word 'apostelo' meaning you are on a mission - a mission of God...almost a MISSION IMPOSSIBLE! But as someone has said, God does not always choose the qualified, but qualifies those whom God chooses. Sometimes we have so many excuses why we cannot obey God's commission: 'I am too young. I have made too many mistakes in my life. I cannot move again to another country. I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot go'.

"Go to King Pharaoh", said God to Moses, to which Moses replied "I'm Not a good speaker", for he was afraid to go. (Exodus 3:10)

"Go to Nineveh, that great City, and warn them", God said to Jonah. Jonah was unwilling at first. (Jonah 1:2)

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Jude, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth". (Acts 1:8)

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...and teaching them...” said Jesus. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Are you willing to go, to tell them of Jesus, the Mighty to save?

The story of the call of Abraham is familiar. Abraham lived in Mesopotamia. He belonged to the Habiru clan. He was 75 years old when he was chosen and told that he would become the “father of many nations”. “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. 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”. (Genesis 12:2) He felt privileged to be chosen. But a person is chosen by God, not only for the happiness of that person. Abraham was not selfish. When he found out that the people of Sodom were so evil, that God was planning to destroy them, he pleaded with the Lord to give Sodom another chance. He said to God, “Will you destroy the good and the bad in the process—even if there are 50 righteous people among them?” Yahweh replied, No. I will forgive and not destroy them”. So Abraham argued a case for the People of Sodom. “If there are only 40, or 30, or 20?” God agreed to give all of Sodom a chance even when Abraham’s pleading and advocacy went down to 10 righteous persons. “I will not destroy Sodom, even if there are only 10 righteous persons there.” (Genesis 18:22-33) What a merciful God the Lord is!

When you are a Christian believer, you are called too to be a fisher of men. As many faults as Abraham had, he understood the amazing grace of God, the forgiveness of God.

Crosby Watler, William Pouchie, Stanley Pantan, Talmage Ebanks, and lastly—over 50 years ago Harry Bodden heard God’s call, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” “Here I am. Send me”, each one responded.

You may not feel worthy to do anything for God. But nobody is worthy. You may say as Isaiah said, “Woe is me, for I am undone! I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips.” (Isaiah 6:5). Remember, the Lord Jesus is a wounded healer. He was wounded for your transgressions—bruised for our iniquities. By His stripe, by His wounds on the Cross, you are healed and forgiven. (Isaiah 53)

No, you do not have to be worthy. The night before the Lord was wounded and died on the Cross, He sat down to enjoy the Thanksgiving Passover Supper with the disciples. He instituted the Sacrament of the Holy Communion that Thursday night. “This is my Body, broken for you. This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins.” None of those disciples was worthy of Holy Communion. Neither are you today. But still He invites you. “Come unto me,” He says. He bore the pain of the Cross the following day. When you obey that first call to follow Jesus, next you are called to be fishers of men. As the song says,

If you cannot speak like angels;
If you cannot preach like Paul;
You can tell the love of Jesus;
You can say, ‘He died for all.’

If you cannot rouse the wicked
With the Judgments dread alarms
You can lead the little children.
To the Savior’s waiting arms.

(Hark, The Voice of Jesus Calling)

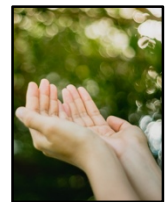
If you live by the same values and priorities Jesus had, you will find evangelism happening naturally. It becomes a life-style and not a project.

Rebecca Pippert



**Women’s Fellowship
Day of Prayer and Fasting**

The United Church Women’s Fellowship has organized ‘**A Day of Prayer and Fasting**’ with special focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, including the effect on the lives of our families in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.



All are invited to join in a special hour of prayer in our various Congregations on Sunday October 18, 2020 for one (1) hour prior to our Sunday morning worship services.

**Cayman Prep & High School
Priority Registration**

If you have a child that is either hoping to join us in KG in 2021/22 or attends another pre-school, primary school, high school or is home-schooled and you would like them to potentially join Cayman Prep and High School in the 2021/22 academic year please note our **priority application deadline is October 31 2020.**

Only children who do not currently attend Cayman Prep should complete an online application form (available on our website www.cayprep.edu.ky)

If you have already applied, you do not need to do this again. If you are not sure if you have applied, please call the Primary School on 949-5932 or the High School on 949-9115.

Alternatively email hsadmissions@cayprep.edu.ky or psadmissions@cayprep.edu.ky

Priority status on our wait list is available to:

1. Children who are Members, or who are children or grandchildren of Members of the United Church, in good standing (requires Church letter)
2. Children of active adherents of the United Church (requires Church letter)
3. Children of current permanent staff of the School
4. Children who have a sibling in the School
5. Children who have previously had sibling/s in the School
6. Past students and children of past students of the School
7. Others in order of receipt of completed application form and application fee.

If you have any questions, please call the High School on 949-9115 or Primary School on 949-5932 or email hsadmissions@cayprep.edu.ky psadmissions@cayprep.edu.ky



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands Lay Training Institute presents

Built to Bend

'A series of Webinars designed to help build a resilient church to meet the challenges of COVID -19.'

Saturdays 10 am - 12 noon in October and November

- Navigating the Digital Space (e.g. YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Zoom) - October 17
- Developing Content for Social Media - October 24
- Livestreaming Worship Services - October 31
- Producing a Worship Service for Livestreaming - November 7

Presenters

- Mrs Heneka Watkis Porter
- Rev. Kraig DeLeon Diedrick
- Ms Marlene Thomas

WEBINARS ARE FREE TO PARTICIPANTS. JOIN BY ZOOM.
Register through the UCJCI regional office closest to you.
Zoom link will be provided on registration.

GET CONNECTED AND STAY CONNECTED!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 17. (Saturday)

'Built to Bend' webinar via Zoom - 10:00am-12:00 noon

October 18. (Sunday) 20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 24. (Saturday)

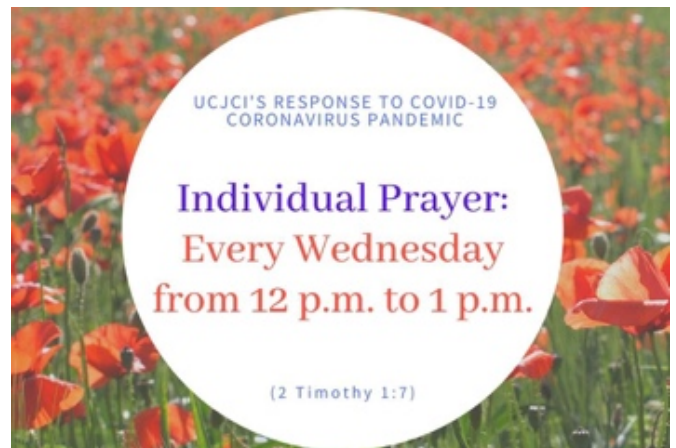
'Built to Bend' webinar via Zoom - 10:00am-12:00 noon
YLNE Executive mtg - 2:00pm Council office

October 18. (Sunday) Reformation Sunday



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

October 18, 2020
Rev. Godfrey Meghoo



UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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

(2 Timothy 1:7)



East End Smoke-pot Comedy/Story Telling featuring

Mrs. Carmen Conolly & Ann Kirchman
(School Days)

Mr. Alan Ebanks
Mr. Marquis McLaughlin
Mr. Rodney Welcome
Mrs. Nasaria Suckoo Chollette
Ms. Sandra Ebanks
Swanky Band

Come Laugh Till Yah Belly Bust

Free fish and fritters

Date: Monday, 19 October 2020
Time: 7:00pm - Until
Place: Beach opposite East End United Church

OLDER PERSONS MONTH 2020
Life Stories: Then & Now