



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

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Christmas Message

*By Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield
Regional Deputy General Secretary
Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council*



Warm Christmas Greetings in the Name of Christ whose Incarnation we celebrate and whose Spirit attends to us.

This has been a year of changes and challenges for most of us. For some, the challenges were minor but for others, significant movements have occurred. The world has experienced the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic and the health and economic realities have been stark for many persons. In the Cayman Islands, we have bravely fought to keep the virus at bay, and we continue to pray for the political directorate and the health care practitioners who have led us during these months.

The strong temptation has been for us to read and interpret everything through the lens of COVID-19. Yet, as we celebrate the Holy Season of Christmas and as we anticipate the dawn of a New Year, we can know with certainty that our vision will clear, and we will behold a new reality because of Christ.

As a Regional Mission Council and as Congregations, we have experienced the presence and blessings of God in several ways. The Ministers, Leaders/ Elders and Administrators have been careful and faithful theologians and stewards throughout this unique year.

Members and Adherents have been faithful in attendance and in giving not only to the Church but to several charities. Food pantries have been replenished and many meals have been prepared and delivered to those most in need in the community. In addition, we have seen a new level of care and concern being expressed one to the other in several circumstances.

As such, we can with certainty affirm that with all that has happened, we have not walked alone during 2020. We have been companions for each other on the journey but most importantly, Christ has accompanied all of us along the way. He is same Christ whom the Angels proclaimed, the same Christ that the Shepherds rushed to see, the same Christ to whom the Magi gave gifts, and He is the same Christ whose glory we await as we continue our journey.

I wish for each of you a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and Wonderful New Year.

Christmas Love in Action

As part of their annual Christmas ministry, the John Gray Memorial United Church distributed 200 meals in their district.



South Sound United Church Children's Christmas



John Gray Memorial United Church Youth Christmas



South Sound United Church Choir's Christmas presentation

Fear, Despair, Hope and Joy

Editorial from the WCC (oikoumene.org)



In a special Christmas message, World Council of Churches (WCC) Interim General Secretary Rev. Prof. Dr. Ioan Saucă reflects on fear, despair, hope and joy.

“The child in the manger, in its vulnerability, is an image of fragile hope, the beginning of a new story that will culminate in the gift of life and salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ,” he writes. “There have been and there are today many reasons to be afraid and to live in despair.”

In the most difficult days of history, Christians have time and again found consolation and hope during the Christmas season, he continues.

“Celebrations of Christmas in churches and families this year will be tempered by the physical distancing and other restrictions brought on by our concern to protect each other from the coronavirus,” he writes. “People will grieve for the many dead around the world and will express their gratitude for those who care for the sick with great dedication and courage.”

The pandemic has everywhere torn the social fabric, and violence and war continue, Saucă reflects. “Even under these circumstances, however, there is a sound of angels in the air, proclaiming the birth of Christ with great joy,” he writes. “As Christians, we glimpse in this singular event, the birth of the child Jesus in a desolate village at the margins of the Roman empire, the fragile beginnings of our own redemption.”

Saucă also lifts up in prayer the people and leadership of WCC member churches, and all people on earth.

“In a world of pain and death, the event of Christmas allows us to find consolation, lift our heads in hope, and glimpse in deep faith the triumph of life and love in the birth of Jesus,” he concludes. “This is good news of great joy for all people.”

The WCC is a fellowship of 350 member churches in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world, representing over 500 million Christians and including most of the world's Orthodox churches, scores of Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Reformed churches, as well as many United and Independent churches.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 24. (Thursday) Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve service - 7:00 pm John Gray Memorial
Joined Christmas Eve service - 6:30 pm Elmslie Memorial /South Sound

December 25. (Friday) Christmas Day

7 am - East End/Gun Bay United
8 am - Robert Young/Savannah United
8:30 am - William Pouchie Memorial
9 am - Elmslie Memorial /South Sound, Webster Memorial
10 am - John Gray Memorial

December 26. (Saturday) Boxing Day

December 27. (Sunday) 1st Sunday after Christmas
Christmas Drama – 6:30 pm East End United Church



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

December 27, 2020
The Right Rev. Dr. Gordon
Cowans, Moderator



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