



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

May 05, 2021

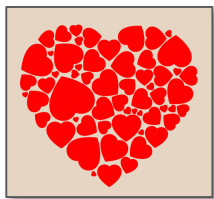
VOLUME 6 ISSUE 18

UCJCI 42nd SYNOD THEME 2021 – **Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE** (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)



Family 'Matters'!

By Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield
RDGS - CIRMC



We pause this month to focus on our children and particularly this Sunday to focus on mothers. As such, we are drawn to a focus on the family. Traditionally, the family, as a basic unit of human existence was expected to be comprised of children, mothers and fathers. In principle and spirit, the family should be understood and lived as a mutually beneficial support system that strengthens and encourages each of its members.

One is conscious that there is an idyllic image of the family as the dad, mom and children living in the white picket-fenced home. This image has been accompanied or replaced in some measure by images of varying degrees not only of the physical description of the house but also of the individuals who dwell therein. The reality is that the definition of the family has evolved from that of being individuals related by blood, marriage or adoption.

New definitions and ultra-modern realities have become intertwined with the concept of family. Hence the modern family is sometimes cast as a group of persons living together who take each other seriously for a lifetime or part thereof. Groupings of persons unrelated by marriage, blood or adoption can come together for practical reasons or financial benefits and oftentimes the nomenclature 'family' is attached to such groupings.

Not only extended family members but those deemed as an immediate family may not dwell together because of migration and career but remain in touch through social media and other means. It should be noted that although some families may live apart, the family structure is maintained as best as possible and the care and concern for each other remain unchanged.

What, however, is God's definition, design, understanding and directive for the family? The Biblical teachings stipulate that the family is the initial unit of society and that it is ordained by God. Family by God's standard is constituted by marriage and is comprised of persons related to one another by the vows of marriage, blood or by adoption. The family is meant to be a unit in which each member is surrounded by unconditional love, respect and protection. In such a family, children thrive, and the family unit becomes integral to the structure of the society.

One could easily see the following verses as key indicators of God's expectations of the family- Genesis 2:24 - Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. Exodus 20:12 - Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

The truth is that most human beings yearn for the family ordained by God. Although biologically, we all experience the process of conception, gestation, and birthing as human beings, it is a reality that our circumstances may differ once we exit the womb.

Some children are welcomed into loving and caring homes, surrounded by structure, provision and guidance. The parents of these children make adequate plans for all stages of their development, nutrition is adequate, spiritual and emotional support are provided and there is a sense of comfort and contentment which allows the children to maximize their potential. Let me hasten to indicate that some of these homes may be single-parent homes headed by individuals who take seriously their parental responsibilities and who ensure that their children are surrounded by goodness and love.

Other children may, due to no fault of their own, have a completely different experience. To be abandoned by one's parents, to live in a context of physical, verbal and sexual abuse, to be emotionally isolated, to be required to live without guidance, structure, protection or support is, unfortunately, the lived reality of some children.

Child abuse and particularly the abuse and trafficking of girls and young women has attracted the attention of the world and the church. Thursdays in Black has been endorsed by the Synod of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands(UCJCI).

“Thursday in Black is an ecumenical campaign that originated with the World Council of Churches (WCC) during their Solidarity with Women awareness campaign (1988-1998), in which stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, and violence became increasingly visible. WCC member churches, along with ecumenical partners around the world, are invited to participate”.

As a WCC member church, the UCJCI has responded to the call to commit to education and action to end gender-based violence. We are being encouraged to speak out against violence, to ensure that everyone is safe from assault and violence in homes, schools, workplaces, and all places of our society.

Children should be loved and nurtured in ways that will prepare them to make healthy transitions through the various developmental stages of life and thus become adults who can make a worthwhile contribution to society.

During this month, as we celebrate children and mothers, let us keep at the heart of our prayers the institution of the family and particularly for children who experience less than God's expectation for the family.



On Friday, April 30, 2021, the Savannah United Church in collaboration with the YLNE hosted an open-air fellowship event called ‘Youth Link-Up’. The event was attended by the local youth, accompanied by members of the Bodden Town, East End-Gun Bay, and Elmslie youth groups as well as youths from Triple C High School Yes Club, the Child Evangelism Fellowship, the Church of God Chapel Youth Group, and the Girls’ Brigade.

The evening opened with praise and worship lead by Savannah and Generation 412 to set the atmosphere, singing upbeat worship songs and setting expectations. This was followed by a program rich in spiritual content which included testimonies and special items such as dance and song presented by the Girls’

Brigade, Elmslie’s Dance Ministry, and guest performer Michelle T. The message based on Daniel ch. 3 was brought by guest speaker Pastor Cassius Feare from the Church of God Prophesy, Victory Tabernacle challenging the children and youth to put their trust in God.



All in all, this event was a great opportunity for the children and young people to come together and hear the Gospel message. Let us continue to do our utmost to help them experience the reality and love of God through our church communities. Special thanks are due to all the volunteers and grownups who came out and not only supported this special event with their presence but also assisted in many ways.



*by Ms. Camile Watt
Youth Minister – SAV UC*

On Thursday April 22, 2021, the children from the Savannah After -School Enhancement Programme (SASEP) were engaged in painting tires for the Green Project, an initiative by Mr. Charles Watler in loving memory of his sister, the late Mrs. Evangeline Moler nee Watler.





The project concluded on Wednesday April 28, 2021 with the planting of peppers, pak choy and callaloo plants by the children. The garden will be a special care project for the children as each child will water their personalized tire daily.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 08. (Saturday)

Lay Leaders Training Course – via Zoom

May 09. (Sunday) 6th Sunday of Easter / Mothers' Day

May 12. (Saturday)

YLNE mtg – 12:00pm – Council office

May 16. (Sunday) 7th Sunday of Easter / Ascension

CHILDREN'S CAMP JULY 18-23 8AM - 6PM
TEENS' CAMP JULY 25-30 8AM - 6PM
CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

SUMMER DAY CAMP

THEME: ROOT, SHOOT, FRUIT

FUN FIELD TRIPS FELLOWSHIP FOOD

CI\$100

VENUE: PROSPECT YOUTH CENTER

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 4, 2021

REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE FROM YOUTH LEADERS, CHURCH OFFICE AND ONLINE

UCJCI
 responds to the COVID-19 pandemic as a community of faith

*A Call to Prayer
 Every Wednesday
 12 noon—1:00 pm*

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
 Philippians 4: 7

**PRAY
 WITHOUT
 CEASING**

SAVANNAH WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

*It's a Classic
 Spring Hatter Tea Party*

SATURDAY MAY 29TH 2021
TIME: 3PM - 5PM
COST: \$10

SAVANNAH UNITED CHURCH HALL
17 ASTRAL WAY, GRAND CAYMAN

**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

May 09, 2021
 Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield

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