



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

June 09, 2021

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 23

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

The Growth That You Can't See

By Rev. Godfrey Meghoo

Please read Mark 4:26-34

The man of God was discouraged. He was being hunted down by King Ahab and his wife Jezebel to take his life because he had warned the people of God not to worship the idol, Baal. That man of God was ELIJAH, a name which means 'Yahweh is my God, the LORD alone. Elijah went to hide in a cave. He was certain that the Temple of God would be completely deserted. It was he who had miraculously helped the poor widow of Zarephath when she thought she had only enough food left for one day for herself and her son. And then they would die. Yet the man of God was asking her for food and water. Now the wicked king of Israel and his wife were threatening Elijah. So the man of God was afraid and fled for his life, hiding. He complained to God, "Lord God, I have always served you—you alone. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you; they have torn down your altars, and killed all your prophets. I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me!"

But the Lord Yahweh replied, "I have appointed as your assistant ELISHA, and I'm telling you that you are not the only one left on God's side...there are still 7,000 people who are on the Lord's side (1Kings 19:18). What a great encouragement that was for the man of God. Friends in the Cayman Islands, and elsewhere, do not be discouraged when you feel disappointed that only a few people are serving in God's Kingdom. Remember, "God is working his purpose out, as year succeeds to year." You may not see the seed sprouting, but God is working quietly behind the scenes.



The Lord Jesus spoke about a man who sowed good seed in the backyard, then goes about his business. All the while the seeds are sprouting and growing. The man does not know how it happens. As the song says, "We plough the field and scatter the good seed on the land; but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand. He sends the snow in winter, and warmth to swell the grain; the breezes and the sunshine, And soft refreshing rain." Even if we are scientists or agronomists, we still do not understand the mysterious ways in which God makes plants grow, and food is provided.

As an adult, have you sowed good seeds of faith in God into the minds and souls of children all around you? Have you taken

action to see that the grandchildren know ---JESUS LOVES ME, THIS I KNOW, FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO? They might not understand everything about DAVID AND GOLIATH now, but the seeds of God's love planted early in their hearts will reap great dividends later. One way to sow good seeds of faith in children's minds is to purchase easy-to-understand books and Bibles for children, on their birthdays, and read them to them at first. Another way is to encourage your children who have some understanding of the uses of technology to do some research, e.g. on St. Paul or Peter, or the Church or Children in the Bible, like Samuel.



During the past one hundred and seventy-five (175) years, our church, the Presbyterian---now United Churches in Grand Cayman, have sowed the seeds of the Christian faith through nine (9) congregations: John Gray, Elmslie, and South Sound United have regularly worshipped and served the Lord on Sundays and other days as well; Robert Young, Savannah and Webster Memorial in Bodden Town have ministered to children and adults; North Side, Gun Bay, and East End United have sung praises and prayed at all hours. Prominent Caymanian names of persons in full-time ministry, have been --- Pouchie, Panton, Ebanks, Watler, and Bodden. They have spearheaded the training of laypersons and youth in sowing seeds of the gospel, growing secretly in many lives, both in the Cayman Islands and overseas. "How beautiful are the feet of them that bring good news of peace!" The good news they brought tells us of God knowing our condition and coming down by the incarnation of Jesus, who gave himself unreservedly for our salvation. It is about the Lord so caring for each of us that even if only one is left unhappy, God will go to the ends of the earth to rescue that one. If you are that one, remember—God is thinking of you. When God called Abraham and said that Abraham would be the "father of many nations", God included you. When the Lord chose twelve Disciples, trained them for three years, then sent them out, it was for you.

"Lord, Thou hast here thy 90 and 9:
Are they not enough for thee?
But the Shepherd made answer - "This of mine,
Has wandered away from me...
And although the road be rough and steep,
I'll go through the desert to find my sheep."

The story of Jesus, about the two sons, the younger of whom left home to go to a far country, spending his father's money recklessly, foolishly and wastefully, then became hungry and half-naked, running back home, -- that is -- the story of the

Crisis Preparedness and Response Capability Guidelines for Congregations and Council

(continued from last week)

Part 4. COMMUNICATION WITH COUNCIL



Council members – at least the Minister and 2 others from each Congregation - all have a list with contact details of each other. Normally the Chair of Council and the RDGS will initiate calling the Ministers and/or Council together to assess the situation in each Congregation, in each District. However, any other member of Council is able to begin this process if these two individuals are not heard from in a timely way, as this may depend on the extent of damage to communication systems as well as personal circumstances.



View of Bodden Town in September 2004, following Hurricane Ivan.

PERSONAL/FAMILY EMERGENCY PLANS

The Church should also ensure that all its Members and Adherents are aware of the need to have a plan and to have the necessary preparations in place throughout the (normal) Hurricane Season. Such plans may be made available by the Cayman Government agencies from time to time, and those should generally be used. The following list from (largely) the National Hurricane Centre in the US may also be followed:

- Know your Emergency Shelter. There will be at least one Emergency Medical Shelter in each District for persons eligible for these because of their frailty, mobility, functional and/or medical condition. If in that category, ensure you know the EMS for your District.
- Water – at least one gallon daily per person for 3 – 7 days. When a hurricane warning is issued, tubs and other larger containers may also be filled with water for flushing toilets, bathing, etc. BUT care: depending on the level of a tub (and other factors), when the water table rises waste water may come up through the drain and ruin the water stored. The atmospheric pressure changes during a storm may also cause stoppers to come loose in tubs, basins, etc., and the stored water to be lost.

PRODIGAL SON, was recorded only by a medical doctor, DR. LUKE, in St. Luke's gospel. He also wrote the book--Acts of the Apostles. Dr. Luke wrote both books especially for THEOPHILUS, a Roman official, praying that the Roman Empire, which at that time was intent on destroying the Christian Church, would repent and believe. It took many years to be accomplished, but the seed had been planted, and God in his own mysterious way, made the seed grow. By the writings of Dr. Luke, the seed of the Christian faith was sown and would later germinate. The might of the Roman army and the opposition of the Jews - all the hundreds of years of persecution were not able to destroy or diminish the faith of believers. As someone has said, "The Blood of the martyrs became the seed of the Church." (Tertullian)



At first, the Jewish Disciples did not believe in sharing the faith with gentiles. "I have never eaten anything common or unclean," said Peter, meaning that the faith was to be kept only for Jews. That is why at first, Paul of Tarsus set out to imprison and destroy the Christians. But the Damascus Road experience made Saul the persecutor become Paul the promulgator of Belief in Christ. No wonder the book—the Acts of the Apostles—is often dubbed 'The acts of the Holy Spirit.' It was the Blessing of God's Spirit on the New Testament's Day of Pentecost, that energized the early Christians from having a feeble membership of about one 120 believers in chapter one, and some 3,000 in chapter two, to go on to Paul's missionary journeys at the end of that book. He did not claim to have done this all by himself. Having written 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament himself, St. Paul could later assert, "Paul planted, Apollos watered. But it is God who gives the increase." (1 Corinthians 3:6) In other words, you may prefer to hear specific preachers, but St. Paul asks you — 'Who is Paul, and —Who is Apollos?' Only servants through whom you came to believe. In addition, there is much NT evidence that Paul had Silas, and Barnabas had Dr. Luke with him, as they traveled to sow the seeds of the Gospel of God's love.

You may not feel worthy spiritually or morally to respond positively to God's call to plant the seeds of the gospel in people's minds. It was the same with Paul at first. After Paul was struck blind on the way to killing Christians in Damascus, the Lord commissioned a certain Christian named Ananias to pay a visit to Paul. ANANIAS HESITATED AT FIRST saying, "Lord, many people have told me about this man, and about the terrible things he has done to your people in Jerusalem. And he has come to Damascus, with authority to arrest all who worship you." But the Lord replied, "Ananias, go because I have chosen him to make my name known. And I myself will show Paul all that he must suffer for my sake." Eventually, Ananias went, laid his hands on St Paul's head, saying, "Brother Paul, the Lord has sent me. "St. Paul himself later said as a Christian, "I am the least of the apostles. I am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I once persecuted God's church." (1 Corinthians 15:9) Yes, when you hear God's call, you would do well to answer, as a young man did, "Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth" (1 Samuel 3:10), or, as Isaiah said, "Here am I. Send me" (Isaiah 6:8).

- NB – for water and food, store as much as you are able to, even if more than 7 days’ supply. But if you will need to move to a shelter you will only be able to take a 3 -4 days’ supply because of storage limitations.
- Food – at least enough for 3 to 7 days:
 - Non-perishable packaged or canned food, juices, milk
 - Foods for infants or the elderly
 - Snack foods
 - Non-electric can opener
 - Cooking tools/fuel (care!)
 - Paper plates and plastic utensils
 - Plastic bags etc. for waste (disposal may be a problem for some time)
- Rain gear, sturdy shoes
- First aid kit/medicines/prescription drugs (adequate for a possible extended period)/list of food/medicine/etc. to which any household members are allergic.
- Special Items for babies (formula, bottles, sanitizers, diapers, something to keep them occupied, etc.) and the elderly – including walkers, wheelchairs, canes etc. that they need.
- Toiletries/hygiene items/moisturised wipes
- Flashlight(s) and batteries
- Battery Radio and extra batteries
- Cash (with some small bills) – stores etc. may reopen before banks/ATMs
- In the event of a warning – ensure your KEYS (car, house, etc.) are on you securely, if you have to move quickly!!!
- Secure Important Documents in waterproof containers – and take them with you if you have to evacuate before the storm. These include Passports, Insurance details, inventories, medical records, bank account numbers, Academic, Professional and Vocational Qualifications, credit cards, etc. Note- family pictures are also important to us and at least some should be made secure and watertight as possible.
- Tools – keep a set with you during the storm – hammers, nails, pliers plus any drills, screws, saws, etc. you may have.
- Ensure vehicle fuel tanks are kept at least half-full during the season and are filled when there is a warning. Beware the dangers though of storing fuel, especially gasoline, in a house etc.
- Cell phones and their car chargers are desirable.
- Any Pet needs. (Pets are not allowed in shelters, if you need to evacuate.)
- Details of what to do afterwards and the precautions to take as advised by the Government each year and during the emergency.

It is best to have hurricane supply storage (preferably waterproof containers) and keep the above supplies ready throughout the hurricane season, to avoid panic buying when a warning is issued and the stores are filled with shoppers.

If you have to evacuate, in addition to the above, clothing, pillows, ‘bedding’ (a sleeping bag is allowed in the Government shelters but due to space constraints cots and air-mattresses may not), toys, books, games, etc., will be needed.

Ensure family members know how to secure the home with shutters, etc., turn off electricity, central water supply,

disconnect cistern downspouts, close return valves on septic tanks (where available) and who is responsible for each of these duties. Clear trees, coconuts, loose wood, etc., in the yard that may damage the house.

The Government gives advice on this all the time – listen and follow. Know where vehicles should be parked, to be as safe as possible from anything that may fall or from flooding as happened extensively during Ivan.

The Cayman Government recommends that families discuss and agree an emergency plan – including agreeing with members how they feel about staying home, leaving the island, etc. Ensure family members know escape routes and they recommend ensuring all members have a contact of someone overseas to whom each can report after the emergency to confirm if they are well, etc., and get news on the other family members who have reported in.

Girls' Brigade News



On Sunday, June 6, 2021, the **Cayman Islands Girls' Brigade** gathered at the Savannah United Church for their annual **Girls' Brigade International Day of Prayer Service**, focusing on the theme: **'Fruitful and Overflowing: Be Faithful'**.

GB National Chaplain Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield reflecting on the passage of Matthew 25:31-40 brought home and alive the message of **"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."**



Tangible, visual reminders illustrated the message: bread, water, medicine, handcuffs and clothing.



The West Bay Company presenting a special song during the service.

The Companies also showcased their talents through special items and arts and crafts displays. The event was followed by a time of fellowship in the Church Hall.



IN OTHER NEWS

On Saturday, May 22, 2021, the Savannah United Church Youth Discipleship Group had an enriched time of fellowship and reflection with Mrs. Angela Martins (Former Chairman of Council) at her lovely home.



Ms. Martins led the group in a meaningful discussion about our mission and purpose as youths, which left us all thinking about our mission and commitment to serve as children of God.



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 12. (Saturday)

Lay Leaders Training Course – via Zoom

June 13. (Sunday) 3rd Sunday of Pentecost

June 14. (Monday) Queen's Birthday–National Holiday

June 20. (Sunday) 4th Sunday of Pentecost

Fathers' Day

**It is that time of year again,
when Gun Bay United Church will have its
annual dinner sale!
Where? Adjacent to the Church.**

**Bring your friends and enjoy the fellowship
and food!**

July 5, 2021 at 11:00 am



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

June 13, 2021
Rev. Godfrey Meghoo

Published by the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
292 Prospect Point Road
P.O. Box 1700 Grand Cayman KY1-1109 CAYMAN ISLANDS
Tel: 1 345 947 1963 Email: rdgs@cicucjci.com or cirmcinfo@gmail.com
Website: unitedchurch.org.ky