



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

## WEEKLY UPDATE

June 23, 2021

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 25

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

### Times of Healing

*By Rev. Otto Menko*

**Please read Mark 5:21-43** (Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman)

One cannot help but stand in awe and wonder witnessing not only the divine power of Jesus in full display but more so His deep love and concern for others, especially for those deemed less important by the social convention of His time, such as women and children. In this reading we see Jesus responding with understanding and compassion to the anguish of a father and a woman, as they were both seeking desperately Jesus' help.

The unnamed woman has been suffering for twelve years with hemorrhage. This condition was bad enough in itself but what made it even more unbearable was the social and religious stigma of ritual uncleanness associated with her condition. She was an outcast, an outsider, who didn't count or belong. After trying for years everything possible without avail, she saw in Jesus her last chance. Cloaked in the anonymity of the crowd she touched Jesus' garment, fully aware that she was forbidden to do so.

In stark contrast to her, Jairus, the father of a dying young girl was a man of authority, well known and widely respected, being the leader of the local synagogue. He too was driven by desperation seeking for Jesus' intervention, ready to do anything to save his daughter. He didn't care what others thought of him as he fell on the ground before Jesus, pleading for His help.

This woman and this man and their stories couldn't possibly be more different than they were and yet their lives intersected at that point in time and space. They were brought together by experiencing something very much similar, a sense of anguish over something very personal, something that seemed humanly impossible to rectify. The synagogue official's daughter was on the brink of death, and the unnamed woman, - due to her physical and social condition – was already as good as dead.

The other common factor we can see clearly in their stories is their faith. They both reached out to Jesus, seeking His personal involvement and action in faith. The expression 'in faith' includes not only their belief, or conviction that Jesus had the

power to do something but also their trust, that He would actually do something.

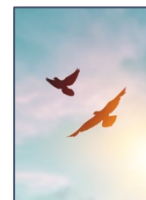
They both reached out to Jesus and in response, He reached out to them. The way He engaged them shows how attuned He was to their personal life, thoughts, and feelings, how much He understood and empathized with them. Although He never met them before, they immediately became His primary focus, the two most important persons, and the two most important matters to deal with.

What followed, very likely become the singular, most remarkable event and experience in the life of the unnamed woman and Jairus' family, something they remembered and cherished for the rest of their lives. It was more than physical healing. It was a restoration to the fullness of life, of joys, of hopes, and of possibilities.

Let this Gospel account remind us today that Jesus is still the source of life and healing. What is truly mind-boggling is that although our personal problems, concerns, or challenges may range from minor to major, life-threatening ones, Jesus gives us His undivided attention, personalized care, and response. In John 10:10 He stated very clearly, "I have come that they (you, we) may have life and have it abundantly". His intentions and plans have not changed during the last two thousand years. Every one of us, with all our faults, shortcomings, pettiness, and idiosyncrasies matter to Him so much so, that He paid the price for our salvation on the cross well before we were born. All it takes on our part is turning to Him in faith – like Jairus and the unnamed woman.

Therein lies the answer to the myriad issues and challenges of life, to all our problems, big or small. Are we willing to move from believing to trusting, to actively and mindfully seeking Jesus' involvement and guidance, His presence, and voice? Often all we want is only an answer, a solution, some special help and we fail to see the larger picture, which is the gift of being restored to the wholeness of life. Jesus would like to make us into a whole person in every sense, so that every part of us – spiritual, intellectual, social, psychological, and physiological – could function as it ought to and in perfect harmony with Him, with people around us, and with our environment.

There are no special requirements to have access to Jesus, to His already wide-open heart, but one: to seek Him in faith and to entrust ourselves to Him. He is the wellspring of life, the one who restores life to those who fully trust in him.



# Rooted in Christ

- A conversation -  
By Rev. L. Christopher Mason

Please read **Colossians 2:2-7** and **Ephesians 3:14-21**



The first picture that came to mind was of a tree. The cool thing about trees is that they have to have strong roots to survive. To be fruitful and produce something, they have to have healthy roots that run deep into the ground. Although the tree starts with flimsy roots, if it grows correctly, its roots will run deep into the ground and make for a firm foundation.

That's when things started to make sense!  
My brain was finally picking up what Paul had been saying...

*"...walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." — Colossians 2:6-7*

This verse couldn't be more perfect in my opinion! In this passage, Paul is reminding the Colossian church of their foundation, their root system. When we accept Jesus Christ into our hearts and as the Lord of our lives, the root process begins. We start to grow our roots into Christ, our firm foundation. That is the starting point and where our roots have the opportunity to grow deep! Just like Paul reminds us, these roots can be built and established!

So what does "be deeply rooted" mean?

- Being deeply rooted means...
- Having a strong desire to know & love Christ — no matter what.
- Submitting to His lead & trusting His power.
- Finding our identity in Christ & living it out.
- Striving to grow in our love for Him daily.

Think about a steady tree in a wind storm. If their root system is strong enough, it will survive! The same goes for you and me. When we are rooted in Christ, there will be no way that the things of this world or the troubles of this life will uproot us! We can stand tall with our roots planted deep, no matter our circumstances.

However, I think many of us have planted ourselves in things other than Jesus. I've done this more times than I can count and every time, I have never been able to withstand the storm and I have always been uprooted. When I was in high school, I put my trust in dating relationships and rooted my identity in them. They always crashed and burned.

Take a second and reflect with me. Where are your roots? Are they in people? Comparison? Your possessions? Your bank account? Your social media following? Your job?

I'll say it again: where are your roots?

Digging our roots into perfectionism, comparison, society, or opinions of others will only leave us vulnerable. The enemy wants us to put our complete trust in things of this world because he knows it won't last — we'll be uprooted in no time. It's a false sense of security. And those roots will never sustain or grow us.

That's why we must grow our roots deep down into Christ. That's why we must settle on Christ, our Firm Foundation. Ever wonder why Christ is called things like "The Solid Rock" and "The Tree of Life?" IT'S BECAUSE HE IS STEADY AND HE IS SURE.

Do you trust the process? This whole "being deeply rooted" thing isn't instant. It doesn't come easy. It's not an overnight process.

It's a day-to-day surrender — a daily process that continually grows our roots deeper. Think of that Palm tree again! It doesn't just sprout roots overnight and flourish — it takes time for lasting, sustainable roots to form. But that's the beauty of this whole thing. Each day is an opportunity to grow deeper in love & trust with our Savior.

It's an opportunity to be fully dependent and strive for a divine relationship with our Creator. We'll never be perfect here on earth but we sure can grow our roots down deep so that no matter what life throws at us — we can stand firm. We can be unshakable. When something horrible happens, we can know that Truth is grounding us. When we're confronted with dozens of different opinions, we can trust that our root system is in the Great I Am.

I believe that rooted in Christ should be more than a thought. It should be a lifestyle, full of grace and trust.  
Paul's prayer for the Ephesians ...

I. STRONG INNER BEING, 3:14-17 for ...

- A. The dwelling of Christ in their hearts
- B. The reign of Christ in their hearts
  - Rooted—planted & established
  - Grounded—good foundation

II. STRONG IN THE LOVE OF GOD, 3:18-19 for ...

- A. The power to grasp God's love
  - Being rooted in sound doctrine, thorough knowledge of the Scriptures (like Apollos), you will be able to understand God's love.
- B. The knowledge that God's love is superior
- C. The attainment of the fullness of God

III. STRONG IN GIVING GLORY TO GOD, 3:20-21

- A. In personal life
- B. In the Church
- C. In all generations

CONCLUSION:

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians is also the prayer for us today. The answer to Paul's prayer is attainable by our own determination to be rooted in God.



"Strong roots stabilize growth. It is so important for the Christian. But there is no instant way to get roots. It always takes time. It's hard work. The process is also slow. It takes a strong determination and deep commitment. You have to have the will to be rooted".

So don't be discouraged when this process becomes hard, tedious, or even trying. These are the moments that are producing the most valuable fruit and the most loyal dependence — all for our good and His glory.

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## IN OTHER NEWS

The Ministers and Lay Pastors gathered for their annual **'Ministry and Mission Team Retreat'** on Friday, June 18, 2021, to address the importance of the new Synodical theme, its relevance and practical implications for the life and ministry in the CIRM. The retreat provided an excellent opportunity for the Ministers and Lay Pastors to reflect on what it means to be **'Rooted in Christ'** and **'Rooted in the Spirit'**. A follow up meeting will be held in the near future to address the issues of what it means to be **'Resilient!'** and **'Responding!'**



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The Women's Fellowship Executive Council meeting was held on Saturday, June 19, 2021, at the Council Office where among many other things a decision was made to join the **'Thursdays in Black'** campaign to raise public awareness to the scourge of gender based abuse and domestic violence.



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*New members Maicel Miller, Abryl Miller and Ned Miller III*

The Father's Day worship service is always huge event at William Pouchie Memorial United Church. On Father's Day the congregation confirmed and welcomed three new members (Maicel Miller, Abryl Miller and Ned Miller III) and for the first time presented an award for Father of Year. This award was presented to Mr. Ashbert Terry, whose children are all grown up and he now takes his grandchildren to church. The Rev. Mary Graham, guest preacher seated in the background.



*William Pouchie Memorial UC 'Father of the Year' Award recipient Mr. Ashbert Terry with Rev. Rohan Forrester*

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*Fathers receive their tokens at the Father's Day Service at the Webster Memorial United Church in Boddin Town.*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 25. (Friday)

**Elmslie Memorial International Night – 7:30pm**

June 26. (Saturday)

**Lay Leaders Training Course – 9:00am - via Zoom**

**Girls' Brigade Council Meeting – 9:30am-Council office**

June 27. (Sunday) 5th Sunday of Pentecost

July 03. (Saturday)

**'Darkness to Light' Training – 9:00am - Council office**



**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**



**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**



ELMSLIE MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH YOUTH MINISTRY PRESENTS

## INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

**JUNE 25, 2021**  
**7:30 PM**  
**ELMSLIE CHURCH HALL**  
**Admission: Free**

COME DRESSED IN YOUR NATIONAL COLOURS AND COSTUMES TO EXPERIENCE THE CULTURES AND COUNTRIES ON DISPLAY!

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



on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am

**June 27, 2021**  
Rev. Otto Menko

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