



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

## WEEKLY UPDATE

July 21, 2021

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

## CELEBRATING OUR SEAFARING HERITAGE

*“He hath founded it upon the Seas”*  
*Psalm 24:2*

- By Mrs. Katherine Jackson -

On Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> July, the John Gray Memorial Church in West Bay included in their worship service a celebration of the life of Seafarers here in the Cayman Islands, and in particular, those brave men that hailed from that district, and particularly from that Church.

Mr. Loxley Banks gave the following overview:

Today we are celebrating “Sea Sunday 2021” here in the Cayman Islands, and knowing that many of our stalwart seafarers came from this district, especially those who sailed on the *MV Adams, the Goldfield, and other great ships of the world*, we thought it very appropriate to include this celebration in our worship service today.

“Sea Sunday” is the annual day, which was established over 100 years ago, that many Churches around the world set aside to remember and pray for seafarers and their families, and to give thanks for their lives and work.

That era was known as the days of “Wooden Ships and Iron Men” which takes us back to a time when men first ventured out to sea, under sail, and the ships were built of wood.

Today we give thanks to God for all our noble men who sailed the open seas, establishing trade routes not only from our Islands but all around the world, and setting a very high standard of work ethic, bravery, and commitment to their seafaring profession ... and in each Sunday evening service in all the Churches in years gone by, there were always hymns and prayers dedicated to their safety on the seas and safe return home: here are the words from one of those songs.

Jesus, Saviour, pilot me,  
Over life’s tempestuous sea,  
Unknown waves before me roll,  
Hiding rock and treach’rous shoal;  
Chart and compass came from Thee:  
May I hear You say to me,  
“Fear not, I will pilot thee.”

He smiled as he concluded that many a mother had adopted the words, *“Jesus, Saviour, pilot me”* just before they had to discipline their children!

He then read the poem, “Crossing the Bar” by Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,  
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark.  
For tho’ from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have cross’d the bar.

This beautiful reading was followed by the congregation singing the seamen’s hymn, “Eternal Father, Strong to Save”.

Leonard Ebanks then read “The Seaman’s Prayer”:

*Heavenly Father, we pray to You for those on the perilous ocean, asking that You will embrace them with your mighty protection and grant them success in all their rightful undertakings.*

*Grant them in all hours of need to see that they have a God who remembers them ... and grant them grace in the hour of danger to commit their souls into Your hands.*

*O Lord Jesus Christ, Who can rebuke the storm and bring it to silence, and lay the roaring waves to rest, show them who call to You out of the deep that You hear their prayers and will save them.*

*Finally, bring us all to the only safe port – in Your name we pray, Amen.*

A photograph of the well-known West Bay sea captain, Capt. Allie Ebanks and his son, Kirkum was carried on the front of the Order of Worship. This image forms the statue of the

Captain using the sextant and his son at the wheel in Heroes Square, George Town. This closed the short celebration, and everyone applauded in appreciation.

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## VBS - CIRMC 2021

### SAVANNAH UNITED CHURCH VBS



A total of 63 children ages ranging from 3yrs old to 13yrs old attended five evenings of Vacation Bible School at the Savannah United Church from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The Sanctuary, Hall, Boardroom, and Sunday School Classrooms were all decorated to reflect the theme **Knights of the North Castle**.

Each evening started with registration in the Church Hall, then children were escorted to the Assembly area by Teen Leaders assigned as guides to each class. There were five classes in total: Kindergarten (8 children), Lower Elementary (10 children), Upper Elementary 1 (13 children), Upper Elementary 2 (17 children), and Middle School (15 children). Mrs. Kimia Hemmings, Artistic Director, engaged the children in action songs reflecting the lesson for each day and an interactive puppet show with Sparky the Dragon played by Shantel Purnwasay. The lessons were then introduced with a video presentation and students were sent to their activity areas.

There were four main activity centers: Art & Science, Bible Story, Recreation, and Snack Art. To facilitate the large groups, the classes were scheduled to rotate every 30minutes to experience all the centers each day.

Thirty- Two (32) adult volunteers and Nine (9) teen volunteers attended the VBS, but teachers were assigned once or twice for the week. Teens functioned as timekeepers and guides for the children when transitioning to activity groups.

The Bible lessons were centered on Bible Stories that demonstrated characteristics of Truth, Justice, Faith, Peace, and Salvation. The Three Hebrew Boys (Truth), David and Goliath (Justice), Jesus Walking on Water (Faith), Mary's Journey to Bethlehem (Peace), and Paul and Silas in Prison (Salvation). In addition to the stories, children were encouraged to be strong in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10) and to put on the whole Armor of God as we stand boldly for Christ.

The children enjoyed the set, lively songs, puppet show, art sessions, bible lesson activities, and the creative snacks that reflected the theme and lessons for each day.

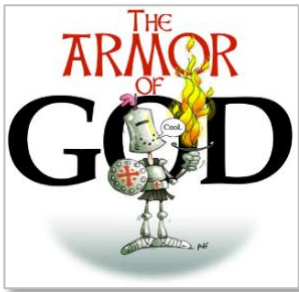
On the last day, all the volunteers were presented with tokens of appreciation, a certificate and were celebrated with a themed cake.



### EAST END - GUN BAY UNITED CHURCH VBS



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The East End and Gun Bay Charge held its Vacation Bible School (VBS) from July 14-16, from 8:30–12:30 pm under the theme **“The Armor of God.”**

VBS was held for only three days due to the unavailability of the East End United Church hall and

available days of the Civic Centre.

On the first day, the children were divided into two teams named Nights of Canterbury and Nights of King Arthur, which were led by Jazial Martinez and Kelisha Sopenon, members of the East End Youth Fellowship group.

Daily activities included worship, Bible lesson, crafts, and games. The Bible lessons focused on the stories of The Hebrew Boy, David and Goliath, and Paul and Silas.

The preparation for VBS was aided by the Savannah United Church that consisted of the Youth Worker Ms. Camille Watt, Mrs. Margaret Garcia and Ms. Annette Murphy. Over the three days, there were 16 children - 9 girls and 7 boys and over thirteen volunteers from the Charge and community. At the end of VBS every child left with a gift package.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 24. (Saturday)

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

July 25. (Sunday) 9th Sunday of Pentecost

**Teen’s Camp (Sunday – Friday) 8 AM – 6 PM at the PYC**

July 27. (Tuesday)

**Evangelism MAT Meeting – 7:00pm - via Zoom**

July 24. (Saturday)

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



on Radio Cayman 89.9  
every Sunday at 7:45 am

**July 25, 2021**  
**Campers’ Service**

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