



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

October 06, 2021

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 40

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

Seek Good, Not Evil...Hate Evil, Love Good...Maintain Justice!

*By Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield
(RDGS, CIRMC)*

Amos 5:10-15

“There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court and detest the one who tells the truth. You levy a straw tax on the poor and impose a tax on their grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine. For I know how many your offences are and how great your sins are. There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts. Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times, for the times are evil. Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.”

One of the Lectionary offerings for this week, Amos 5:10-15, has remained a most provocative text. The harsh words of the Shepherd of Tekoa have become even more poignant as humanity struggles with the dis-ease caused not only by the COVID-19 pandemic but by the levels of pain, marginalization, and injustice that still exist. Truth has become elusive and conditional, in fact, truth has been twisted and trampled (Chp.5 v 7), the innocent remain oppressed, bribery and corruption stalk the hallways, and those with the privilege of voice, in the name of prudence, remain silent because the proverbial times are evil.

Amos was not a typical or career prophet, but he received a peculiar message for the people of the Northern Kingdom. His onslaught of words in Bethel addressed not only the people of Israel but challenged the neighboring nations. His words were penetrative and tough to hear as his soul got angry because of the constant oppression and dehumanization of the poor and dispossessed. Amos recognized and condemned the many crimes of war, and he was strident in denouncing the atrocities and suffering of the people as nations ravished each other. The images of fire, ripped open pregnant women, the enslavement of people, the killing of relatives, and the general gruesomeness seem harsh for our ears and imagination today.

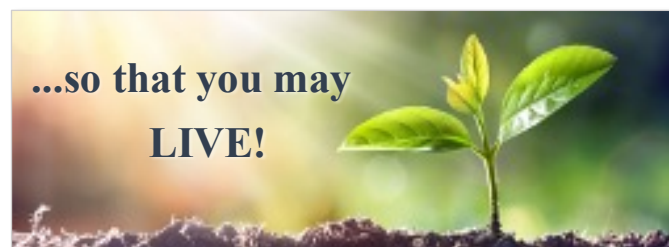
However, some of these realities dwell within the underbelly of who we are as Caribbean people. Deeds of evil allow for the dispossession, racism, discrimination, and disparity which mar our societies. For a long time, people have been suffocating under the weight of oppressive systems that prevent access to good health care, proper housing, equal educational and employment opportunities, and the enjoyment of life in its fulness. These have all become magnified in the current time.

The Prophet warned the people of Israel that they would be chastised as they worshipped false gods, yet they expected Yahweh to protect them. Israel and Samaria would suffer great devastation unless there was repentance. Spiritual poverty echoed in the words ‘The Lord has said that they don’t even know how to do right’ may still be our challenge today. Unfortunately, even when all was in decay and sorrow abound because the people did not know how to do right, they still rejected God.

Can the Prophet speak to us?

It was from this dark place that Amos called the people into a right relationship with God. The call to ‘Seek Good, Not Evil...Hate Evil, Love Good...Maintain Justice’ belongs in our hearing and midst today. More persons need to purpose in their hearts to seek good. Simply put ‘if you want to live, you must stop doing wrong and start doing what is right’. Collectively, we must decry the actions of evil and cease the folly of denial and own the call to love good and maintain justice. Our souls must yearn for that which is good!

In your daily walk seek to do good, help to transform the darkness, announce works of hope, seek peace and pursue, provide a safe place for those in need, share a table with the poor, welcome the stranger, embrace those who come empty, and fill them with good things, support the weak-kneed and lift up the bowed down. Then and only then will we begin to glimpse Amos’ call to ‘Seek Good, Not Evil...Hate Evil, Love Good...Maintain Justice’.



...so that you may
LIVE!

Nurturing the Growth

By Mrs. Reneé Barnes



Left to right: Mrs. Reneé Barnes, Mr. Roy McGregor, Ms. Camile Watt

The theme for our CIRMC Summer Camp this year was "Root, Shoot, Fruit". During each Camp, the campers were placed in Family Groups and were given plants that could be used in their daily decor, but they also had to ensure that the plants were nurtured and cared for.



As a token of appreciation to our Ministers and respective churches, the very same plants which were cared for during our Camps were presented to our Ministers on Friday, October 1. It is hoped that the churches will continue to nurture the growth of these plants.



Message for Men's Fellowship Sunday

Mr. Carlton Frederick Rodney Snr.
(President General UCMF)

"Despite the challenges, Remain Faithful, God is Able"

My Brothers, I greet you well on this Synodical Men's Fellowship Sunday. I also extend my greetings to your families and loved ones, both near and far. The past year has been a very difficult period for all. Many of us have lost loved ones to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and attendant causes. I offer my sympathies and the assurance of our prayers.

This pandemic has caused significant dislocation, pain and burdensome conditions which, for many, is equal to none other. Our lives will never be the same, but we must continue to live, exist and demonstrate the grit that tells the world that we are people of faith, and believe that God is still in control of our destiny.

We must tell our stories to the communities in which we live, work and operate: that our God is still in our hearts, minds and spirits. We will continue to sing our songs of hope, love and redemption! We will spread good news to those who are in despair! We will feed the hungry, we will care for the ailing, we will shelter the homeless, we will give words of comfort, we will stand in the gap, because that is what God teaches and expects of us as Men in this United Church!

This is a time to be prayerful, but also a time to be diligent, ensuring that we seek out our Brothers that need our support, love and care. Let our faith be a beacon of hope for the bewildered. Let our words reflect care and understanding. Let our ways be pleasing and noteworthy.

Men of God, this pandemic might be our test. Who knows? But our actions must underscore our tenacity to continue on this seemingly dusty road to Damascus, but we will overcome, by God's Grace. May today be a day of reflection and resolution to the cause of the United Church Men's Fellowship, its Ministry and Witness.

"Despite the Challenges, Remain Faithful, God is able". Every Blessing!

The Aims and Objectives of the Men's Fellowship include:

- To deepen the spiritual lives of its members and to inspire and stimulate them to Christian activities
- To train members and prospective members of the Fellowship for better service in the Church and community.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month



October is recognized worldwide as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Since October 1997 the Lions Club of Tropical Gardens (Cayman Islands) has been in the forefront of raising awareness, providing support and early detection information more available to women living in the Cayman Islands. During October, Breast Cancer Awareness Meetings are held in each district and giveaway packages are distributed at the District Clinics and the Brenda Tibbetts Lund 10K & 5K Walk /Run.



(left to right) Rev. Rohan Forrester (Minister, BT-NS Charge), Ms. Maxine Bravo (LCTG President), Hon. Sabrina Turner (MP, Minister for Health and Wellness) and Mr. Dwayne Seymour (MP, BT East)

On October 3, 2021, the Webster Memorial UC in Bodden Town hosted the launching service for the month-long campaign with the Hon. Sabrina Turner, MP, Minister for Health and Wellness and Ms. Maxine Bravo, President of the LCTG in attendance and bringing greetings.





Cayman Prep & High School Priority Registration

If you have a child that is either hoping to join us in KG in 2022/23 or attends another pre-school, primary school, high school or is home-schooled and you would like them to potentially join Cayman Prep and High School in the 2022/23 academic year please note our **priority application deadline is October 31 2021.**

Only children who do not currently attend Cayman Prep should complete an online application form (available on our website www.cayprep.edu.ky)

If you have already applied you do not need to do this again. If you are not sure if you have applied or if you have any questions, please call the High School on 949-9115 or Primary School on 949-5932 or email hsadmissions@cayprep.edu.ky or psadmissions@cayprep.edu.ky

Priority status on our wait list is available to:

1. Children who are Members, or who are children or grandchildren of Members of the United Church, in good standing (requires Church letter)
2. Children of active adherents of the United Church (requires Church letter)
3. Children of current permanent staff of the School
4. Children who have a sibling in the School
5. Children who have previously had sibling/s in the School
6. Past students and children of past students of the School
7. Others in order of receipt of completed application form and application fee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 10. (Sunday) 20th Sunday of Pentecost
Men's Fellowship Sunday**

**October 12. (Tuesday)
Bethesda Counselling Centre Board Meeting – 5:00pm
at the Counselling center**

**October 13. (Wednesday)
Finance & Property Committee Meeting – 6:30pm – via
Zoom**

October 17. (Sunday) 201st Sunday of Pentecost

**October 23. (Saturday)
'Child Care & Protection Policy' Workshop – 9:00-
11:00am via Zoom**



Rev. Dr. Maj. Norman Francis

February 23, 1958 - September 12, 2021

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and ministry of the Rev. Dr. Maj. Norman Francis was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m. at Webster Memorial United Church. The service can be viewed on the UCJCI's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/ucjci>

Please continue to lift up in your prayers his wife Karen, his sons and the extended family in this tumultuous time of pain and sadness.

CORONAVIRUS: PRAYER FOR HEALING

Father God,

I come before you today to seek
mercy and healing.

Have mercy on your children who are
infected with coronavirus.

You alone can restore their health.
Heal them and make them whole again.

Give them the strength to carry on.
Comfort them in these scary times of their life.

I dedicate doctors and nurses to you,

Lord, Help them in all their doings

Protect them from this disease.

And give them the heart to continue
taking care of the sick.

In Jesus name.

Amen

THE BLISSFUL CHAPTER



(CCPP)

Child Care & Protection Policy

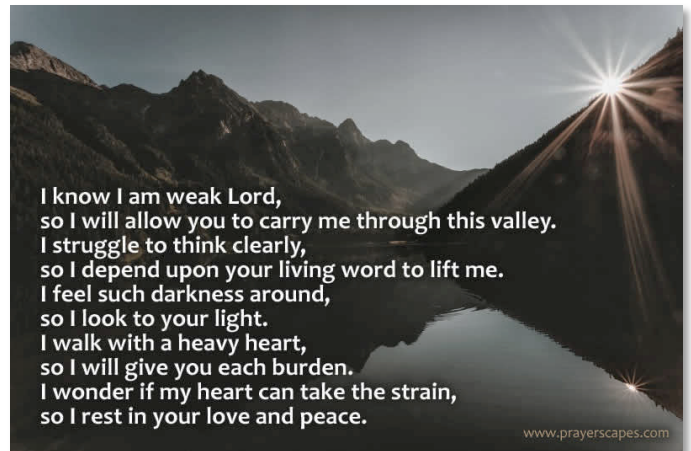
WORKSHOP

For all those assisting in children and
youth ministry who have not been trained

Saturday, October 23, 2021

9:00 — 11:00am via Zoom

To register please contact your minister or the



I know I am weak Lord,
so I will allow you to carry me through this valley.
I struggle to think clearly,
so I depend upon your living word to lift me.
I feel such darkness around,
so I look to your light.
I walk with a heavy heart,
so I will give you each burden.
I wonder if my heart can take the strain,
so I rest in your love and peace.

www.prayerscapes.com



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

October 10, 2021
Rev. L. Christopher Mason

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@cicucici.com or cirmcinfo@gmail.com
Website: unitedchurch.org.ky