



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

OCTOBER: The Call to Evangelism

October 13, 2021

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 41

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



This week's focus:
Personal Witnessing

There is no greater joy than to lead a person to a transforming experience of Jesus Christ. As important as the 'coming to Jesus' is the 'going to the world'. It was through the personal witness of John the Baptist that the two disciples found Jesus. It was used by Phillip to lead the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ. Those who practice personal witnessing, or person-to-person evangelism require humility, obedient trust in God, knowledge of the scripture and the gospel, a personal testimony and confidence to bring someone to the point of decision. Through Jesus Christ, our ever-resourceful person, we are vitalized for the task of reaching the lost.

Sharing the Good News

Rev. Godfrey Meghoo

Please read John 1:35

Have you noticed that if you keep up with the news daily that most of the news is bad news? There is much reporting on virus outbreaks worldwide, volcanic damage, forest fires, assassinations, war and crime, death of loved ones, abandoned children, and refugees seeking a better life. Sometimes, you are tired of hearing bad news. Newspaper publishers might tell you that good news does not sell. We all long to hear good news - news about peace between nations, good news about your children's success in studying, and good news about long-lasting and happy marriages. The constant stream of bad news tends to demoralize but good news will lift the spirit.

John the Baptist

This man of God was longing to hear good news too. He was in prison although he had done nothing wrong but to rebuke a powerful man for his terrible lifestyle. His name was John the Baptist. He had baptized many individuals, telling them to believe in the one coming afterward: telling them that Jesus was the Agnus Dei—the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world. Reference to the Lamb meant a spotless lamb, an unblemished one, worthy to be used for the sacred Passover Festival---reminding the people of their deliverance from the exodus and their miraculous deliverance by God's mercy and love.----a LAMB who would suffer. John the Baptist did not mind that after telling his followers about Jesus being the Lamb of God, two of his own disciples would leave him and follow Jesus instead. "He must increase, I must decrease," he said.

Now in prison, John longed to hear good news. So he sent a message to Jesus, asking, "Are you He that cometh, or should we look for another?" Are you the one who was expected to come to be our Deliverer? The Baptizer eventually suffered capital punishment in prison, but many people came to believe in Jesus, who started his ministry by saying, "The right time has come. Repent, therefore, and believe the Gospel" —the word Gospel meaning Good News.

Isaiah

In Isaiah 40-50 the prophet spoke about the Good News: "Comfort ye! Comfort my people. Go up on a high mountain, and proclaim the Good News! Call out with a loud voice, and announce the Good News. Speak out, and do not be afraid." Beginning with Abraham, the people of the Old Testament were called to evangelize the rest of the world. But they suffered much at the hands of powerful nations. They lost their freedom for more than 500 years. They had been accustomed to having their own kings anointed. They felt that this was the result of their own selfishness. But they believed in a loving and forgiving God—the Lord Yahweh. Despite everything else, they looked forward to the Messiah (the Anointed One -- in Greek, the Christ).

Isaiah himself, when called to carry this message of hope and Good News, did not feel worthy to respond to such a high and holy calling—"Woe is me," he said, "for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people with unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts!" So God forgave and cleansed Isaiah. God knows our hearts. He will not give up on you, even if you feel unworthy. You may feel unworthy of participating in the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, Holy Communion. No one is worthy of God's sacraments. 'I am not worthy, Holy Lord, That Thou shouldst come to me, Speak but the word, one gracious word, Can set the sinner free.' (H. W. Baker)

Saul of Tarsus/The Apostle Paul

Saul of Tarsus had the privilege of delivering Good News to 276 persons in their dangerous hour of need. Saul himself had been a persecutor of Christians, but on his way to doing just that in Damascus, he was struck blind, and a change in his way of thinking occurred. He became a believer. Years later, he was traveling on a ship to Rome. A dangerous storm caught up with them, and after two weeks, everyone on board had given up all hope of being rescued. Then Paul (Saul's new name) got up and said to the Captain, crew, and passengers, "Men, you should have listened to me...But now, I beg you, take heart. Not one of you will lose his life. Only the ship will be lost. For last night an angel of God, to whom I belong and whom I worship,

came to me and said, “Don’t be afraid, Paul! You must stand before the Emperor. And God in his goodness to you has spared the lives of all those who are sailing with you.” Just before dawn, as the ship was being broken to pieces, Paul begged them all to eat some food. “You have been waiting for 14 days now, and all this time have not eaten anything. I beg you then, eat some food. You need it to survive. Not even a hair of your heads will be lost.” Paul proceeded to eat some food, gave thanks to God before them all. All 276 of them felt encouraged and ate some food also. That was indeed Good News, as any seafarer can testify.

When Paul turned his life around and started telling people the good news about the Saviour Jesus, people could hardly believe that he was the same person who had come to Damascus to destroy Christians. They thought he was a spy and only pretending. In fact, he had to escape for his life by being let down over that city wall in a basket.

In Damascus, God called Ananias, - one of the believers - to visit Paul and lay his hands on him, so that his sight might be restored. At first, Ananias responded, ‘Lord, Paul is a wicked anti-Christian man.’ To this, the Lord replied, ‘True, but I have chosen Paul to bring Good News to non-Jews, and Paul will find out that he must suffer many things for the sake of the Gospel.’ When God chooses you today for any particular task, no matter how evil your past has been, you can be an asset to the Kingdom of God. You will find it fulfilling and satisfying to bring someone to God, just like Andrew felt when introducing his brother, Peter to Jesus.

It turned out that Paul wrote half of the books of the New Testament section of the Bible, four of those from prison.

The Gospel of Matthew

In Matthew ch. 10 we read that Jesus sent out twelve apostles. They were persons who were already employed, some with a chequered past—including Judas a betrayer, Simon a sword-carrier, Thomas a doubter, Peter, James and John, fishermen who needed help to catch fish, and Matthew a tax-collector. The word apostle means a person sent out on a mission (the word mission also means sent out). They were told in advance that they would be like sheep among wolves. The Lord did not choose the qualified, but He qualified them after they were chosen. They were also called disciples, which means learners. You have to keep learning on the job.

The Lord needs full-time ordained apostles and messengers. He says to you, Come unto me, or Follow Me. But he also says, “Go ye therefore, and Catechize all nations.” Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? As James Elmslie said 175 years ago, “If no one else will go, I will go”. And as Isaiah said, “Here am I. Send me.”

I had a similar experience at the age of 17—while still in High School. Studying R.E (Religious Education), primarily the Bible, with a Christian principal and teacher, and being confirmed at our church, I heard God’s call to full-time ministry. It has been an adventurous journey, not yet finished. There have been difficulties and serious illnesses along the way, but the Lord still says: “Go, labor on, spend and be spent; Thy joy to do the Father’s will; Should not the servant tread it still?”

(Horatius Bonar). Remember, you too can share the good news of Jesus’ love with others.

Personal Evangelism Q & A

Here are some questions to reflect on as well as some answers to consider.

What is personal evangelism?

Personal evangelism is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others.

Do I need a special call to share the good news of Jesus Christ?

No, I don’t. Experiencing His reality and salvation in my life would naturally compel me to tell others who He is and what He has done for us all.

Do I need special gifts or training to engage in personal evangelism?

No, I don’t. God can use me just as I am, a one-of-a-kind individual with a unique blend of characteristics, personality, mannerisms, and experiences. Of course, there is always room for improvement!

Are personal evangelism and witnessing the same?

No, they are not. They are different but as the two sides of a coin, they are inseparable. While personal evangelism is actually telling, talking, explaining, conversing about Jesus, witnessing is about living our life, conducting ourselves and our affairs in such a way that they point to Him. Without witnessing, evangelism is ineffective and it even becomes counterproductive.

When is the best time for personal evangelism?

Anytime. Our everyday life constantly creates situations and opportunities for us to make a comment, steer a conversation or raise a question leading or pointing to the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will guide us when to speak and when to stay silent, what to say and how to say it.

With whom should I share the good news about Jesus?

With anyone, of course. They can be strangers, casual acquaintances, colleagues, friends, and family. The most effective way of personal evangelism is when we become part of their life journey and our engagement is not limited to a fleeting encounter.

What are the most common challenges of personal evangelism?

There are all sorts of barriers and obstacles that you may encounter and need to overcome in the process. These can range from feeling inadequate, anxious, nervous, shy to being afraid of rejection, criticism, ridicule, and so on. But as long as your faith is genuine, living, and active and you are willing to learn along the way how to share it and are ready to trust God with the outcomes, then you’re ready to begin.

(Rev. Otto Menko)



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.

All are invited!
OCTOBER 16, 2021

Cayman Council
Women's Fellowship
presents

Gathering 2021
Theme: **Creating Awareness for Gender Violence**

Venue: *Savannah United Church*

CANCELLED

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 17. (Sunday) 21st Sunday of Pentecost

October 23. (Saturday)

'Child Care & Protection Policy' Workshop – 9:00-11:00am via Zoom

October 24. (Sunday) 22nd Sunday of Pentecost

October 31. (Sunday) 23rd Sunday of Pentecost

Reformation Sunday – Pulpit Exchanges

I trust that as you read this book of prayers, you will find it a blessing to you and your families and trust that you will pass from simply reading these prayers to praying. –
Herbert Crawford

Available by the end of November early December. Further details to follow. (Hardcover and digital).



(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 Council office at 947-1963 or cirmc.info@gmail.com by Monday, October 18, 2021



on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am

October 17, 2021
Rev. Godfrey Meghoo

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