



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

OCTOBER: The Call to Evangelism

October 20, 2021

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



This week's focus:
Preservation

The invitation to follow Christ does not conclude when a person responds with a personal or public confession of faith. It continues with our follow-up, discipleship, and assimilation so that the fruit of the gospel might remain and be preserved. The initial decision to believe in Jesus Christ is but the beginning of a life of fellowship and covenant obedience. Additionally, some persons may not respond to the initial witness of the gospel but over time may come to the place of commitment through deliberate and focused follow up.

The Call to Evangelism - Preservation

Mr. Herman Wilson

When we are converted to the Christian faith, we are brought from spiritual darkness to embrace spiritual light. We have been born again and have been sealed with the Holy Spirit for the Day of Redemption. We become a new creation in Christ Jesus and citizens of the Kingdom of God. Christ Jesus has become for us wisdom from God; that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:30).

The things of the Spirit of God are no longer foolishness to us. They become understandable, and more so as we gradually mature in the Christian faith. (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:14)

By Grace Through Faith

The thought of being chosen by God for salvation before our existence is something that cannot be fathomed. The Apostle Paul describes what has taken place in Ephesians 2:1-10. He says,

“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly

places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Be Holy

Additionally, the Apostle Peter calls on us to be holy. He says:

“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” 17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. (1 Peter 1:13-17)

Embracing the New Way of Life

Believers in Christ have been saved to come to the understanding that our purpose on this earth is to glorify God and to enjoy His presence forever. We can confidently answer the questions:

- Who am I?
- Why am I here?
- Where am I going?

We are now called upon to meditate on the following Scriptural directives:

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:15-16)

Our understanding of these verses of Scripture is significant to maintaining our new way of existence as we engage in this secular world. Good works are the result of our conversion - the supernatural change that takes place within. It is a change that causes us to be zealous for the things of God and to become deeply aware of the holiness of God.

Our quest should be to continually seek a greater understanding of the Scriptures so that we may know Christ Jesus better each

day and what He requires of us as members of His Church, the Body of Christ. We must focus on Christ and Him crucified and on the holiness of God.

Upon our conversion, each of us has been gifted spiritually, and it is incumbent on us to determine this gifting, the purpose of which is to enhance the growth of the local Church.

The Holy Spirit enables us to do God's will and to persevere in faith. This is progressive sanctification, the process of maintaining personal holiness as we seek to adhere to the apostles' doctrine as reflected in the epistles of the New Testament.

For each believer, God has prepared good works in advance for us to do. The indwelling Holy Spirit superintends our performance of these good works despite the usual unforeseen change in conditions or experiences that affect our lives. The sinful nature still exists within and must be subdued through our yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit.

Aspects of a believer's sanctification and discipleship include, among other things, inter-personal relationships with non-believers, fellowship among believers, separation from past ungodly activities, and avoidance of legalism.

Believers are prompted to focus on the spiritual realities of the kingdom of God, and attendant divine providence. We are called upon to embrace the fruit of the Spirit – *“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control”* (Galatians 5:22-23) as our new way of existence. We are encouraged by Scripture to bask in righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit and to have an eternal perspective on life.



Spiritual challenges from the unseen realm will inevitably increase. As believers in Christ Jesus, blatant or subtle persecution is expected. We are residing in 'enemy territory', so to speak, and must be aware of the spiritual battle around us; there is a battle for the mind that manifests itself in various forms.

The Apostle Paul states in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5,

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

Additionally, the apostle relates in Ephesians 6:10 -17,

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to

stand...17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Study of and meditation on the Scriptures, the Word of God, is therefore paramount for continued success in our spiritual walk. We should always aim at gaining an overall grasp of the teaching of the complete Bible in order that we might become more discerning in our study of the book. We gradually gain a greater understanding from the Scriptures to the various ways in which God calls mankind to, once again enjoy a glorious relationship with Him. (It is recommended that members of the United Church become acquainted with 'Our Church' the Church's manual for guidance.)

Our prayer life is of extreme importance. It is our constant means of communicating with God. Faith must always overcome feelings.

We walk by faith, not by sight. We persevere with confidence because it is God who works in us to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose. (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:7; Philippians 2:13)

The Apparent Paradox of Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility

Some persons may not readily respond to the initial witness of the gospel, but they become committed later in life. The apparent paradox of God's sovereignty and human responsibility applies to our response to the gospel. This tension cannot be reconciled by our finite minds. This fact, for example, is expressed in the following cases:

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Jesus also later said to his followers,

44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. (John 6:44)

65 He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.” (John 6:65)

There is no contradiction in God, and we humbly submit to the divine truths revealed in Romans 11:33-36.

“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! 34 “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” 35 “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?” 36 For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever!”

We must evangelize. Let us, therefore, seek opportunities to spread the gospel for the glory of our eternal and omniscient God. Amen



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.

“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).

366 PRAYERS
FOR
ALL SEASONS



HERBERT CRAWFORD



The **John Gray Memorial United Church (West Bay)** is seeking to fill the position of Youth Minister and invites dynamic, highly motivated and qualified candidates to tender their applications.

For more details (job description and remuneration) please contact jgmcmminister@gmail.com

If you are sensing a call to this ministry, we invite you to submit your letter of application, curriculum vitae and a brief statement of your faith journey to jgmcmminister@gmail.com

WE NEED YOU!!!



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

The prayer of the righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:16



on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am

October 24, 2021
Mr. Herman Wilson

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