



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

OCTOBER: The Call to Evangelism NOVEMBER: A Culture of Evangelism

October 27, 2021

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



This week's focus:
Passion and Prayer

Evangelism calls upon us to have a passion for reaching souls burning within, undergirded by a vital connection to God through prayer. The fire of the Holy Spirit ablaze within the hearts and lives of those whose hope is in God is the fuel for both passion and prayer. This is the acceptable sacrifice of every believer. The secret of Martin Luther's revolutionary life was his commitment to spend time alone with God every day. It was this connection that gave fuel to the fires of reformation and to the call to love God and love one's neighbour.

Reformation Sunday

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

Please read Mark 12: 28-34

On this Reformation Sunday, we recall the journey of the Protestant and Reformed Faith since 1517 when Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. The genesis of the Reformation arose from the discontent Luther and others had with the form and nature of the Church to which they belonged.

The Reformers opposed the hierarchical nature of the Church and the state, the abuse of money and power, the rampant injustice, and the lack of the true meaning of God's grace at work in the lives of individuals, the church, and the world.

Luther was not alone in his quest for truth and righteousness and the Reformation movement included reformers such as John Calvin, Heinrich Bullinger, Theodore Beza, John Knox, and Huldrych Zwingli. These reformers wanted to ensure that the Church did not embrace tenets that were contrary to scripture, and they wanted to make sure that God remained at the core of the faith.

Eventually, three streams of the Protestant tradition emerged, namely the Lutherans, Anabaptists, and Reformed. The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands subscribes to the Reformed stream of Protestantism. We are members of the World Communion of Reformed Churches. The World Communion of Reformed Churches is comprised of 100 million

Christians in Congregational, Presbyterian, Reformed, United, Uniting, and Waldensian churches.

The WCRC has 233 member churches and is active in supporting theology, justice, church unity, and mission in over 105 countries. Ms Angela Martins, the former Chair of the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council serves as the Chair of the Caribbean and North America Area Council and is a Member of the Executive Committee of the WCRC. In the past we have had Rev. Dr. Colin Cowans and Rev Dr Yvette Noble-Bloomfield serving as Vice Presidents of the WCRC or one of its antecedents – the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

The Reformed faith takes theology seriously and we believe that God has given us minds to know God and hearts to love God. We believe that the quest to know God is the most important issue we must deal with in our lives. We need to know who God is and who God is in relation to who we are and how we live and manifest our faith.

The Reformed faith places emphasis on the fact that God is known to us through the scriptures and hence the nature of the first and foremost Sola of our faith – **Sola Scriptura - Scripture Alone** as our source for preaching and teaching. It means that the Scripture alone is authoritative for the faith and practice for us as Reformed Christians. The Bible is complete, authoritative, and true. *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness"* (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Gospel reading from Mark 12:28-33 is of importance to our faith and our lives as Reformed Christians. *"The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

Love of God and love for neighbour and love for self, speak to the depth of who we are as human beings. We do not exist in a vacuum, and we do not exist for ourselves alone.

God must have a central place in our lives as it is *"in God that we live and move and have our being"* (Acts 17:28) as Paul reminded the Athenians on Mars Hill. When we have a deep and abiding love for God, we honour God in every aspect of our lives. Our faith and belief in God inform how we live, how we worship, think, and behave. *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."* This commandment has not

changed! Unfortunately, we have seen so many instances of persons who claim to be persons of faith dishonoring the very God in whom they believe.

We discredit God when we fail to worship God, when we become our own god and when we attribute to ourselves the glory that belongs only to God. We are reminded of the last of the five Solas of our Reformed Faith '**Soli Deo Gloria - to the glory of God alone**'. Everything about our life, our worship, and our being must glorify God only. If we work to bring glory to ourselves then we fail in our honoring of God.

The text from Mark 12 also reminds us to love our neighbour. This is poignantly so in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the rising cases of community spread of the virus in the Cayman Islands, each of us must do all we can to protect the neighbour, especially the children, the elderly, and the most vulnerable in the society. We each need the other to remain healthy and to enable society to flourish.

Do social distance, wear a mask, wash your hands, and keep the environment clean. For those who choose not to be vaccinated please live carefully. For those who are vaccinated, continue to do all you can to keep yourself and others safe.

Love of neighbour means much more beyond the exigencies of the pandemic, but it is certainly most tangible as we navigate this pandemic.

Love of neighbour also includes how we treat those who are different from us in class, ethnicity, religion, intellect and capability. Love of neighbour is exhibited in how we make persons feel when they are in our presence and how we speak of or regard them when they are not with us. Share respect and the preservation of the dignity of each person is indicative of the degree to which we practice love of neighbour.

Fairness and equity in the socio-economic structure and how we deal with wealth and poverty are also signs of whether or not there is any love for the neighbour. These were some of the concerns for the Reformers and unfortunately, these concerns remain prevalent in our world today.

Love of self is embedded in the love of God as we are "*made in the image and likeness of God*" (Genesis 1:26-28) and we are "*fearfully and wonderfully made*" (Psalm 139:14).

Respect for self - body, soul, and spirit is a testimony of how we feel about God. Paul reminds us that our body is the temple of God "*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*" (1 Corinthians 6:19)

34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

It is my prayer that you will love God, love your neighbour and self with the understanding found in this text and that you too will be described as being not far from the kingdom of God.



Cayman Prep & High School Priority Registration

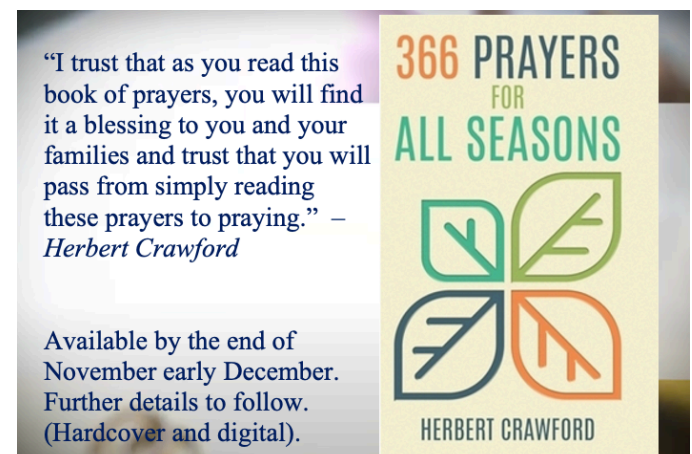
If you have a child that is either hoping to join us in KG in 2022/23 or attends another pre-school, primary school, high school or is home-schooled and you would like them to potentially join Cayman Prep and High School in the 2022/23 academic year please note our **priority application deadline is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



IN OTHER NEWS

On Sunday October 24, 2021, Rev. Euthman Wray (Minister, Savannah United Church) baptized five children and one adult at Spotts Beach. Two of the children accepted Christ at the UCJCI Summer Camp 2021 and the others are from the Savannah Sunday School Programme.





Being Reformed in a Time of COVID-19 and Beyond

The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) is inviting its members to mark Reformation Day on Sunday, October 31, 2021, by tuning in to an online worship service. The special event, which will feature participants from around the world, will be available on the WCRC's website, YouTube Channel, and Facebook page.

A special Order of Worship entitled "Being Reformed in a Time of COVID-19 and Beyond" is also available for download from the Reformation Day webpage on the WCRC website.

The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) is the largest association of Reformed churches in the world. It has 233 member denominations in 110 countries, together claiming 100 million people. The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands is a member of the WCRC.



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

October 31, 2021
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield

THE 5 SOLAS OF THE REFORMATION

SOLA GRATIA
Grace Alone

SOLA FIDE
Faith Alone

SOLUS CHRISTUS
Christ Alone

SOLI DEO GLORIA
Glory of God Alone

SOLA SCRIPTURA
Scripture Alone

Image: Reasonabletheology.org

"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Holy Scriptures or by evident reason-for I can believe neither pope nor councils alone, as it is clear that they have erred repeatedly and contradicted themselves-I consider myself convicted by the testimony of Holy Scripture, which is my basis; my conscience is captive to the Word of God. Thus I cannot and will not recant, because acting against one's conscience is neither safe nor sound."

Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."
Martin Luther

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 31. (Sunday) Reformation Sunday
Pulpit Exchanges

November 07. (Sunday) 24th Sunday of Pentecost

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