



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

NOVEMBER: A Culture of Evangelism

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This week's focus: **Jesus The Once and For All Sacrifice**

Jesus has made 'one sacrifice for sins forever and sat down at the right hand of God'. Either a sinner is saved through Christ, or she/he is not saved at all. Jesus is our sin offering.

Jesus The Once and For All Sacrifice

By Mr. Herbert Crawford

Please read Hebrews 10:1-13

Our church has been focusing on A Culture of Evangelism especially in these difficult and trying times with the Covid-19 pandemic raging everywhere and where many are forced to stay home which is impacting the life and witness of the Church. Last week Sunday, we reflected on the Reformation started by Martin Luther in 1517 when he challenged the Roman Catholic Church with his 95 theses. This Reformation started a new wave of evangelism as people all over the world came to a better understanding of what the Word of God demanded from us as Christians.

As we, believers try to engender a culture of evangelism, we must remember that lost people matter to God and therefore we need to be more intentional in our efforts to reach out to the lost and those who are groping in the dark. Our lifestyle and mindset must be one that demonstrates the love of God which was expressed for humanity through the death of His Son Jesus Christ who paid the once and for all sacrifice for sin and today He is seated at the right hand of God making intercession for us.

This good news of the love of God in Christ must be shared by all of us who name the name of Jesus and especially now when so many people are afraid and petrified of the present climate in which we are living.

Hebrews 10:11-12 says, *"Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when the priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. "For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."*

In Hebrews chapter 8:1-9:22 we learn that Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant. The core of this covenant is that God forgives all our sins and remembers them no more. Though we may remember, God remembers no more! This covenant was put into effect through Jesus' death and its power source is Christ's blood which cleanses our consciences and enables us to serve the living God.

This is really great news! However, when we hear that Christ died for us and forgives all our sins, questions may arise in our hearts: how can his death, which happened in one corner of the world be effective for people of the entire world? How can his death, which happened 2,000 plus years ago, still be effective even today? We are living in a high tech society which ancient people could not even imagine. We are a highly civilized people living in a postmodern era. The gospel seems to be outdated, an old, old story. Do we still need the gospel? In today's passage we find the answers to all these questions.

Though we are living as civilized people in a high tech society, we still suffer from the power of sin and death. People feel guilt, shame, condemnation, despair and meaninglessness. People the world over including Christians are anxious, fearful and insecure with this COVID-19 pandemic which occupies every conversation being held today. Even us as believers fall into doubt and uncertainty because we lack confidence in the gospel.

Though we enjoy worshiping God on Sundays or on any other day, and experience freedom, sometimes in our daily lives we fall back under the power of sin and suffer from a guilty conscience and behave shamefully just like unbelievers do. So many of us unfortunately have become caught up in all the conspiracy theories and the false information that has become so pervasive in our society and have been leading others astray and even causing others to become sick by our own selfishness. We really need the power of Christ's blood which cleanses us from a guilty conscience and enables us to serve the living God. In order to help us understand the power of Christ's sacrifice, the author of Hebrews introduces the phrase "once for all." These words appeared in Chapter 7:27 and Chapter 9:12. In this passage the author uses "once for all" repeatedly, seven times (9:26,27,28; 10:2,10,12,14) to focus on the meaning and power of Christ's sacrifice for us, His people.

This morning I would like to focus on the meaning of Christ's sacrifice once and for all and how we as believers should influence in a positive and strategic way the lives of those with whom we come in contact and who need to hear the good news about Jesus' sacrifice for us all.

Christ's death on the cross is the most amazing event in human history. Though it happened once in history, its effect is eternal. In Hebrews 9:23-28 the author explains how Christ's sacrifice once for all transcends space, time and judgment.

In the first place, Christ's death transcends space (vs23-24).

It was necessary for the earthly tabernacle to be purified with the blood of animals. But the heavenly tabernacle required a better sacrifice (23). So Jesus entered as high priest into the heavenly sanctuary and presented Himself as an offering before God on our behalf. Thus He entered into a superior place by a superior sacrifice.

What is the significance of Jesus entering the heavenly tabernacle? The earthly sanctuary required a certain space. Exodus 25-27 described the earthly tabernacle. The entire tent was 45 feet long, 15 feet wide and 15 feet high. The Most Holy Place was contained inside of this and was a cube, 15 feet wide, long and high. The entire structure was designed to be disassembled, moved and reassembled quickly according to God's command. Numbers 9:17-23 portrays the beautiful way in which God led the people through the tabernacle. When the cloud, which represented God's presence, stayed over the tabernacle, the Israelites remained where they were. When the cloud lifted and began to move, the Israelites quickly disassembled the tabernacle and moved with the cloud. When the cloud stopped again, they stopped and set up the tabernacle. In this way God trained them to follow God and led them as a shepherd through the wilderness. God is living and dynamic. God was never confined to the earthly tabernacle (Acts 7:48-49). This tabernacle became the temple. Though the temple was important, God clearly said that as long as the Israelites honored God, God would dwell there. But if they worshiped idols, He would destroy the temple and scatter them as punishment (1Kings 9:3-9).

When they became idol worshipers, the temple was completely destroyed in A.D. 70. But Jesus himself became the temple. Jesus died for our sins and rose again from the dead and entered the heavenly sanctuary. Through Jesus we can receive the forgiveness of sins and come to God. Now we don't need a visible temple. Here the main point is that Christ's sacrifice transcends space. Jesus taught the Samaritan woman that the place of worship was not important, but that we must worship God in the Spirit and in truth (Jn 4:21-24). So we don't need to go to Jerusalem in order to receive forgiveness of sins and to worship God. We just need to come to Jesus who serves in the heavenly tabernacle.

In the second place, Christ's death transcends time (vs25-26).

When Jesus entered the heavenly sanctuary, He offered the sacrifice of Himself. He did not offer Himself again and again, the way the earthly high priest entered the Most Holy Place every year with animal's blood (v25). Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But He has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself (v26). Here "the culmination of the ages" is brought about through Jesus' coming into the world and His death on the cross. The purpose of Jesus' sacrifice is to do away with sin. Jesus' coming and death on the cross happened once in history, and will never happen again. Yet it effects eternally the past, the present and

the future. Christ's coming and death on the cross is not merely an historical event like the First and Second World Wars or men travelling to outer space. Its effect is not merely linear. The Eternal God acted in time and space and it impacts all eternity. Christ's one sacrifice has an eternal effect on the past, present and future. Christ died once for all and solved the problem of sin completely and eternally. Christ defeated the power of death through His resurrection and lives forever as our high priest. That is why Christ's sacrifice transcends time. Now we can understand why Jesus' death 2,000 years ago is still effective today.

In the third place, Christ's sacrifice transcends judgment (v27-28).

In order to understand v.27-28 we need to understand the principle of the first Adam. When God made a covenant of works with Adam, He dealt with him as a representative of the whole human race. So, when this one man Adam sinned, the consequence was death for all men (Ro 5:12,18; 6:23a). As a result, all people are destined to die once and after that to face judgment (v27). In the same way, Christ is a representative through whom God made a new covenant of grace with humanity. But the result is quite the reverse. Just as people die once and face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many (v28). Christ's first coming was for the purpose of bearing our sins. But His second coming will bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him (v28). When we are in the body, we still suffer from our sinful nature. But when Jesus comes again our lowly and perishable bodies will be transformed into glorious and imperishable bodies like that of Jesus (1Co 15:42-44; Php 3:21).

To the unbelievers, Jesus' second coming is a day of judgment and condemnation. But for believers, it is the day of salvation, the day of victory and glory. We look forward to His coming, not with a fearful expectation of judgment, but with the anticipation of salvation. According to Hebrews 9:27, we are destined to die once and after that to face judgment. No matter what we do, we cannot avoid this destiny. It comes to all, whether rich or poor, educated or uneducated, powerful or weak. Everyone comes into this world naked and departs empty-handed. If death is the end of everything, that may be okay. But it is not.

After death comes judgment. We all must stand before the judgment seat of Christ that each one of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad (2Cor 5:10). Judgment is not a small matter. It is eternal condemnation and there is no hope of getting out of it. This is the destiny of mankind. When we think about this destiny, everything seems to be meaningless, and we despair. Due to despair, people become wicked and commit many kinds of crimes. How can we avoid this terrible destiny?

Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24). When we believe Jesus as our personal Savior, from that moment we cross over from death to life and can be exempt from God's judgment. Though our bodies die, we live forever with Jesus (John 11:25-26). Jesus' sacrifice transcends God's judgment. Though we have the final victory, while living in this world we still struggle with the power of sin and death in practical life.

When we think about Christ's sacrifice on the cross, which transcends space, time and judgment, we can have assurance of our salvation and come to God freely anytime, anyplace by depending on the blood of Jesus. Some of you who might be reading this message, maybe still be undecided about your faith and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. I invite you to think seriously about your future and where you would like to spend eternity. There are only two choices, either you take the broad road that leads to destruction or the narrow way that leads to life eternal. Remember, Jesus Christ has given His life so that all of us who believe in Him can spend eternal life with Him.

It's even more so important in these challenging, troublesome and uncertain times when there's this cloud hanging over the entire world and we are just not certain what the future holds. I have good news for you because I know who holds the future and if we put our faith and trust in Him, we do not have to fear or to worry. That person is the Lord Jesus Christ who paid for our sins once and for all. Jesus says in John 14, "Let not your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me". Will you take that leap of faith today and ask Jesus to come into your life right now?



*Wycliffe Bible Translators, Cayman Team
(Established in 1996)*

This year the **Wycliffe Bible Translators, Cayman Team** celebrates its **25th Anniversary**. A number of United Church members partner in support of this ministry. The faithful prayers and financial assistance both nurture and encourage the Wycliffe Bible Translators, Cayman Team and Wycliffe missionaries who have committed to the lengthy challenging work of Bible translation and Linguistic Training in the world's difficult places. Such support of the Lord's work over the years honors Jesus Christ's 'Great Commission' to all His followers to share the Gospel with the many millions of people who do not yet have it in their heart language.

Thursday, November 11th is the date for the 2021 annual **Wycliffe World Day of Prayer**. The theme for this year is **Strength for the Journey**. The metaphor of a journey conveys forward movement and progress. As individual Christians we are each on a journey with the Lord, growing in our faith, our knowledge and our love for Him through reading His Holy Word. But many still do not yet have His Word.

As a Bible translation movement, Wycliffe Alliance organizations around the world by God's grace, push continually toward the goal that one day every language community will have members who worship and follow Jesus.

Often our journey is difficult and so we become weary. Praise God for never growing tired or weary (Isaiah 40:28) and that Bible shows the many ways God strengthens us when we need it. God is always ready to help us (Psalm 46:1).

This World Day of Prayer is set aside each year so all involved in doing and supporting Bible translation can together dedicate time to focus in prayer before God, asking for renewal, direction and strength on the journey together.

We invite you support this ministry by your prayers on November 11, 2021 (and any time).

LATEST STATISTICS ON BIBLE TRANSLATION

Total world population: **7.9 billion**
 Total number of languages in the world: **7,378**
 Number of translations currently in progress: **828**
1.51 billion people, speaking **6,661 languages**, do not yet have a full Bible in their first language.

145 million people speaking **1,892 languages**, still need translation work to begin

2,217 languages in **147 countries** with active translation or preparatory work begun representing **1.1 billion** people

WYCLIFFE Translation Progress Report



WYCLIFFE YOUTUBE VIDEOS

Africa - The story of the Lugwere New Testament
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJYbtA1tMBo>

Americas - Seeking out their translation. The Quechua
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ilff2nJ6gs>


Pacific - What do you take for granted
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngvNH5DXkY>

Sign Languages - Celebrating the American Sign Language
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N45Bw62YtYo>

Please pray for courageous, perseverance in following the Great Commission of Christ by:

1. Jim and Karla Smith and the over 5,000 Wycliffe faith missionaries around the world
2. John and Denise Roomes and the Wycliffe Caribbean Team <http://www.wycliffecaribbean.org/>
3. The Wycliffe Caribbean Teams in Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Cayman, Jamaica, St Vincent & The Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago
4. Wycliffe Global Alliance leaders and partner churches and congregants around the globe

CENTRE FOR THEOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING (CTLT) CAYMAN ISLANDS
 NON-DENOMINATIONAL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME PROVIDER
A CHRISTMAS SPECIAL SEMINAR ON
"THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS IN THE CONTEXT OF PLURALISM"



WELCOME: **REV. DR. PJ LAWRENCE**,
DIRECTOR, CTLT -CAYMAN ISLANDS

MODERATOR: **MS. SANDRA LEE SAMUEL**

GUEST SPEAKER: **REV. DR. STEVEN JENNINGS**
PASTOR, JAMAICA BAPTIST UNION, KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

RESPONDER: **REV. DR. GARY GARDNER**,
SENIOR LECTURES, CTLT CAYMAN

DATE: SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER 2021
 TIME: 10AM TO 11:30 AM
 VIA ZOOM
 MEETING ID: 2485559547
 PASSCODE: 5SZPSI



UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

UCJCI CHURCH SCHOOL TRAINING


SATURDAY, November 20, 2021
@10 am – 2pm

"TRANSFORMING TEACHING AND LEARNING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR CHRIST"




VIA ZOOM
 Meeting ID:
 891 2335 1434
 Passcode: 806898

All Church School Superintendents, Teachers and other Children Ministry leaders are invited




2021 Service of Ordination


Thursday, November 11, 2021
 11 a.m.
Invitation Only
 Webster Memorial United Church



Pastor Sandra Collins




Pastor Anna-Kay Henry-McGregor



Pastor Wendell McKoy

Prepare your communion elements and join us on YouTube


 UCJCI's Channel

Join in on the UCJCI YouTube Channel

"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

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 14. (Sunday) 25th Sunday of Pentecost

November 15. (Monday) Remembrance Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY

November 16. (Tuesday) Special Council Meeting – 6:30pm via Zoom



on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am
November 14, 2021
 Mr. Herbert Crawford

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@cicucjci.com or circinfo@gmail.com
 Website: unitedchurch.org.ky