



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

January 26, 2022.

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 04

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



Rooted and Called to Respond without Fear

By Lay Pastor Mr. Ormond Williams

Please read Jeremiah 1:4-10

The call of Jeremiah to be a prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah occurred at a time in his life when he was still of youthful years. Some researchers believe that Jeremiah was either a teenager or in his early twenties when God called him. Jeremiah himself confessed that he was young, without knowledge of what to speak to Judah.

The message to Judah was a warning of impending captivity by the Babylonians because Judah had been disobedient to God. They had been warned to be faithful to God with a loyalty that was singular and not shared with other gods. They were to teach their children about the faithfulness and goodness of God. They were to live in such a righteous manner that their lives will be the perfect example for other nations to emulate. In all these requirements from God, Judah failed to be the people God demanded them to be.

Their hard hearts and stiff necks were ripe for the balm of forgiveness from their loving God. They were heading steadfastly to 70 years of Babylonian slavery, but the people of Judah remained blinkered against God's demands to move in the right direction.

It is to this wayward nation and this situation that young Jeremiah was called and chosen to be a prophet. Jeremiah understood that this task will not be easy. His yet-to-be-formed vocabulary would be insufficient to articulate what God wanted him to say. His spiritual formation would be insufficient to confront the religious leaders of the day. His confidence would be weak in face of the challenges to his authority and message, and his ability to respond to their questions will expose his inadequacies and leave him vulnerable.

He did not volunteer for this mission. He was flattered to hear that long before he was born God knew him, set him apart, and appointed him to be a prophet. Surely, God must know him well enough to understand his fears. It is not that he did not want to go. If he went, will he represent God well? Will he have the impact that God is looking for? Or will he do harm to the work of God?

Did God not remember that Moses had a speech impediment that required Aaron to be assigned to support Moses? Jeremiah understood that God wanted him not just to talk to one person but a whole nation to announce the punishment of God due to Judah's sinfulness but also to speak to a people repent of their sins and forsake their wicked ways. Jeremiah understood the burden of not just speaking God's words but living in such a way that his life did not betray his faith, and his credibility was not questioned because of compromise.

This mission, to last some 50 years, was going to be hard for Jeremiah. What he did not know then is that he will be ostracized by society; his life will constantly be in danger. And the waywardness of the people and their refusal to heed God's warnings will lead him to experience profound pain in his spirit, so much that he would often be drenched in his tears. He would be called the weeping prophet because he cared deeply for the salvation of the people of Judah.

God did understand Jeremiah's fears, signalling to us that it is okay for us to express our fears to God. We do not have to be prepared for God to call us, but we know that a person called by God will be prepared, equipped, and empowered to do God's will. Jeremiah was no different – God touched Jeremiah's mouth and at that moment imparted the Holy Spirit to him. God put God's own words in Jeremiah's mouth causing him not to worry about what to say because at the appointed time God's spirit will give him utterance. God empowered Jeremiah with authority to uproot, tear down, destroy, and overthrow the kingdom of darkness and to build and plant the kingdom of God's light.

Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 18:18 *“Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you lose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”* Jeremiah was exhorted not to be afraid for God will be with him as provider and deliverer.

Jeremiah was fearful because of his perceived limitations but God reminded him that the work he was called to do was God's work. God reminded Jeremiah that He never sends us out to fail at His work because God's intentions for His creation never return void to Him. Jeremiah was urged not to be constrained by the limitations youth can present, a challenge Paul will later give to young Timothy – *“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.”* – 1 Timothy 4:12.

Fear comes as we face the threat of danger, pain, and harm. Truth be told, fear is natural to us humans. It breeds in places of past negative experiences; it thrives in our current perception of being insufficient or feeling inferior. Fear flourishes in the uncertainty of the future. Left unaddressed, fear has the potential to paralyse us, causing us to dabble around the edges of life, failing to live up to our divine potential. Yet fear is not all negative. Its presence should cause us to think, to assess, to question, to fight, or take flight. Fear should cause us to seek clarity and to better understand our purpose and what motivates us. Fear should cause us to depend on a higher source for the strength and boldness we need.

Jeremiah is our perfect example. He was not afraid to admit and confront his fears. He took them up with the higher power, God, who gave him instructions for life. And God in His faithfulness showed to Jeremiah that He is not partial to whom He uses to do His will. Regardless of our age or gender, our education, or social standing, God can use us to announce His Word to the people of this world be they 1 or 7.9 billion.

Regardless of our fears, God still has a design for our lives waiting on us to say 'Yes' to Him. And when we say 'Yes' to God's call, we can be assured of God's presence with us all the way as we remain faithful to His expectations and demands.

Do you feel the nudge of God on your life? Have circumstances and situations led you to this place and time to serve Him? Don't let fear stand in the way. Feed your faith as you say 'Yes' to God and depend on Him and starve your fears to death.



By Katherine D. Jackson, Cert. Hon.



Members of the JGMC Women's Fellowship

With a Call to Worship that reflected on the women of faith of our past, present, and future and underscored by the hymn, "Rejoice, the Lord is King" and "For I'm Building a People of Power" which shone the light on Christ's kingship and reign,

the worship service at the John Gray Memorial United Church, West Bay began!

Following the prayers of Adoration and Confession led by Liturgist June Elliott, along with Jennifer Dilbert, the congregation acknowledged God's assurance of pardon in the words, "and as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle, and I will soar with You, Your spirit leads me on in the Power of Your love."

Messages of congratulations and encouragement were received from the Moderator of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, the Right Rev. Gary Harriott as well as from the President General of the Women's Fellowship, Mrs. Pauline Bryan.

The Hymn, "For Such a Time as This" reminded us that "Our world cries out to hear God's name, the Church in mission risks, As men and women join to serve for such a time as this!"

Katherine Jackson, President of the Church's Women's Fellowship put forth the call to the women in the congregation, inviting them to join the dynamic women's movement and Ms. Brendell Rivers and Mrs. Beverly Simpson gladly responded to the invitation. Ms. Jackson stated that she was very excited to have two new persons join the Fellowship and looked forward to working with them. She also shared that during this Women's Fellowship Week, the members would be sharing with one another via telephone calls using the new 2022 devotional books as well as participating in a day of fasting and prayer on Wednesday, 26th with the Island's Women's Fellowship groups.



Mrs. Katherine D. Jackson, Cert. Hon. with the two new Women's Fellowship members, Mrs. Beverly Simpson and Ms. Brendell Rivers

Francine Jackson and Ms. Alice Jane Ebanks read the scripture passages for the day: St. Luke 4: 14 - 21 and 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31, from which Mrs. Betty Ann Mobley, guest speaker for the service drew a powerful reflection on the topic, "Rooted and Anointed".

"The Prophet Isaiah prophesied in Chapter 61: "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me because the Lord has anointed me



Mrs. Betty Ann Mobley

to preach good news to the poor, He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God".

Six hundred years later we read of Jesus walking into the temple and turning to that same passage in Isaiah - He read "The spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me ... and declaring "today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing". At Jesus' death, this mandate was passed on to the Church. Jesus commanded his disciples to go and wait in the upper room and "when the Holy Spirit comes, He will endow you with power". Power to carry out the mandate. Power to go as the anointed ones to carry the good news to the poor, to bind up the broken hearted, to set the captives free, to bring recovery of sight to the blind. The Holy Spirit also poured out and is still pouring out gifts to His Church ... supernatural gifts which are given for the building up of His Church. Therefore, the Church of the Living God is equipped with power from on high and gifts of the Holy Spirit to carry out the spoken mandate.

This is the Year of God's favour - to receive the things that you have been seeking Him for. Isaiah 61:2b-3 says: "The Living God wants to comfort all who mourn and provide for those who grieve, He wants to bestow on you a crown of beauty instead of ashes, He wants to pour on you the oil of gladness instead of mourning and give you a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair". This is the year of favour for the Body of Christ to arise, to praise Him, to worship Him, to spread the gospel, to release captives, to bring recovery of sight to the blind, to bind up the broken hearted, and to set the captives free ... to be bold and step out to do what you have been called by God to do for the expansion of God's kingdom and for His Glory."

Mrs. Carol Ann Ebanks, past President, presented Mrs. Mobley with a gift and thanked her for sharing such a powerful message that God had laid on her heart. Following the presentation, Mrs. Denise Myers gave the Prayer of Intercession and the congregation recessed with the strains of the hymn humming in their minds: "Called as partners in Christ's service, Called to ministries of grace, Messengers of faith thus giving Hope and Confidence and Peace." May the God of all grace, who has called us into His everlasting light, give us a new boldness and anoint us afresh so that we may find new ways to serve Him better, today and every day to come. Amen!



on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am

January 30, 2022 Lay Pastor Mr. Ormond Williams

Women's Fellowship Sunday in the CIRMC



Webster Memorial (Bodden Town) United Church's Women's Fellowship



Two youth group members received the offering during the service.

Speaker of the service Rev. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield.



Savannah United Church Women's Fellowship members with Guest Speaker - Rev. Mary Graham and Minister Rev. Euthman Wray



Mrs. Reneé Barnes was admitted to the Savannah Women's Fellowship during the service.



Induction of New Officers with blue stoles (from left Ernestine Powell, Winsome Radcliffe, and Maxine Bravo)

CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

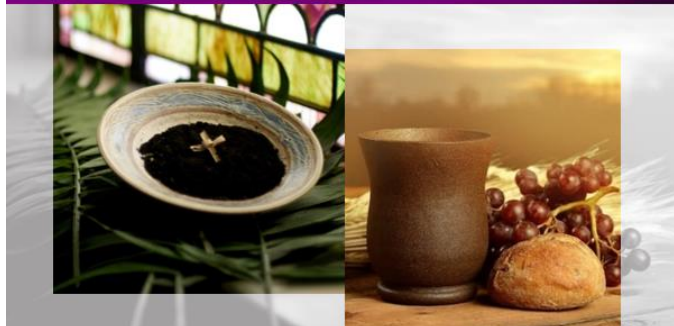


Ash Wednesday Virtual Gathering

March 2, 2022
9:00 am

Guest speaker: Rev. Norbert Stephens
Tune in to Elmslie Church YouTube channel

**Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE
In the Spirit of Transition**



UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 29. (Saturday)
Training for Lay Leaders Certificate Course Module 1 Orientation -via Zoom
- January 30. (Sunday) 4th Sunday after Epiphany
- February 02. (Wednesday)
Youth Ministers' Meeting – Council Office
- February 06. (Sunday) 5th Sunday after Epiphany
Lay Training Graduation Celebration – 2:00 pm on UCJCI YouTube channel

UCJCI Lay Training Institute



TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS 2022

Offered in collaboration with The International University of the Caribbean



Get Ready to Serve!

MODULE 1 BEGINS FEBRUARY 12, 2022

TRAINING FEATURES

- Weekend and Weekday classes
Saturdays 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Thursdays 6 - 8 p.m.
(2nd and 4th Saturdays and Thursday in the immediate week following)
- Combination of Learning in Virtual Classrooms via Zoom and in Learners' own time

ORIENTATION JANUARY 29, 2022

REGISTER NOW
through your Regional Mission Council office

For more information :
nermc@ucjci.com; cirmc.info@gmail.com; wrmc01@yahoo.com; srmc@ucjci.com

Anyone interested in the **UCJCI Training for Lay Leaders Certificate Course 2022** please speak with your Minister and/or call the Council Office for Registration Form and further information.

Telephone: 947-1963 or **Email:** cirmc.info@gmail.com or rdgs@cicucjci.com

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS LAY TRAINING INSTITUTE
IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
OF THE CARIBBEAN



Lay Training Graduation Celebration

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2022 - 2:00 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKER: DR. YVONNE LEYS DAWKINS
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
CARIBBEAN

The Celebration will be streamed live from Hope United Church via
the UCJCI YouTube channel.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO TUNE IN
Due to COVID 19 restrictions there will be limited in-person
gathering of specially invited guests



**Cayman
Keswick**
2022
'All One In Christ'

All meeting Sunday evenings: 6:00—7:30 p.m.

Feb 6 @ Cayman Islands Baptist Church
Mar 6 @ First Baptist Church
Apr 3 @ First Baptist Church
May 1 @ Cayman Islands Baptist Church
Jun 5 @ Church of God Chapel GT

SPEAKERS:

Torrance Bobb (First Assembly of God)
Jonathan Lamb (Guest Speaker, Keswick Ministries UK)
Winston Rose (Church of God Chapel BT)
Steve Brady (First Baptist Church)
Donovan Myers (John Gray Memorial Church)

www.facebook.com/caymankeswick


TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS,
PLEASE FOLLOW THESE PRECAUTIONS

FACE MASKS
Wear non-medical face coverings

SOCIAL DISTANCING
Keep 6 feet away from others wherever possible and respect others' space.

HAND HYGIENE
Wash your hands frequently with soap, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds and rinsing well.

The fact that I'm a woman does not make me a different kind of Christian, but the fact that I'm a Christian does make me a different kind of woman.



Elisabeth Elliot