



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

March 03, 2022.

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 09

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

The Season of Lent

As part of the Church’s annual liturgical journey, we have transitioned from the **Season of Epiphany** into the **Season of Lent**. During the six weeks (and five Sundays) of Lent we engage in meaningful spiritual preparation for **Easter**, the greatest Feast of the holy days in the Christian calendar.

The very first step of this preparation, **Ash Wednesday**, sets the tone for our spiritual journey to the Cross and the Empty Tomb of our Lord. The symbolic meaning of ashes indicating mourning and sadness is a stark expression of our sinful nature. It is also a solemn reminder of our mortality and desperate need to find forgiveness through repentance and reconciliation with God. On our own we are hopeless, but through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, there is the promise of cleansing and new life that extends beyond the grave! Let us then journey on in faith, hope, and love!

As you make your way through these special 40 days of Lent, consider tapping into the limitless riches of fasting, in whatever form, length, and intensity you choose.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

By Mr. Michael G. Bowerman

Please read Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13)

One reality that everyone faces is the evil in the world and the resulting hardships of life. Christians are not immune to them. Scripture tells us over and over about the conflicts, the struggles, the challenges we will encounter. We are warned by Jesus and the New Testament writers that living as Christians in this world is spiritual warfare. Paul, for example, tells us that “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” (Ephesians 6:12). Peter tells us that there is a devil out there who is our great enemy, prowling around like a lion “*looking for someone to devour*” (1 Peter 1:8).

We live in a fallen world. As Christians, there is often the temptation to give in to it, to take a shortcut, to compromise. Not only are there these pressures from the world, but we have fallen, sinful natures, too, and further, our enemy, the devil is alive and well.

Yes, evil is a reality in the world, and it extends from the actions of Russia’s leadership in invading Ukraine to the sexual abuse of a child by an individual here in our society. It was Alexander Solzhenitsyn, himself a Russian, who was imprisoned for his opposition to the powers of his day, who stated, “that the line separating good from evil passes, not through states, nor between classes, nor through political parties either, but right through every human heart – and through all human hearts.”

Temptation is something that every Christian experiences. Having come into a personal relationship with God through our faith in Christ does not create an immunity to sin. As long as we live in these bodies, we will know temptation. Paul reminded the Corinthians of this: temptations are “*common to mankind*,” he said. The good news, though, as he went on to point out is that “*God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure*” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

A great encouragement to those facing these kinds of pressures is that Jesus himself was tempted. Further, as Hebrews tells us, because He was tempted, He is able to “*empathize with – to understand - our weaknesses*” having “*been tempted in every way just as we are*” (4:15). In fact, as the writer earlier had said, “*Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted*” (2:18).

Three factors enabled Jesus to overcome temptation; three ways by which we, too, may have the victory when the inevitable temptations come to us. These also help us to grow and mature in our Christian lives.

1. Jesus was “full of the Holy Spirit”. It was this same Spirit, we read, that led him in the wilderness.

We know that the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at His baptism. We also know from Scripture that at the moment we are born again, we received the same Spirit into our hearts. Paul

is clear: *“If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ” (Romans 8:9).*

This is what defines us as Christians: God by God’s Spirit indwells us. The Holy Spirit has been placed there to enable us to live like the Christians we have become. The Spirit has been given to us to provide us with God’s grace, wisdom, and power to display Christ’s character in our lives - and to help us overcome temptation.

However, we are very aware that we often fall. Why? Because we are not learning to live in complete dependence on Him. We are not recognizing what Jesus told His disciples in *John 15:5*, *“Apart from me you can do nothing”*, including overcoming temptation. While we have the Spirit, many times we are not filled with the Spirit. If we were, we would live victorious Christian lives. We would be ‘overcomers’.

Paul issues a command in *Ephesians 5:18* to *“be filled with the Spirit.”* It is something we need continually to do. In its simplest form, it means that we must constantly repent of known sin and seek God’s forgiveness and then simply ask him to fill us again.

We know that Jesus did not need forgiveness for He was without sin. But He was “full of the Holy Spirit”, and we, too, must continually seek that same filling.

2. Jesus spent time in prayer. While the passage does not implicitly state this, we know from the Gospels – and especially from Luke – that He spent many hours praying with his Father. In those forty days, this is what He would have been doing.

The Christian who is spiritually mature and growing in their Christian lives, the one who is seen as authentic, who is known as a person of integrity, and, yes, the one who overcomes temptation, is someone who makes it a priority to cultivate their relationship with God through prayer.

The importance of a Christian’s prayer life cannot be overstated. This requires regular, if not daily, times spent in prayer. It means that every issue of life, big and small, is addressed to the Father. It recognizes, too, that corporate prayer is the foundation for the health and growth of their church.

And when temptation whispers in their ear, the person who is prayerful quickly recognizes it for what it is and seeks the help and strength of the indwelling Spirit to resist and overcome.

3. Jesus relied on Scripture. You will notice that Jesus didn’t try to argue or rationalize, let alone compromise with the devil. He knew His Bible, and He knew that every one of those temptations had a biblical answer. In every case, He replied with the words, *“It is written,”* then quoted from his Scriptures – from the book of Deuteronomy.

He knew His Bible because growing up He had studied it. Many Christians today are woefully ignorant of Scripture. A lot don’t even care to know it! What many don’t realize is that the Bible is our spiritual food to help us grow and make us spiritually strong. It provides light to enable us to know how to live as God wants us to, and how to gain the wisdom we need in this

perplexing world. And it is a weapon – a sword – by which we can defend ourselves from the world, the devil, and our own sinful inclinations.

It wasn’t that Jesus simply quoted the Bible; He lived by it. So must we. But we need first to get to know it by studying it. When we do so, we should ask three questions: What does it say? What does it mean? Finally, how does it apply to my life? We are a Bible-believing church, yet half our members don’t know what the Bible says.

How do we overcome temptation? We emulate Jesus:

- We constantly seek the Holy Spirit’s filling
- We make prayer a priority
- We get to know and live by Scripture

One final word, one of warning. The story ends with these words (in the New Living Translation): *“When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.” A victory over temptation one day does not guarantee you won’t be tempted in that area again. Don’t ever get complacent. Paul warned the Corinthians in this context, “If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!”*

Women’s Fellowship Annual Breakfast

By Mrs. Jacynthia Anderson

The Annual Breakfast of the Cayman Council Women’s Fellowship (CCWF) took place at Morritt’s Resort, East End on February 26, 2022, at 8 am. The new officers of the CCWF were installed by Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble – Bloomfield.



Installation of new officers (Left to right: Maxine Bravo - Chair Recreation, Isabella Bodden – Co-Chair Service, Katherine Jackson - Chair Programme & Literature, Winsome Radcliffe - Asst. Secretary, Jacynthia Anderson - President and Ernestine Powell - Treasurer.)

In her reflection, Rev. Dr. Noble-Bloomfield reminded the attendees of the importance of 'An Ordered Life' is as follows:

- A pattern of prayer and total obedience.
- Faithfulness and commitment to God
- Seeking and discerning God's will
- Honesty and transparency in word and action
- Gossip Free
- Being helpful to others
- Knowing how to give
- Being capable of forgiving others
- Not holding grudges and seeking after the best in others
- Placing others before self



Over 75 people attended the event, which was supported by all the branches. Ministers Rev. L Christopher Mason and Rev. Euthman Wray were also present.

At the end of the event, Mrs. Carol Ann Ebanks (Past President) presented a token to Ms. Francine Gardner (Former Council Secretary and President of Webster Memorial Branch) for her 25 plus years of faithful contribution to the ministry and Mr. Noel Wallace (Music Minister) and the Praise Team for their contribution to the ministry.

CWM WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
4th March 2022 Friday @ 18:00pm (SGT)

Calling churches to pray and stand
IN SOLIDARITY WITH MYANMAR

Kingston 05:00am New York 05:00am London 10:00am Johannesburg 12:00pm Auckland 23:00pm


JOHN GRAY MEMORIAL CHURCH
Change to
Sunday Morning Worship Time
as of 6 March, 2022
11 o'clock

In Other News

Family, friends, and colleagues gathered at the Gun Bay United Church on February 19, 2022, to celebrate and to witness the joining of Mr. Ricky Bodden and Ms. Itza West in marriage. Heartfelt Congratulations to the new couple and may God's richest blessing rest upon their new family!



Deputy Chairs and Secretaries of our Congregations gathered at the Council Office on February 23, 2022, for the annual examination of records. All records were up-to-date and in good order.



Optimist Club of George Town



On Sunday February 27, 2022, the Optimist Club of George Town shared in fellowship and participated in the Sunday School Activities at the Savannah United Church. This was a part of their Spotlight Month feature for 2022.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 03. (Thursday)
Training for Lay Leaders Module 1 (Topic 3) – 6:00 pm - 8:00pm - via zoom
- March 04. (Friday) World Day of Prayer
(see flyer below)
- March 06. (Sunday) 1st Sunday of Lent
- March 08. (Tuesday)
Bethesda Counselling Centre Board Meeting – 5:00 pm



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW LOST A LOVED ONE TO SUICIDE?

The APF's Bereavement Support Group provides free, private, and confidential grief support, in a safe place for adults to heal from their loss and to be equipped with the tools for moving forward.

JOIN THE APF'S BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP
24 FEB - 31 MAR | BETHESDA COUNSELLING CENTRE

Location: Bethesda Counselling Centre, Unit 4, 68 Mary St, George Town

Time: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Frequency: Every Thursday for 6 weeks

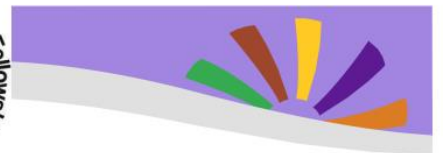
Dates Active: Thursday, 24 February - Thursday, 31 March

Contact: edu@alexpantonfoundation.ky



About the Facilitator:

April Lewis is a licensed Mental Health Counsellor with over 20 years of experience in therapy and counselling. Ms Lewis holds a Master of Arts degree in Christian Counselling and a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She has worked with the Cayman Islands Government as a Counsellor, for the Employee Assistance Program as Director, and installed one of the first online therapy programmes in the Cayman Islands.



Savannah United Church
Women's and Men's Fellowships & Prayer Team
Invites you to

Lenten Prayer Breakfast

Theme: *"The Time to Pray"*



Saturday, March 5, 2022, at 8:00 am.

Venue: Savannah Church

Speaker: *Ms. Yvonne Germaine*

Telephone: 947-6071

FISH FRY

MARCH 19, 2022

8am - 2pm

ELMSLIE CHURCH HALL

108B Seafarers Way, George Town

\$12 whole fish plate

\$15 filleted fish plate



Build on Jesus Christ the true foundation.

Tickets available upon request. Walk-ins welcome.
Call 926-2909 or 949-7923 or email elmslie100anniversary@gmail.com to enquire.


**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



St. Michael's Theological College 6 WEEK SHORT COURSE

March 7th - April 13th, 2022
Every Monday & Wednesday
6:00 - 8:00 PM - JA Time
(7:00 - 9:00 PM - EC Time)

WOMEN &

LEADERSHIP

IN THE CHURCH

MRS. GRACE BASTON - COURSE COORDINATOR

What contribution have women made to the growth & development of the Catholic Church over the centuries? (Doctors, Mystics, Ordinary Believers)

What opportunities does Synodality provide for women to make a significant contribution to leadership in the Catholic Church of the 21st Century? (In the context of feminist challenges to patriarchy)

\$5,000 JMD
or
\$40 USD
Per Person

All classes via
Zoom!

Registration and Payment Info at
www.stmtc.edu.jm/short-courses

UCJCI Lay Training Institute



TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS 2022

Offered in collaboration with The International University of the Caribbean

Module 1 - 2022

Upcoming Training Days

Saturday, March 12, 2022 – 9:00am

Thursday, March 17, 2022 – 6:00 pm

For more information, please contact cirmc.info@gmail.com



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

March 6, 2022
Mr. Michael G. Bowerman

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