



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

March 10, 2022.

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 10

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

Service of De-Linking, Linking and Induction of Minister



On Sunday, March 6, 2022, at 4:00 pm, members of the Webster Memorial, East End, Gun Bay and William Pouchie United Churches gathered in North Side, along with members of Council for a Service of De-Linking, Linking and Induction of their Minister Rev. Rohan Forrester.



Lay Pastor Mr Ormond Williams, Liturgist of the Service led the Congregation in Worship and prayer.



(front L-R: Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield, RDGS-CIRMC, Rev. L. Christopher Mason, Past Moderator, Rev. Donovan Myers, Back: 'New Direction' Male Voice Choir)

A brief history of the Congregations was presented by Mrs Vernie Harris (Gun Bay United), Mrs Marge Quinland (East End United) and Mrs Shari Welcome (William Pouchie Memorial).

The Old Testament Scripture was read by Mrs. Alice Ann Kirchman (Gun Bay United) and the New Testament passage by Mrs. Gwelda Connolly (East End United).

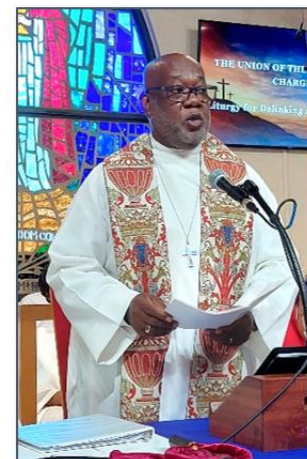
Musical accompaniment and Special Items were provided by Mr. Everton G. Webster (Music Director), Mr Peter Quinland, the William Pouchie Memorial Choir and the Male Voice Choir 'New Direction'.

Reflecting on the realignment of the Charges Rev. Donovan Myers noted that "Our church is on the cusp of new things, a reality brought about by difficult truths but embraced as a providential opportunity". Although the changes that are taking place in the bounds of our Regional Mission Council may have caused pain and disruption, yet they can become incubators for a difference.

The Church, jolted out of Her comfort zone, can become "a place where **spontaneity** overcomes staidness, where the **organic** overtakes officialdom, where **conviction** inspires committee". Rev. Myers implored all, saying "In this new season, let us trust in a God whose thoughts are higher than ours, whose ways are beyond our comprehension – and who invites us on a journey, if only we have the imagination and faith to hang on for the ride".

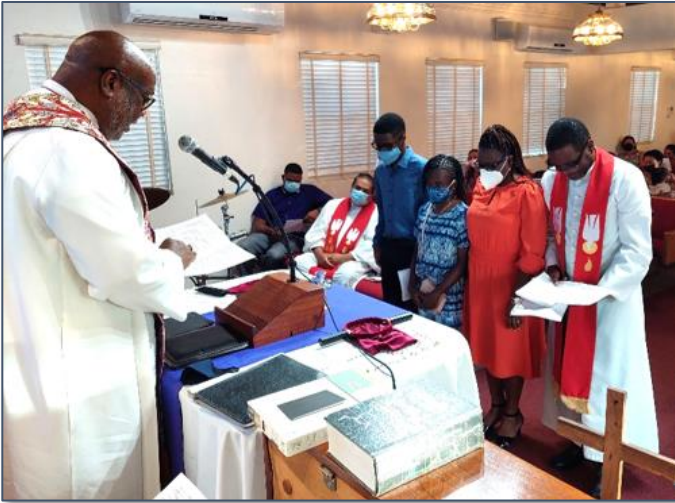


Rev. Donovan Myers



Rev. L. Christopher Mason

Past Moderator Rev. L. Christopher Mason officiated the Liturgy of De-Linking, Linking and the Induction of Rev. Rohan Oneil Forrester Minister of the newly formed, **North-East Charge** of the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (CIRMC).



Rev. Rohan Forrester with his family

Rooted and Equipped with Faith

*By Rev. Rohan Forrester
(Chair of CIRMC)*

Please read Luke 13:31-35 (Jesus' sorrow for Jerusalem)

In an increasingly insecure world, where people are living in tension and anxiety with horrific scenes of death and destruction, we need to be rooted and equipped with faith to persevere. A life that is rooted and equipped with faith is closely conformed to what the foundation is built on. Just as a tree needs deep roots to withstand the storms and droughts, we need to be deeply rooted and equipped with faith for these days.

As we make what is core to the Christian faith, also core to our daily lives, it is important to establish strong roots in Jesus Christ as our foundation. The Christian's foundation is built on the finished work of Jesus Christ - the finished work of the cross. It is the belief in what Jesus Christ did. It is knowing we are in Christ and Christ is in us (1 John 4:13). It is understanding we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, and all the works are a fruit of our relationship (Gal 5:16-26). It is understanding agape and believing that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:31-39). We attain this mark by purposefully choosing Christ and taking what Christ has provided for us. So, when the trials of life come, when the storm winds blow, only those who are rooted and equipped with faith will endure.

As we follow the lectionary readings for the season of Lent, we can't help but be mesmerized by the image of the pilgrimaging Christ going on the road towards Jerusalem. The emphasis in this week's reading from Luke 13: 31-35 is on promise and expectation. Luke earlier introduced Jesus' journey to Jerusalem with the words, "It came to pass, when the days were near that he should be taken up, he intently set his face to go to Jerusalem" (9:51). This journey will continue until Jesus reaches Jerusalem at 19:28.

Luke 13: 31-35 shows Jesus amid that journey—doing His work, unafraid of danger and confident of the outcome in Jerusalem. During His travel, Jesus is warned by a group of Pharisees about the danger He is moving towards. The Roman supported King, Herod, was issuing threats against Jesus, threats which most would take seriously considering his recent beheading of Jesus' friend and foreshadow, John the Baptist (Luke 9:7-9). For the first time, we are seeing a pleasant and friendly side to Jesus' main opponents – the Pharisees.

In Luke's writings, Pharisees are not always Jesus' opponents:

- On several occasions, Jesus ate at the home of Pharisees (7:36; 11:37; 14:1).
- Joseph of Arimathea who will take responsibility for Jesus' proper burial, is a member of the Council (23:50) and is probably a Pharisee.
- Gamaliel, a Pharisee, will persuade the council not to kill the apostles because of the possibility that their work might be of God (Acts 5:34-39).
- Luke also reports Pharisees among the early believers (Acts 15:5).

Now, these Pharisees are warning Jesus that the son (Antipas) also wants to kill him.

The question is whether the Pharisees are honestly trying to warn Jesus or are simply trying to frighten Him so that He will reduce His public profile. Some scholars feel that these are hostile Pharisees intent on driving Jesus underground (Johnson, 221). They note that Luke has reported that Pharisees are hostile to Jesus and "lying in wait for Him and seeking to catch Him in something He might say" (11:53). Also, Herod has expressed an interest, not in killing Jesus, but in seeing him (9:9).

Others think that the Pharisees are trying to pressure Jesus to move from Galilee, where Antipas rules, to Judea, where the Pharisees have great influence. In other words, they are trying to bring Jesus more directly under their control. And still, other scholars feel that these Pharisees are conveying an honest warning. They note that Herod has demonstrated his evil character by killing John the Baptist (9:9).

However, the understanding of this passage does not depend on whether it is Herod, the Pharisees, or both who pose a danger to Jesus. Presumably, Jesus knows the danger but is undeterred. He will neither flee from Herod nor allow the Pharisees to dissuade Him. Jesus has work to do - "today and tomorrow, and the third day I complete my mission" (v. 32). Jesus is following the Father's agenda and will not allow fear of Herod or the Pharisees to deter him. So, Jesus did the unthinkable without fear for His life and greeted the threat of violence with this response: "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.'" (v. 32)

This statement tells us Jesus had no intention of halting His travels because of a threat by the governing powers/political establishment of the day. A threat of violence cannot change the

agenda of His mission. Jesus emphasized His words by assuring His listeners that the work He is doing will be done—alluding, in our minds, to His greatest work demonstrating redemption in His crucifixion and resurrection. He then repeats himself, “*Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way because a prophet can't be killed outside of Jerusalem.*” (v. 33)

He goes on to say, “*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!*” (v. 34). The repetition of a name often signifies painful grief or great frustration. Later, following His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, He will weep over Jerusalem and say, “*If you, even you, had known today the things which belong to your peace! But now, they are hidden from your eyes.* (19: 41)

This story of Jesus, journeying forward despite the great danger He is walking towards speaks to someone who is not only self-assured but **rooted and equipped with faith**. Someone who is clear about His mission! Someone who is clear about the future! As Christians, we need to ask ourselves, “whom we are most like. Are we the hypocritical Pharisees on the sideline to distract or prevent Jesus from heading towards danger controlled by fear and death? Or are we like Jesus, **rooted and equipped with faith**, spurred by love, which fuels courage in the face of fear; a love that renders violence powerless, and refuses to heed the threats of the “powerful?”

My constant prayer is that in the face of a pandemic, realignment, economic crisis, wars and rise in world oil prices, we will continue the journey towards Jerusalem. No matter what awaits us, let us not waver amid uncertainty. Pilgrimage is hard, and our small acts of faith and faithfulness will not always bear the fruit we want to see. Remember, that Jesus’ ministry and death did not immediately change the political and social systems He was fighting against. He tells Jerusalem in *Luke 13:35*: “*See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’*” Christ knew that hearts and minds, and destructive systems are not changed overnight. Although, He was determined to maintain His ministry public.

Jesus is to the Christian what roots are to a tree. Jesus is the source of spiritual firmness, stability, and nourishment. As Christians, it is so important to establish strong faith roots in Jesus Christ to sustain and protect us on the journey. For Christians, it’s what everything is built on to give us a strong foundation to withstand the trials, temptations, and challenges of life. If our roots are grasping anything else than the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ, our roots will be pulled out when the simplest of problems arise.

If we are going to pursue the journey to our Jerusalem, we must be rooted and equipped with faith in Christ. In this Lenten season, let us journey as a faith community along our road to Jerusalem, rooted and equipped with faith in Jesus who leads the way. We have seen Him rebuke evil in the desert already, and now we see Him walking towards forces of violence and oppression in the city. As we journey with Christ, through the season of Lent, let us take time to examine our hearts, reflecting

on the attitude with which we are seeking to change the world around us. Let us live as Christians who are rooted and equipped with faith in Christ so that no adversity can uproot or blow us over.



Rev. Raymond & Mrs. Ruth Coke



On March 6, 2022, Rev. Raymond and Mrs. Ruth Coke celebrated 60 years of marriage. What has held and kept their marriage over all those years? Love and devotion to God, to each other, and to the ministry they shared. Marriage is not easy as it comes with many challenges. But with God at its core, it will stand the test of time.

They were true partners in ministry, supporting and strengthening each other while serving in various Charges and Congregations. Combining their strengths in pastoral care, teaching, and nurturing, they continue to be a dynamic couple, inspiring and transforming lives and communities in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

Heartfelt congratulations to Rev. Raymond and Mrs. Ruth Coke for reaching this very special milestone. May God’s plentiful blessings be on them both, on their union, and their continued journey in life and ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12. (Saturday)

Lay Leaders Certificate Course Training Day – 9am-2pm via Zoom

March 13. (Sunday) 2nd Sunday of Lent

Girl’s Brigade Week Begins!

March 14. (Monday)

Council Executive Committee Meeting – 6:30 pm via Zoom

March 17. (Thursday)

Lay Leaders Certificate Course Training– 6-8:00 pm via Zoom



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.



Cayman Keswick

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'All One In Christ'

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

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

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 one foundation

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

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 13, 2022
Rev. Rohan Forrester

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