



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

May 19, 2022

EASTERTIDE

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 20

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

Resilient: Obedience and Peace

By Rev. Louis Sully

Please read John 14:23-29

The world is full of challenges and obstacles. To survive requires personal persuasion and a clear purpose. We hear about fighting and wars and how they impact many parts of the world. Not only do we hear about them, but we are also fighting a war within us. People are seeking answers to their questions, what will happen with the war in Ukraine?

What will happen after the COVID-19 war? When will this virus stop? Are we heading for a famine around the world? Why are the shelves so empty in the shops? The current situations are alarming and can present a conflict within.

It is important to note that without hope and clear purpose, we can feel swallowed up by the challenges in the world, society, and homes. As a resilient people, I want to invite us to listen to the words of Jesus in John 14: 23-29.

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father, who sent me. All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid. You heard me say, ‘I am going away, and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens so that when it does happen, you will believe”.

The word of Christ in this passage brings life, comfort and strength amid the challenges, obstacles, and conflicts that we face. In John 14: 23-29, Jesus emphasized the need for the practice of obedience to His command. This would be the evidence of the believers’ love for Him and the Father. The verse is very consistent with the passage from James 2:14-26 that true saving faith is manifest by work produced by God in the transforming, regenerating power of the Spirit. In Rom. 5.5 and Gal. 5:22 those works are expressions of the love which the Spirit pours into our hearts as believers. The Holy Spirit energized the minds and hearts of the believers, not only for the

work but also to help them face the challenges that awaited them.

The Disciples failed at first to understand many things about Jesus and what He taught. However, the Holy Spirit, gave the Disciples an inerrant and accurate understanding of Christ and His work. In verse 27 of John 14, Christ left the Disciples with His peace that would enable them to overcome adversity. The word peace reflects the Hebrew Shalom that became a greeting to His Disciples after the resurrection.

Being truly in Christ, we become resilient people. Christ's peace is unknown to the unsaved, His peace secures composure in troubles, and His peace dissolves fear. Phil. 4:7 says- “and the peace of God which transcend all understanding will guard your heart in minds in Christ Jesus”. Moreover, His peace rules in the heart of the believers to maintain harmony Colossians 3:15. “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful”.

Obedience to God leads to peace, and as a resilient people, through Christ we have overcome many obstacles and continue to overcome them. I want to share a couple of things with you from the theme Resilient: Obedience and Peace.

Obedience keeps our relationship with God open and free

We can go back to the beginning of the word in Genesis. Adam and Eve got an intimate knowledge of good and evil, and the result was that they hid from God. Sometimes we have the illusion that freedom is doing anything we want, but true freedom in Christ comes from obedience and knowing what not to do. God gave us guidance to help us avoid evil. For example, we have the freedom to walk in front of a speeding car, but it would be foolish to do so because we know the consequences of such a reckless act. Therefore, doing what is foolish will not help keep our relationship with God open and free but, it is by obeying God and walking according to God’s will.

Obedience to God leads to peace

When you obey God by doing what is right before God’s sight, God provides you with peace even when conflict is raging around you. Obedience to God leads to peace with God and others. The King of Judah in 2Chronicle 14 obeyed God, and this led to a national peace just as God promised. People today seek for peace but do not know how to get it. In the case of the war in Ukraine, peace would mean the end of the war, but for Russia peace would be to get back all the countries that used to be part of the Russian Empire. With that intent, war will always be around us. National peace can only be guaranteed when we seek to obey God. Though obedience may not always bring

peace with our enemies, it will bring peace with God and complete peace in God's future kingdom. Therefore, obeying God is the first step on the path of peace.

Peace is wholeness

The peace sought in Ps. 122 is much more than the mere absence of conflict. It suggests completeness, health, justice, prosperity, and protection. The most important thing to know is that the world cannot provide this peace. Real peace comes from God alone because God alone embodies real peace and its characteristics. With all the things that are going on in the world at this present time, real peace is imperative. People are worried about the scarcity of food, the pandemic, job sustainability, the price of oil, and other restrictions caused by the whole conflict in this world. There cannot be wholeness without peace. The world cannot give us peace, But Jesus can. To find the peace you must find it in God.

The calming of internal conflict

Friend, sin, fear, uncertainty, doubts, and numerous other forces are at war in us. Our only solution is to have the peace of God move into our heart to restrain these hostile forces and offer us wholeness and comfort in the place of conflict. Jesus says in John 14: 2:” Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Finally,

As believers in the Lord, we can receive our strength from God and therefore, we can overcome the conflict within, the obstacles, the wars, and the worries through our trust in the Lord Jesus. When we obey Christ, our relationship with God is open and free, leading to peace, which provides wholeness, and calms internal conflict. Those who do not have the peace that God provides, we invite you to give your life to God, and surrender to God's will by accepting Jesus as your Savior.



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

May 22, 2022
Rev. Louis Sully

ALL ARE INVITED
Cost: FREE

 Save the Date!

The United Church Women's Fellowship
Cayman Council Presents:

Retreat 2022

Venue: Elmslie Memorial United Church - George Town
June 11, 2022
9:00am - 1:00pm

Theme: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS
Topics:

- Empowering Youths - Focusing on Mental Health
- Cultivating Spiritual Growth - Focusing on the Soul
- Wellness A - Focusing on Women's Health
- Wellness B - Focusing on Stress





Sunday, May 15, 2022, was **Camp Ministry Sunday** in the CIRMC of the UCJCI. With the presentation of a short video clip featuring some of the activities and recollections from last year, Youth Ministers and Leaders officially introduced and promoted the **2022 CIRMC Summer Camps** in their Congregations. Since the beginning of the year the Camp Planning Committee has been working assiduously to ensure that all participants will receive the very best in every respect. Due to current Covid-19 restrictions Summer Camps will be Day Camps again.



Members of the Camp Planning Committee in one of their meetings.

The planning and executing of a successful summer programme (Camps, Vacation Bible Schools, etc.) are quite challenging and requires total commitment, ingenuity, creativity, and

resourcefulness. Team members spend several hours in planning and training sessions leading up to the delivery of programs.

Children (ages 8-12) JULY 10-15 (Mon.-Fri.)
Teens (ages 13-17) JULY 17-22 (Mon.-Fri.)

Registrations are now open! **Registration Forms** are available in each Congregation form the Youth Ministers, Youth Leaders, or Church Offices. Fee is CI\$125. The space is limited and fill up very quickly, so don't hesitate! You don't want to be left out from this great experience.

Let us now take a closer look at what the 2022 CIRMIC Summer Camps are offering this summer.

THEME: "A. N.E.W. Season"

Theme Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1

*"To everything there is a season,
a time for every purpose under heaven".*

Daily Bible lessons and guided discussions will focus on the following:

- Day 1: 'A' - Anchored (Colossians 2:7)
- Day 2: 'N' - Nurtured (Jeremiah 31:12 b)
- Day 3: 'E' - Empowered to Evangelize (Acts 13: 47)
- Day 4: 'W'- Witness (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Day 5: Season

Beside the Bible lessons the daily program will include physical exercise, games, creative activities, trips, mission opportunities, concert and more!

ELMSLIE MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH PRESENTS

JAZZ UNDER THE STARS

Featuring Artonio Sanchez (piano), Lisvany Cisneros (bass), Roberto Cortes (sax) and Ernesto Raymant (drums)

Monday, 23rd May 2022 | 7:30pm
National Gallery of the Cayman Islands

ADM \$25

Tickets available at:
 Godfrey's Enterprise 926-0968
 Alex's Variety Store 923-4651
 L & T Tyres 949-6162
 Divers Supply 926-2909

Special guest, Denis Corbo, and other performances

CREDIT UNION
and other sponsors

Join us and be a part of history!

1922 2022

ELMSLIE MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Built on Jesus Christ the sure foundation

RUN/WALK

MAY 28, 2022

Course: Starts and ends at Elmslie Church. Choose your course (loop of under 2 miles or loop of under 3 miles).

Start Time: 5:15 pm (walkers) and 5:30 pm (runners).

Fee: CI\$15 Adults and CI\$10 Youth (Under 17).

Registration: 1) Download the registration form from the church website www.elmslieunitedchurch.ky. Complete, scan and e-mail the form to elmslie100anniversary@gmail.com.
 2) Drop forms and payments by way of cash or cheque (payable to Elmslie Memorial United Church) to the Elmslie Church Hall on Tuesday, 17th May (3pm - 7:30pm).
 3) Collect event packages on Thursday, 24th May or Thursday, 26th May (4pm - 7:30pm) at the Elmslie Church Hall. There will be no registration the day of the event.

Amenities: First 300 participants will receive a t-shirt and a water bottle. Light refreshments provided.

Contacts: Evelyn at 916-5754 or Harriet at 926-1826.

CUC **WALKERS**

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21 (Saturday) Camp Leaders Training mtg – 10:00 am Council Office

May 22. (Sunday) 6th Sunday of Easter

May 23 (Monday) Council Executive Committee mtg – 6:30pm via Zoom

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SUMMER CAMPS 2022

DAY

CHILDREN'S (AGES 8-12) JULY 10-15
 TEENS' (AGES 13-17) JULY 17-22

Theme: **A NEW SEASON**
