



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE



August 17, 2022

**SEASON OF PENTECOST**

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 33

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

## **Responding in Righteousness and Justice**

*By Ms. Camile Watt*

Please read Matthew 5:17-20

Righteousness by definition is the quality of being righteous and righteous means to act in accordance with divine or moral law. It means to be free from guilt or sin.

Justice or to be just is often used in conjunction with the word righteous as it refers to the quality of being fair and responsible. Other words that could be used to describe being Just are soundness, validity, or legitimacy.

The Biblical definition of righteousness is seen in the New Testament Greek text, which is used in Matthew 5:20 as “being righteous before others”. This conveys the same meaning of conforming to a moral law. But interestingly in this text Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount said to His followers, “For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Jesus in His sermon referred to the imperfections of the law. He emphasized that He did not come to destroy the law; hence giving credit to the importance of the law, however, further stated that He has come to fulfill the law.

Righteousness is one of the chief attributes of God as portrayed in the Old Testament. The chief meaning concerns ethical conduct in the Hebrew Text as seen in the book of Leviticus. Psalm 33:5 and Revelation 15: 3 tell us that the “Lord loves righteousness and justice” and “all His ways are just and true”. Psalm 89:14 tells us that “righteousness and justice are the very foundation of His throne.” This means that as children of God our very beings are created in righteousness and justice.

One of the very well-known theories of the existence of God is the fact that, of all creation, humans are created with a moral compass that connects us to a righteous and just creator, God. Our call and response in righteousness and justice are therefore made very simple for us in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. He starts with introspection, challenging His listeners to look within, hereby appealing to the inner man, the divine law. He uses the Beatitudes to remind His followers that the blessings we seek are not carnal, they are not edifications of the flesh nor

worldly recognition but on the contrary, we are called to be humble in spirit, enduring persecution for the cause of our faith, peacemakers, pure in heart, genuine children of God.

Jesus then goes on to emphasize the moral law. He teaches His followers that the law, though significant for teaching and guidance in well doing, had limitations. (Matthew 5: 19) He sought to enlighten His audience by bringing to their understanding that righteousness was not only about doing good in the sight of man (as in the moral law) but most importantly doing good in the sight of God. Jesus demonstrates this in St. Luke 13:10-17, where he healed a sick woman on the Sabbath.

Jesus emphasized that our response to righteousness and justice should be one of grace when He likens murder to be almost equivalent to that of holding anger in our hearts towards a brother or a sister. Here we see the moral law of murder being compared to the law of the heart, anger. How can we say that we represent a gracious God but carry anger in our hearts? Jesus says, “go and make peace with your brother before bringing your gift to God”. We are reminded ‘that whatever you do to the least of these you do it unto me’, says the Lord.

The call for a righteous and just response is a call for forgiveness. Jesus said in vs. 25 of Matthew 5 in the Sermon on the Mount, ‘settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court’. This speaks to an act of repentance. The consequences here are very clear as He says: do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, who may hand you over to the officer and then to prison. This speaks to an act that has been committed, and an act that has already been deemed wrongful, the verdict has already been declared and passed as guilty. But Jesus is saying make it right, confess your sins one to another. Likewise, the person taking his brother to court is obviously expected to ensure that the matter is settled or resolved; therefore, forgiveness in the presence of repentance is a response to righteousness and justice.

Jesus continues to speak on matters such as divorce, adultery, keeping your word, turning the other cheek (which also can be seen as forgiveness as well as endurance), and loving your enemies all pointing to one important fact, that a call to respond in righteousness and justice is a call to live a life that is pleasing and acceptable not to man but God.

The judgment of men can be harsh and intolerable, but the judgment of God is gracious, forgiving, and loving unconditionally. The penalty for our actions at times can be

overseen by others, but the penalty for sin is eternal and final. God wants us to remember that we have a responsibility to be morally just, to be of a sound mind and legitimate in our responses but most of all He expects that the same unconditional love, grace, forgiveness, and kindness that He shows to each of us, we are to ensure that this is our response in righteousness and justice to others.

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## ELMSLIE MEMORIAL VBS

*By Mr. Roy McGregor*

**Make Waves** was the theme of Elmslie Memorial United Church's Annual VBS which was held from August 8 -12, (Monday – Friday) 2022. The week's activities culminated on Saturday, August 13 with a Fun Day and concluded on Sunday, August 14 with a special VBS Service.



*Rev. L. Christopher Mason engaging the VBS participants*



*The Elmslie VBS Leadership Team*



*It is time for arts and crafts...*

The week started with 71 children and 45 teachers and leaders. The participants certainly made waves with class sessions featuring God's Word, on the games court, and creative expressions through art and crafts. We give God thanks for another year He has blessed us with.



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*...and then for some games.*



### Remember in your prayers

All those God has placed on your heart and those brought to your attention in some way. Please also include in your prayers the bereaved.

Please also pray for the retired ministers in our RMC Rev Godfrey Meghoo, who is recuperating at home, Rev and Mrs. Joe Crawford, and Rev Harry Bodden.

# Child Evangelism Fellowship: 5 Days Camp

By Ms. Camile Watt



The week of August 8-12, 2022, a total of 65 children registered for the 5-Day Good News Club Camp that was held at the Savannah United Church. The camp was coordinated and hosted by the Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) under the supervision and leadership of Mrs. Caris Bramwell (CEF Director for Cayman).



Children doing tile decorating craft lead by Ms. Janet Dixon of Savannah United Church, assisted by members of the CEF Team.

The week was filled with fun and exciting activities led by Mrs. Bramwell and her team of volunteers consisting of teenagers from various churches representing the Good News Club and adult volunteers including members of the Savannah United Church.



The children presenting their artwork

There were special speakers and presenters throughout the week such as Pastor Cassius Feare, Pastor Ellen Peguero, Ms.

Latavia Campbell (IS/IVCF), and our very own Rev. Euthman Wray and Ms. Camile Watt (Youth Minister) who all shared in the devotional activities. Other CEF Presenters and Story Tellers were Mr. Herbert Crawford, Rev. Sylvia Wilks, Mrs. Doreen Trickett-Gensen, Ms. Winsome Jefferson, Ms. Lorna Wilson, Mr. Bernard Turner, and Ms. Rosie Campbell.



Recreational games being led by Mr. Bernard Turner and teen volunteers from Good News Club.

The children were engaged in daily fun art and craft activities led by Ms. Janet Dixon and Ms. Lisa Gould and recreational games led by Mr. Bernard Turner. Children learned fun action songs and learned about people in the Bible whose lives were transformed because of the power of God.



Lunch being prepared and served by CEF Volunteer assisted by members of Savannah United Church.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

August 14 (Sunday) 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



on Radio Cayman 89.9  
every Sunday at 7:45 am

**August 21, 2022**  
**Ms. Camile Watt**

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