



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Weekly Update

September 21, 2022

Grounded in Prayer

By Mrs. Sonia Wallace, CIRMC

Throughout the month of September, we have been exploring the topic “A church responding with God-given confidence.” From Old Testament to New, the Bible depicts prayer to our Heavenly Father as our response to a loving God who knows us and watches over us. Heb 4:13 tells us “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” The passage affirms that God is in control. God sees and is aware of everything and everyone. In relationship with us, God directs our steps, supplies our needs, is ever present with us, and works supernaturally on our behalf. This is so whether it is for our deliverance, healing, comfort, protection, provision, or guidance for living lives pleasing to God.

A life grounded in prayer

This reflection is a reminder of our need to live a life grounded in prayer to God at all times and in all circumstances. We will briefly look at Jesus, our example, also Paul’s exhortation to Timothy and draw examples from the experience of the prophet Jeremiah and the Psalmist Asaph.

First, we focus on how Jesus, our Savior, modeled a life grounded in prayer. He often withdrew from the crowds or rose early in the morning to pray to His Father. In Matt. 6: 8-9, He taught His listeners, “Your father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.” He taught His disciples to pray what we all know as the Lord’s prayer. Hebrew 5:6-7 referring to Jesus, states, “when He had offered up prayers and supplications with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, (He) was heard because of His godly fear.” We recall His tears over Jerusalem and His travail and agony in the Garden of Gethsemane as He faced suffering in our stead.

Live the prayer life of Jesus

Secondly, Paul encourages the church or followers of Jesus Christ to live the example of Jesus’ prayer life. In 1 Timothy 2:1-7,

Paul exhorts Timothy and the church to pray for all people, including kings and all in authority. He emphasizes that the church grounded in prayer acts with supplication by presenting the needs of various people groups, crying out in prayers, and interceding on behalf of others, like boldly accessing God’s presence on behalf of others and their situations. These prayers are accompanied by thanksgiving for God’s mercies and answers. Paul calls every believer in Jesus Christ to pray for the salvation of all, for it is God’s will that all be saved and know the truth. Praying for rulers and for those in authority should go beyond the boundaries of our own nation, so that the universal church may live in peace and order in every corner of this world. Paul further emphasizes that the church prays to the “one God, and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.”

Intercede for the nation

Thirdly, let us examine the situation faced by Jeremiah the prophet and reflect more on how the church is called to intercede for the nation. Jeremiah faced opposition, yet he obeyed God, declared an unpopular message, and prayed in agony for his people.

In Jeremiah chapter 5, the prophet warns about the consequences of Israel’s turning from truth to false religions by worshipping images made with hands.

Jeremiah called for repentance to avoid the approaching judgment. However, the people failed to repent and turn back to the true and only God. The Bible says the people became stubborn, misled by their leaders, and refused to repent.

Jeremiah called out their lies which brought grief to the heart of God. Chapter 5:12, (*Message Bible*) states, “*They have spread lies about God, they have said there is nothing to God. Nothing bad will happen to us.*”

In vs. 18, the prophet declared submission to the foreign power (Babylon). The verse states, “*Just as you have forsaken Me (the true God) and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve aliens in a land that is not yours.*”

Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, cries out in anguish in chapter

8:18, grieving over the people's sins and lamenting their fate.

Oh, that the church, like Jeremiah, would prophesy, call for repentance and reflect the heart of God in lifting voices in agony for souls of people drifting away from God to destruction.

Jeremiah grieved over the destruction of Jerusalem, but even more, a people captured and killed because of their hardness of heart. They did not turn away from false worship to the truth, although they received numerous warnings and opportunities to repent.

He states in Chapter 8:21, *"for the hurt of the daughter of my people, I am hurt."* Gilead was one of the first Israelite territories to fall to the Babylonians, who carried many as slaves to serve in Babylon. It was known for its balm (See Gen. 37:25), but there was no balm, no ease in sight, no rescue, no healing from the hurt of the Babylonian invasion and the loss of life and home. Israel would suffer long captivity without deliverance. In weeping before God, Jeremiah cried (13:17), "my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride, and mine eyes shall weep sore and run with tears because the Lord's flock is carried away captive."

Pray like the Psalmist

Fourthly, Asaph, the Psalmist likewise agonized in prayer over the long duration of the Babylonian captivity. In Psalm 79:5, with a prayer of intercession for the invaded city of Jerusalem, Asaph cried on behalf of the suffering people "How long Lord? Will you be angry forever?" He calls to God not to continue to be angry with God's people in an appeal for God's divine mercy. He also cries out for divine forgiveness and deliverance which

would result in continual praise from the people.

Will the church of God rise up to respond and speak the unpopular message today as did Jeremiah? In obedience to God, we must agonize in prayer over the prevalent departure from Biblical values outlined in scripture. We must cry out against the pursuit of vain philosophies and call a people that stubbornly defy the word of God by denying the existence of God and setting up their own gods of materialism to turn away from this path.

Like Jeremiah, the church is called to respond by speaking out where they can be heard, calling people to repentance, and praying continually that those who have drifted away from God will return; praying also for leaders to be peacemakers and grieving for those on the path to a lost eternity.

Author Andrew Murray cautions us about our individual prayers in his book 'Teach me to Pray.' He states, "As long as we look at prayer chiefly as the means of maintaining our own Christian life, we cannot fully know what it is intended to be." He writes, "Through intercession, the church finds and exercises its highest power." Would that the church exercise its "highest power" by multiplying diligently its prayers for nations, leaders, and governments; for children, families, and the institutions in our society; and more importantly for people to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, are you obeying this call to pray? If you do not know Jesus, let this be the moment you call to Him because He is near. Confess your sins and accept the gift of God's grace by inviting Jesus Christ to be in charge of your life.

eDARE 2022: re(l)ease liberation theology

October 24, 26 & 28 2022 via Zoom



Registration for CWM's eDARE 2022 is now open!

We invite you to register using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/iWjf9BmB2FWLArw39>

We look forward to seeing you DARE!

Liturgy For Worship At Home

September 21, 2022

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15;

Psalms 91:1-6; 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

Guided By God's Promises

Jeremiah was told to go and buy a field within a context of uncertainty and conflict. Yet, based on the directives and promises of God, he acted. This was a sign of confidence and hope. God would honour God's word and reward the prophet's obedience.

Prayer Corner

Prayer Requests

- Pastor John McMillan
- Rev. Ranford Hewitt
- The Bulgin Family as they mourn the recent tragedy
- Rev. Godfrey Meghoo, who is recuperating at home
- Rev. Rohan Kong, his wife Stephanie and their son, Joel Kong, who is back in the hospital
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID-19
- People affected by the war between Ukraine and Russian
- Victims and perpetrators of crime and violence in Jamaica and the security force and government as they respond

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

Thank You for your presence in the world. You touch our pain and warm our hearts with hope.

Fill us with the joy of your Spirit and make us faithful messengers of your Gospel.

Amen.

Western Regional Mission Council Young Adults Action Movement

W.R.M.C. Y.A.A.M.

PRESENTS

"BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR"

FARM HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

10AM - 4PM

DON'T MISS IT!

THE UNITED CHURCH SENIOR CITIZEN HOME

WE ARE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!
VACANCIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR BOTH
MALE AND FEMALE SENIORS.



Send us an email to ucschome32@gmail.com or call the Director, Miss Bailey, at 876-373-8474 or 876-962-3768 to make your enquiries.

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NOTICES



GET THE FACTS ON MONKEYPOX

What is Monkeypox Disease?

A rare disease that is caused by an infection from the monkeypox virus

How is the Monkeypox virus transmitted?

It can be transmitted from animals to humans through:

- ◊ bites or scratches by an animal carrying the virus
- ◊ handling and eating meat from infected animals

It can be transmitted from human to human through close contact with:

- ◊ skin lesions e.g. rash, blister, sores, scab, etc
- ◊ body fluids
- ◊ droplets from respiratory secretions e.g. cough, sneeze, spit
- ◊ recently contaminated objects e.g. bed linen, clothes and frequently touched areas



What is the incubation period ?

The incubation period (time between infection and when the symptoms start) is usually from 6 to 13 days but can range as 5 to 21 days

What are the main signs and symptoms?

- ◊ Fever ◊ Chills ◊ Intense Headaches ◊ Extreme Exhaustion
- ◊ Muscle ache and Backache ◊ Swollen lymph nodes
- ◊ Rash (usually appears 1-3 days after the fever)



Symptoms can be mild or severe and associated skin rash can be itchy or painful

What is the treatment for Monkeypox Disease?

Treatment is based on the symptoms. If experiencing fever or pain, Panadol can be taken. Drink lots of fluids to maintain hydration

Who is at risk of being infected with the Monkeypox virus?

Any person in close contact with someone who has monkeypox

How can the risk of getting Monkeypox be reduced?

Key prevention measures include COVID-19 prevention measures:

- ◊ Wear your mask ◊ Wash your hands ◊ Physical Distance
- ◊ Frequently sanitise areas that are frequently touched ◊ Avoid crowds



Is there a Vaccine for Monkeypox?

- ◊ There is a vaccine against monkeypox that is generally available. A recently approved vaccine has been produced for research purpose only

Jamaica has no known case of monkeypox at this time.

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**Tune in to United in Faith Sundays on
RJR 94 F.M at 6:30 a.m.**



You can listen to United In Faith episodes at your convenience on our Anchor F.M. Platform. Click the link either in our Instagram bio or when it is circulated via WhatsApp.



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
SOUTHERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

EVANGELISM LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM & Prayer Breakfast

THEME: IT MUST BE EVANGELISM

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24 2022
Andrews Memorial United Church
Ward Avenue, Mandeville

TIME
8 A.M.

COST
\$2000



The Pringle Home for Children



"Pringle at 100: preserving a legacy of service"

Church Service

July 31

Open Day

August 24

Panel Discussion:
Child Care and
Protection in Jamaica

November 17

Gospel Concert

December



Five Questions to Ask Your Doctor For Men Diagnosed With Prostate Cancer

What is my exact diagnosis including stage,

Gleason score, and risk group?

What are my treatment options?

what do you recommend and why?

What side effects can I expect and how will

we work together to manage them?

ZERO CANCER



End Violence Against Women and
Children



Share your Thursdays in Black photos on
Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and tag us
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#WCC, #UCJCI #evgw #ThursdaysinBlack
#endviolenceagainstwomen



HOPE UNITED CHURCH

**GROWING A
HEALTHY CHURCH**
with Rev. J. Oliver Daley

LET'S FACE IT TOGETHER!

**11th
SEP
2022**

**18th
SEP
2022**

WE ARE A MOVEMENT
WITH A PURPOSE, A
VISION AND A MISSION!

WE HAVE DREAMS!

**25th
SEP
2022**

**2nd
OCT
2022**

WE HAVE
SPIRITUAL
EXPECTATIONS!

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian

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