



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Weekly Update

September 28, 2022

Giving is a Grace from God By Rev. Donovan Myers, CIRMC

Please read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

For many people, giving represents an appeal to altruistic feelings. We give because it's the human thing to do. If others are in need, our duty is to 'help out' where we can. But also, many see giving as a necessary outpouring of their excess. I have more than I need, so I should share. While those two motivations might be reasonable, the letter from Paul to the Corinthians speaks about giving in a way that challenges some commonly held assumptions. On the one hand, for him, giving fundamentally challenges the concept of ownership, the right we have to possess 'stuff'. It asserts that what we think is ours, is only ours on loan. We are not really owners but rightly managers. Giving, then is an outworking of the responsibility of our management of those resources. We don't lay claim to things in a way that ties us to them and them to us. On the other hand, when Paul wrote in the way that he did about the giving of the Macedonian Christians, he was challenging the Greco Roman worldview that wealth was the result or sign of divine approval. That somehow, it is in having a lot of stuff that we demonstrate out strong connection to God or that God likes us. Both people who have a lot and people who have a little are blessed by God.

It seems then, that Paul is framing the discussion about 'giving' as essentially a matter of character. For him, our outlook on 'giving' or our disposition towards 'giving' speaks to who we know ourselves to be. It is an indication of the quality or nature of the person that we are. You might have heard it said that "...when it comes to giving, some people stop at nothing." So, whether we take the minimalist approach or give sacrificially might have something to do with our understanding of who we are and the nature of the person that we have become.

Paul is unashamed in making a case for giving and does so by appealing to the example of Macedonian Christians. He

does three things in outlining his case.

Firstly, he Examines their Motivation for giving. Why is it that we give? Giving should come from an understanding of grace. In verse 1, he asserts that their outpouring of love came from the grace that God had given the Macedonian church. The ability to give beyond getting back or building up 'good will' only happens because of the supernatural deposit of grace in a person's life. It is an understanding of the unmerited and undeserved favor of God that we receive in Christ's sacrificial giving of himself on the cross. Giving then becomes a virtue, an act of grace that we offer without the promise of anything in return or the hope to 'cash in our chips' at a later date. This requires that we embrace grace, live into grace, and then offer grace. So, in verse 7 he exhorts them to "...see that you also excel in this grace of giving". He seems also to employ another 'unlikely' method of encouraging this kind of giving. He suggests that they do a comparison of their giving with the giving of others. But it is not the quantity of the giving with which he appears interested. Instead, he wants to "...test the sincerity of (their) love (against) the earnestness of others." He wants them to give out of their heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the grace they have received from Christ.

Secondly, he Expresses their Maturity in giving. He uses the takeaways from their demonstration and experience of giving in order to teach the principle that giving is an expression of the maturity of our faith. Their giving was not

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limited to or restricted by hardship. For it was “in the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity” (v2). They didn’t use their challenging circumstances or their meagre resources as an excuse to hoard or to refrain from reaching out to others. In the face of severe trials, their joy transformed their poverty into generosity. This maturity of faith inspired them to give not only according to their ability, but also motivated them to sacrifice [to give beyond their apparent ability]. They gave as able yet even more than they were able. And this giving was not coerced but was an outflowing from this depth of faith which provided the internal motivation for their act of service. They did it all “...entirely on their own...” (v3), they “...pleaded for opportunity to give” (v4) and gave of themselves “...first of all to the Lord, and then ... to (the apostles)” (v5).

Thirdly, he Encourages the adoption of their Mindset in giving. By Paul’s application of the Macedonians’ approach to giving, he is offering to the Christians in Corinth as well as to us who read this something of a blueprint for giving. In matters of giving, he seems to suggest that we must recognize that good intentions are good, but not good enough. There is a need to follow through. So, in verse 11 he admonishes them to “...finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your ability.” In other words, don’t let good intentions be the enemy of action. “Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don’t have” (v12 - NLT).

Additionally, he gives a word of warning that helps to guard against exuberance or the idea that our giving should leave

us

‘worst off. He indicates that the goal of giving is to relieve not redistribute hardship. The objective is equity. In verse 12 he says, “I don’t mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality.” God’s distribution of the manna in the wilderness set the standard that “...the one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.” (Exodus 16:18)

In all of Paul’s discussion about extending self in reaching out to serve others who have needs, we hear the underpinning of the Hebrew scriptures understanding about wealth, possessions, or stuff. It is this: “the earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it” (Psalm 24:1). Our participation in ownership of any portion of it is but a trust from God. Humans are really empowered managers of the abundance of God’s earth. Whatever amount we have in our care and keeping AND however we gain wealth, our stewardship has accountability. It is to utilize being fundamentally aware that it is God’s and therefore should glorify God in all of its usage. And that awareness should propel us to sharing it – so that all of God’s creation are benefited by God’s provision. Freely you have received of the grace of God, and freely then should you give out of that grace to others.

It has been said that there are three kinds of givers -- the flint, the sponge, and the honeycomb. To get anything out of a flint you must hammer it; and then you get only chips and sparks. To get water out of a sponge you must squeeze it; the more pressure, the more you will get. But the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness.

Which kind of giver are you?

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!



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY
CHILD OF GOD

"Living The Word, Changing Lives ..."

TRAINING SESSIONS

INTRODUCTION:

Purpose of the Child of God, "Living the Word, Changing Lives..." Campaign/Ministry The intent of the **Child of God, "Living the Word, Changing Lives..."** Campaign/Ministry is to engender a lifestyle that physically brings to life the action/activities of the Spiritual teachings of Jesus Christ among the believer. **That is to empower** the believer to demonstrate the **"Fruit of the Spirit"** which are Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness and Temperance. (Galatians 5 : 22 & 23KJV) through **The Development of "Active Spiritual Discipline"**.

Phase 2 – of the Child of God, "Living the Word, Changing Lives..." Campaign developed by the **Discipleship Ministry of Webster Memorial United Church** has been assigned to **Public Educational/Training Sessions** aimed at **Members and Adherents** of the Church.

Following on a successful initiation of the **Discipleship 'Child of God' Training Sessions** earlier this year at Webster on **"The Development of Active Spiritual Discipline"**; we are encouraged by the level of interest and thirst for knowledge demonstrated not only by the members and adherents of our Church Webster, but also by interested persons from other denominations locally and globally spanning participants from the **USA, Canada, and the Caribbean**. This has endorsed our contention that Training is not only needed but desperately wanted. Therefore, the Discipleship Ministry have responded to offering another series of Training Sessions under the theme **"The Fundamentals of Our Faith"**.

THE TRAINING PROGRAMME PURPOSE:

The Fundamentals of Our Faith is another response to the question: Who is a **Child of God, "Living the Word, Changing Lives..."**? As presented by the Ministry; a Definition of a **Child of God, "Living the Word, Changing Lives..."** is defined follows:
A Child of God is "someone who believes in God, dedicated to service, demonstrating a willingness to serve others through the anointing of the Holy Spirit, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, has faith in God, and is grounded in the Word of God through Prayer."

Training Sessions will be coordinated by **Mrs. Elaine Commissiong** under the guidance of Webster Senior Minister **Rev. Astor Carlyle**. Guest Presenters for these sessions are : **Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Rev. Norbert Stephens, Rev Henley Bernard, Rev. Lembe Sivile , Rev Dr. Collin Cowan** and **Rev. Dr Burchell Taylor**.

Presentations will begin on **Tuesday, September 27, 2022**.

Sessions will be held weekly thereafter on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm. These Training Sessions will be in the Webster Sanctuary and on Zoom.

Vision: Instituting a Spiritual Lifestyle of Active Service among all Believers

Mission: Empowering a Physical Lifestyle of Actions/Activities, that is based on the Spiritual Teachings of Jesus Christ within all Believers.

You can sign up at this link: <https://bit.ly/3xXaPtU>

PM Medal of Appreciation Awardee Sees Teaching as Ministry

JIS FEATURES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

WRITTEN BY: PETA-GAY HODGES



Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (r) presents Principal of the Mt. Zion Primary and Infant School in St. James, Onex Bowen, with the Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation for Service to Education, during a ceremony held on September 8 at Jamaica House.

Photo: Adrian Walker

Principal of the Mt. Zion Primary and Infant School in Montego Bay, St. James, Onex Bowen, views her teaching journey as a ministry.

The devout Christian believes that she is fulfilling a calling on her life to provide instruction for the nation's children, a call which she answered 23 years ago.

After completing her teacher-education training at Church Teachers' College in Mandeville, Mrs. Bowen returned to her hometown of Somerton in James where she served for two years at her alma mater, Somerton All-Age and Infant School, for two years, before moving to Mt. Alvernia Preparatory School in Montego Bay where she remained for three years.

Mrs. Bowen returned to her core training in secondary education at Spot Valley High School in St. James as the Head of the English Department, where she taught English Language and English Literature for seven years.

For the past 11 years, the accomplished educator has been at the helm of the Mt. Zion Primary and Infant School where, as principal, she has led the charge to transform the institution.

"Although I was trained to teach at the secondary level, God has equipped me with what I need to minister to the children. The primary school, as you know, is a little different from what my training prepared me for, but I realised that in answering the call to be an administrator at that level, God equipped me with everything that I needed," she says.

The Mt. Zion principal says she does not have a preference for

teaching children at any particular stage, whether primary or secondary, noting that the outcome yields the same level of satisfaction.

"It doesn't matter what age children I teach; I love what I do, I have a passion for education, and I am very happy with what I am able to do with the children," she says.

Mrs. Bowen is pleased that her school has experienced exponential growth during her tenure and recalls the early days when she had to play a dual role in administration and classroom instruction.

This is no longer a necessity, as the staff complement has also grown, but she still, at times, supports the teachers in their classrooms.

"I love teaching so although I am now an administrator, there are times when I will go into the classroom and teach. I don't think I can get away from that," she says.

"I greet my children, ask if they are OK and wish them a good day, and then I go back to my other duties. But there are times where I will go sit in the class. I'm an instructional leader because I stay close to the curriculum and what the teachers are doing. I actually go in the class and do incidental teaching at times," the principal notes.

Visit JIS online to read the entire article:

<https://jis.gov.jm/features/pm-medal-of-appreciation-awardee->

Liturgy For Worship At Home

<p>October 2 (Pentecost 17)</p>	<p>Lamentations 1:1-6; 3:22-26 Psalm 37:1-9 Luke 17:5-10</p>	<p>Overcoming Hope (Opportunities)</p>	<p>Where do Christians go when the world isn't moving in our favour? Is it time to give up, or to look up?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How does one 'Hope' in God in the face of perilous times - What are the hidden opportunities present in the season of crisis? <p>While we don't have concrete answers for those in crisis, we do have hope in the one who is able to keep us.</p> <p>Possible theme song – '<i>God will make a Way</i>' or '<i>My Faith it is</i>' or '<i>Great is Thy Faithfulness</i>', or '<i>I know Whom I have believed</i>'</p>
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Prayer Corner

Prayer Request

- The family of Mrs. Rose Spalding, who passed on last week. Mrs. Spalding served as Staff Tutor in pastoral counselling and worship, with the Institute for Theological and Leadership Development (ITLD) for many years, positively impacting the lives of many of our ordained and commissioned ministers.
- Rev. Dr. James Gibbs, who is recovering from illness and who lost his brother, Winston George Gibbs last week.
- Our brothers and sisters in the who experienced weather related to the passage of Hurricane Ian. We also pray for all other territories in its projected path.
- 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.



The Pringle Home for Children



2022

"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

HAPPY Birthday

Mrs. Pauline Bryan—
Oct. 3



Rev. Trevor Hylton—
Oct. 4

Rev. Alex —
Oct. 4



PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



Who is at risk of Prostate Cancer?

While prostate cancer could occur in any man, certain factors raise your risk for the disease. These risk factors include:

- Older age, 50 years of age or older
- A family history of prostate cancer
- Certain ethnicities or races, for instance, African American males are at greater risk of having prostate cancer.
- Obesity
- Genetic changes (eg BRCA2, Lynch syndrome)

- DR. ADRIAN COORE



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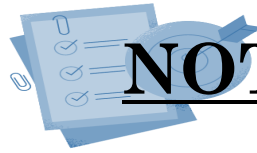


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NOTICES



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.

End Violence Against Women and
Children



Share your Thursdays in Black photos on
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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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General Secretary: Rev. Norbert Stephens

Regional Deputy General Secretaries

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