



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

November 10, 2022

SEASON OF PENTECOST

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 45



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

Sing A Song of Hope in God's Victory

By Mr. Denver Bloomfield

Throughout the centuries, humanity has been wrought by disaster and conflict, including the threat of nuclear war, problems related to biological and chemical weapons, climate change, famine, monetary failure, overpopulation, asteroid strikes, and disease epidemics. The recent bout with the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine are stark reminders of the unsettling moments of life's journey.

Periods of turbulence also attend us in our local communities, places of work, neighborhoods, schools, churches, families, and personal relationships.

As the Church, ecclesia, the called-out people of God, we are commissioned to comprehend the complexity of human life and proclaim the doctrine of salvation. The Book of Psalms is referenced as a description of the basic spiritual conduct, occasional movements, and thoughts of human life, where nothing to be found in this human life is omitted. Dietrich Bonhoeffer (*Life Together*, p. 44) posits that “nothing is wanting which relates to the knowledge of eternal salvation.” The Psalter, Book of Songs, “might well be called a little Bible”, as Martin Luther (*Luther's Works*, 35:254) describes it.

A postlude to the Old Testament and a prelude to the New Testament, the Book of Psalms is divided into five sections:
Book One; Psalms 1 – 41 – God is always with us
Book Two: Psalms 42 – 72 – God goes before us
Book Three: Psalms 43 – 89 – God is all around us
Book Four: Psalms 90 – 106 – God is above us
Book Five: Psalms 107 – 150 – God is among us

James L. Mays (1994) biblical scholar, postulates that the Psalms were originally composed for worship and thus the understanding of the same as psalmody, prayer, and praise from its introduction at Psalms 1 & 2 with concluding doxologies at Psalms (41; 72; 89; 106) and Psalm 150.

To sing a song of hope, today, we acknowledge the majesty and mercy of God through the hymn “My God, how wonderful thou art” (Frederick William Faber, 1848). This hymn has its origin in Psalm 113 and gives a call to praise in verses (1 – 3), a reminder of our chief service to praise God. Section verses (4 – 6) describe the exultation and incomparability of the Lord,

while verses (7 – 9) relate to the condescension and compassion of the Lord for the helpless, mirroring the change that occurs in human arrangements because of God's Mercy.

Psalms 130 has a remarkable history in the spiritual life of the church. The Latin *De Profundis*, English translation (*Out of the Depths*), points to the usefulness of all who find themselves in the dark and challenging places of life/existence. Luther refers to this psalm as “a proper master and doctor of Scripture,” by which it teaches the basic truth of the gospel. John Wesley, Clergyman, Hymn Writer, and Evangelist who was a leader in the revival movement of the church in England, heard this Psalm sung on the afternoon before his transforming, “heart felt strangely warm” experience at Aldersgate.

This psalm is a powerful expression of the scriptural theme: the human predicament and its dependence on divine grace. This Psalm has four parts intertwined by connecting elements.

Firstly, it mentions petitions to be heard in verses 1 – 2, followed by a statement about the relation in which sinful human beings stand to be forgiven by God in verses 3 – 4. A confession of faith takes the form of waiting in hope for the Lord in verses 5 – 6. This waiting is compared to watchmen for the morning, who acted as sentinels announcing the start of the day. At the conclusion, the psalm shifts from an address to the Lord to an exhortation to the religious community of hope for the Lord's redemption. These connections reflect a song with a theme of hope for forgiveness that the Lord will bestow by showing steadfast love in the redemption of Israel from all its iniquities.

Life is lived in danger and experiences of “depths” downing in distress, being overwhelmed and sucked down by “waters of trouble,” but the psalm declares the certainty of a comprehensive and final redemption. The Lord has the authority and power to show “steadfast love” (*hesed*) in the work of redemption to liberate us from guilt and sin's effect on life to the eschatological reach, the ultimate hope of our salvation.

Many of our hymn writers like Fanny Crosby, William Cowper, Frances Havergal, Thomas Dorsey, Thomas Chisholm, and Horatio Spafford, among others, composed their songs from some of these places of distress, turbulence, and deep pain but found the inspiration to proclaim Songs of Hope in God's victory.

As we contend with the stringent issues of life and living in our world, we too, can find the inspiration, peace, and comfort in

scripture to pen and sing songs of hope. Hope stirs within us the deep assurance that God is faithful and has promised to be with us in life and in eternity.

100th Sanctuary Anniversary Celebrations at Elmslie Memorial United Church 1922 - 2022

The year-long celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of the construction of the Elmslie Memorial United Church Sanctuary culminated on the last weekend of October 2022, with a special Anniversary Gala held Saturday evening at the Lion's Community Centre and an Anniversary Service on Sunday, in the Sanctuary, at 4:00 pm.

His Excellency Mr. Martyn Roper, Governor; the Honorable Mr. Wayne Panton, Premier; Church Leaders and Government Officials paid tribute to those who were instrumental in erecting the very first cement block building in 1922 on Cayman soil. They also paid tribute to the generations of faithful believers whose Christian witness and service made the Elmslie Sanctuary a beacon of hope and strength throughout the years. Situated in the heart of George Town, the Congregation continues to play a pivotal role in the spiritual life of the local community with its many events and activities.



Keynote speaker of the Gala, Rev. Norbert Stephens (General Secretary-UCJCI), emphasized that the 100th Anniversary is part of the celebration of the pilgrimage of the Congregation that began in 1846 when Rev. James Elmslie set foot on the Cayman Islands. Such a pilgrimage cannot be undertaken without being rooted in an understanding of three facets of Christianity: faith, service, and leadership. These three represent the common thread woven into the fabric of one hundred years of ministry and mission in the current Sanctuary. Faith, service, and leadership represent a perpetual legacy that was bequeathed to the members of the Congregation. Hopefully, they will leave the same legacy to the next generation following in their footsteps.

Guest preacher of the Anniversary Service on Sunday, October 30, 2022, the Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Moderator of the UCJCI pointed out that even as we celebrate the quality work of the builders erecting a sanctuary that stood the test of time for one hundred years, the greater significance and the challenge is

what this Sanctuary represents. The current generations are called to ensure that this Sanctuary continues to symbolize and represent God's presence, where people can encounter Jesus Christ, the hope of salvation, healing, and reconciliation.

The CIRMC extends heartfelt congratulations to the Congregation, its leadership and its members and prays for God's continuing blessing on their witness and ministry.



(Left to right: Rev. L Christopher Mason – Minister of the Elmslie Charge, Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott – Moderator, Mrs. Dionne Harriott, Rev. Norbert Stephens – General Secretary, Mrs. Rachel Forrester and Rev. Rohan Forrester – Chair of CIRMC)



The Anniversary Service at the Elmslie Memorial Sanctuary.

Installation of Lay Pastor in East End – Gun Bay

The installation of Pastor Ormond Williams as Lay Pastor for the East End and Gun Bay United Churches in the North-East Charge took place on Sunday, October 30, 2022, in the East End United Church. The Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott (Moderator-UCJCI) was the Guest Speaker of the occasion.

Originally from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Lay Pastor Williams received his Preaching Diploma from the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas where he also served as a Local Preacher and was involved in several Christian youth organizations and activities.



(Left to right: Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Moderator-UCJCI, Lay Pastor Mr. Ormond Williams, Rev. Rohan Forrester, Chair of Council-CIRMC and Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield, RDGS-CIRMC)

Mr. Williams has been actively involved in the life and ministry of the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council for two decades in various areas and almost over a decade, served as Lay Pastor in the William Pouchie Memorial Church (North Side), the John Gray Memorial Church (West Bay) and the East End and Gun Bay United Churches.

The Cayman Regional Mission Council (CIRMC) wishes God's continuing blessing on Pastor Williams' witness and ministry.

An Evening of Music at Webster Memorial United Church (BT)

UCJCI Congregations across the Island gathered on Sunday, November 6, 2022, for an evening of music and praise at the Webster Memorial United Church (Bodden Town). Choirs, soloists, and musicians displayed their talents for the delight and enjoyment of those gathered.




Peyton Robinson, Leannah and Ms. Tianah Squire, Mr. Antonio Sanchez, the Webster Memorial Choir




'New Direction' William Pouchie Memorial, Savannah United Choir, East End-Gun Bay United Choir, Ms. Richarda Harvey

The event can be traced back to 2012 when newly arrived Choir Director/Youth minister Mr. E. Garth Webster decided to build upon and expand the annually held Women's Fellowship Concert. One of Mr. Webster's main objectives was to use the event to reach out to the local community and invite the participation of musically gifted people unaffiliated with the Church. This year the focus was on encouraging choirs and musicians to incorporate various musical styles in the repertoire to enrich the worship experience in our Congregations.



The Cayman Islands Girls' Brigade
Invites you to attend
The Official Naming and Dedication
of the
Olive Miller Memorial Building



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH, 2022
 at 4:30 PM
 PROSPECT YOUTH CENTRE

Reveal of Commemorative plaque and display immediately after dedication

Peace Initiative Project

At the 42nd Synod of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, held in April 2021, the Peace Initiative was introduced. Each Regional Mission Council was asked to identify a project. The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (CIRMC), at its October 8, 2022, Meeting agreed that the Cayman Island Crisis Centre will be our project. The Mission MAT is coordinating the effort and the list of items needed by the Crisis Centre is now available (the list is included at the end of this article). The items for the Crisis Centre should be taken to the Council Office. Thank you for your participation and continuing support.



WISH LIST

CHILDREN PRODUCTS:

- Boys & Girls clothing for age 0 to 18 (all sizes)
- Undergarments (all size)
- Boys and Girls shoes up to age 18
- Disposable Diapers (all sizes)
- Diaper Wipes and Diaper Rash Cream (i.e. Desitin)
- Baby Toiletries: Shampoo, Bath Wash, Lotion/Oil, etc.
- Baby Crib + sheets, bumpers, etc.
- Baby Blankets
- Children's Educational Books, Games, Toys

WOMEN PRODUCTS :

- Women's Clothing and shoes (all sizes)
- Women's NEW Night Clothes (small, medium & large)
- Women's NEW Undergarments (all sizes)
- Toiletries: Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Deodorant, etc.
- Comb, Brush, Hair Dryer
- Feminine Products

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS:

- New pillows, pillow covers, pillowcases
- Twin mattress
- Twin mattress covers
- Twin sheets sets
- Towels
- Curtains (size: 51 x 74 inches + curtain rods)
- Pots & Pans
- Drinking Glasses
- Dishes, Cutlery, Plates
- Household items including appliances
- Furniture
- TV/computers

WISH LIST

OTHER PRODUCTS :

- Financial support for the daily operations of the CICC
- Birthdays/Graduation/Christmas etc. Gifts for Women and Children (both genders from newborn to 18 years old)
- School Supplies for the in-house and former clients' children
- Imperishable Canned Foods
- Cleaning Products (e.g., Clorox Bleach, Fabuloso, Detergent, Dishwashing Liquid, Lysol)



IN-KIND DONATIONS :

PLEASE BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO OUR WAREHOUSE,
OPEN EVERY **WEDNESDAY 12:PM-1:PM.**
MINI WAREHOUSE 2 #226
DORCY DRIVE INDUSTRIAL PARK
(ACROSS FROM BRAND SOURCE STORE)

MONETARY DONATIONS:

CHEQUES ARE TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO:
'CAYMAN ISLANDS CRISIS CENTRE'

ONLINE BANKING DETAILS:

Bank of Butterfield Cayman

Account Name: Cayman Islands Crisis Centre

CI account: 1361629840014

US account: 8401629840037



24 Hour Crisis Line
943-2422

Office: 949-0366

Email: info@cicc.ky Website: www.cicc.ky



Elmslie Memorial United Church's
Youth Ministry
Presents

CAYMAN Culture Night 2022

CHURCH HALL
FRIDAY
NOV 11
7 PM

ADMISSION:
\$5

Refreshments on sale

Featuring:

- Elmslie Dance Ministry
- Cayman Islands Folk Singers
- Radiance Maypole Dancers
- Cayman Islands National Dance Company and more...



Cayman Council Women's Fellowship

Thanksgiving Lunch

Thursday, 24th November 2022
11am to 2pm
Elmslie United Church Hall

Menu

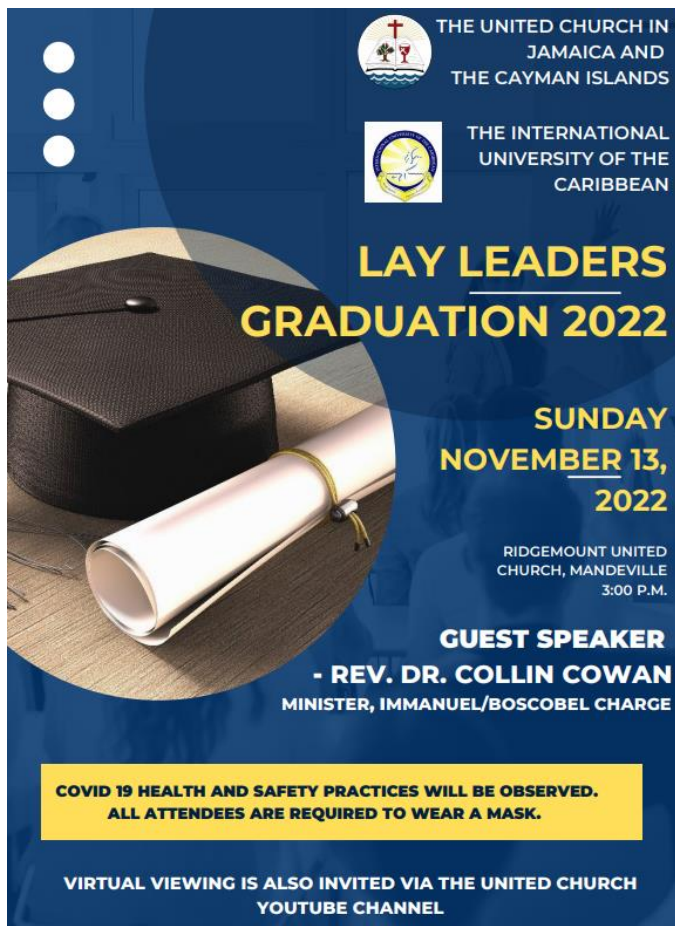
- Turkey
- Ham
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Potato Salad
- Rice & Beans
- Sweet Yam Casserole
- Apple / Cranberry Sauce
- Dinner Rolls
- Apple Pie / Cassava Cake
- Soft Drinks /Water

Ticket: \$16.00

Tickets available from Women's Fellowship Members

Remember in your prayers

All those God has placed on your heart and those brought to your attention in some way.



THE UNITED CHURCH IN
JAMAICA AND
THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

THE INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF THE
CARIBBEAN

LAY LEADERS GRADUATION 2022

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 13,
2022

RIDGEMOUNT UNITED
CHURCH, MANDEVILLE
3:00 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKER
- REV. DR. COLLIN COWAN
MINISTER, IMMANUEL/BOSCOBEL CHARGE

**COVID 19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICES WILL BE OBSERVED.
ALL ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK.**

VIRTUAL VIEWING IS ALSO INVITED VIA THE UNITED CHURCH
YOUTUBE CHANNEL

23rd Sunday in Pentecost

November 13, 2022

Sing a Song of Hope in God's Victory

The importance of hymns and Psalms in
worship and in life

Malachi 4:1-2a Psalm 98 Luke 21:5-19

Our psalm reminds us that we cannot look at the literal battle before us; we must remind ourselves of God's faithfulness and favor over time. This is strengthened by the Gospels which indicate that things will look extremely horrible before Christ's return.

- How do the current news reflect the signs outlined by Jesus?
- Can people find hope in Jesus instead of looking to frail human 'heroes'?



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

November 13, 2022
Mr. Denver Bloomfield & Mr. Noel Wallace

Published by the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
292 Prospect Point Road
P.O. Box 1700 Grand Cayman KY1-1109 CAYMAN ISLANDS
Tel: 1 345 947-1963 Email: rdgs@cicuejci.com or cirmcinfo@gmail.com
Website: unitedchurch.org.ky