



# The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

## Weekly Update

November 9, 2022.

CIRMC

### From Former to Future Glory

By Mr. Herman Wilson

Every believer in Christ Jesus has been sealed with the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption, and lives in the hope of the future glory of God.

Through the life and times of Israel, God by God's providence, invariably demonstrates that the choices of humanity apart from God, will, result in hopelessness. This is because we have all fallen short of God's glory.

Because of the disobedience of the Israelites, the Babylonians in 597 B.C., destroyed first temple built by King Solomon This temple was glorious because the Ark of the Covenant was there. However, that glory eventually faded, and the Israelites were exiles in Babylon for seventy years as punishment for their hardheartedness.

Upon their return to the Promised Land, the Israelites undertook the rebuilding the temple. However, due to objections from the people who had occupied the land during their absence, they ceased from the work and became complacent.

God called the prophet Haggai to motivate Israel to resume and complete the reconstruction of the temple. Initially, many of the older Israelites who saw the former temple, wept on seeing the small size of the second temple. God, however, assured them that although the second temple was far less impressive, its future glory would be exceedingly great. God told Israel that even from the time of their journey from Egypt, God's Spirit has always been among them.

The older Israelites were highly emotional about the past, but God wanted them to focus on the good things in store for them in the future. God inspired the prophet Haggai to highlight the role of Zerubbabel, an Israelite born in Babylon and through whom God restored the messianic line of David. Zerubbabel is an ancestor of Christ Jesus and considered a type of messiah among the Israelites. He led the first group of returnees from Babylon and was also greatly involved with the reconstruction

of the temple.

The prophet Haggai wrote:

*6 "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea, and the dry land. 7 I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD Almighty. 8 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty.*

*9 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place, I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty."* (Haggai 2:6-9)

*23 "'On that day,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,' declares the LORD, 'and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you,' declares the LORD Almighty."* (Haggai 2:23)

### What does this mean for Christians today?

Job 17:11-12 reads:

*11 My days have passed; my plans are shattered. Yet the desires of my heart*

*12 turn night into day; in the face of the darkness light is near*

Humankind enjoyed a measure of the glory of God at creation but fell short of it due to sin. God's dealings with Israel are indicators of how God deals with all of humanity. God's revelation of the plan of redemption to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15 had been accomplished through Christ Jesus our Lord. The gospel of His death, burial and resurrection for our sins is being preached throughout the world. It speaks to the hope of eternal glory in Him.

There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that came by

Christ Jesus (Romans 3:23-24).

For God, who said, “*Let light shine out of darkness,*” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6).

There is a future glory for all believers in Christ Jesus. Believers should always be mindful of the fact that we are new creation in Christ Jesus, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. We, however, live in unredeemed bodies, but are not subject to condemnation. The next stage of God’s redemptive plan entails the resurrection of our bodies to a state of glory, at the glorious return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to consummate His kingdom. Job, several thousands of years ago, was certain of his resurrection.

He said:

*25 I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.*

*26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;*

*27 I myself will see him with my own eyes, I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! (Job 19:25-27)*

During His ministry on earth, Jesus enlightened the misguided Sadducees about this spiritual reality by saying:

*34 ... “The people of this age marry and are given in marriage.35 But those who are considered worthy of taking part in the age to come and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, 36 and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God’s children, since they are children of the resurrection. ...”*

Spiritually speaking, the Church is currently the temple of God. This sense is reflected by the Apostle Paul in his epistle to the Ephesians. He wrote:

*19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*

*21 In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by God’s Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)*

The apostle Peter also wrote the following:

*4 As you come to Him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to God— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house[a] to be a holy*

*priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:4-5).*

In the physical sense, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will be glorious, and as prophesied by the prophet Haggai, the millennial temple at Jerusalem will be most glorious – an expression of the beauty of the Spirit of the Lord.

## The Christian Walk

The Apostle Paul describes the current status of believers:

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).

This verse describes the progressive sanctification of believers as we continually being transformed into the image of Christ Jesus by growing into the knowledge of Him. Spiritually speaking, all believers from the moment of conversion now have unveiled faces. Through continual contemplation of the Word of God, we are being transformed from one level of glory to another until we see Christ Jesus face to face in eternal glory.

The Apostle John assures his readers:

*2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be, has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 All who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure (1 John 3:2-3).*

The usual unforeseen changes in circumstances that affect our lives are to be ordered through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are urged to keep the past and the present in proper balance. We are encouraged not to dwell on the past, but to maintain an eternal perspective on life, and a continual quest to embrace divine revelation. Although we might not frequently reflect on it, we have the constant power to overcome our trials throughout our sanctification. This power is the same as the mighty strength that God the Father exerted when God raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him as His right hand in the heavenly realms. (See Ephesians 1: 15-23). This is indeed a profound spiritual truth.

Whilst some opine that the former days were far better than the current ones, the Christian worldview takes a balanced approach. What is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. We live by faith and not by sight. (2 Cor. 4:18; 5:7)

Believers’ faith and hope in their future glory are grounded in our knowledge of the Word of God, the source of objective truths, as revealed in the Holy Bible by our Supreme Creator. All truths are

God's truths.

We must be prepared to respond wisely to those who say that 'Christians are so heavenly-minded that they are no earthly good', and also to those who consider Christianity as mythical. We should not be deterred by such remarks.

The following words of an unknown songwriter read:

*Laid hold by vision of His house,*

*We build earnestly, from indifference roused.*

*Although the world thinks us as fools,*

*To God we're exceedingly precious jewels.*

*Our eyes behold eternity,*

*Glorious destiny seen transparently.*

*Arise! Make haste this age to turn*

*That the glory longed for may soon return!*

We should always be mindful of 1 Corinthians 2:14 which states:

*14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit (1 Cor. 2:14).*

Romans 8: 17-30 is a clear revelation of believers' future glory, and we should continually be inspired by those words.

Romans 8:28-30 states:

*28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*

God has created all things for God's glory. The crown of God's creation is humankind, and believers are being made anew to conform to the likeness of Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

With all these revelations in mind, and given that believers currently have eternal life in Christ, how should we engage in our communities?

Believers in Christ are to live lives that are worthy of the calling we have received.

Not claiming to be perfect, Christians are called upon to be

exemplars in our society. The quality of our inter-personal relationships must be for the glory of God. Wisdom must prevail, and we should continually pray for it. We should be aware of the adopted cultural norms that potentially compromise the Christian message. Whilst avoiding bigotry or hypocrisy, we should always have an evangelistic outlook. Our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy His presence forever. When Christ our life appears, then we will also be appearing with Him in glory.

The divine invitation to anticipate the future glory is the gospel of Jesus Christ, and believers are urged to spread it. Humanity is destined for glory, but only through the shed blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Moderator and General Secretary of the UCJCI Visit the CIRMC

On Thursday, October 27, 2022, Moderator Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott and General Secretary Rev. Norbert Stephens arrived at Grand Cayman for a five-day visit. It was the first official visit by such high-profile Church leaders of the UCJCI to the Cayman Islands since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The busy schedule, full of engagements from morning till evening every day, included meeting with Members of the Council, a radio recording for the 'Worship the Lord' Programme, spending a pastoral Retreat with Ministers and Lay Pastors, attending a Council wide Youth Event and a Men's Fellowship Breakfast, visiting the retired Ministers, the Beth Shalom Mission House, the Bethesda Counselling Centre, and the Cayman Prep and High School. The special guests also participated in the 100th Anniversary Celebrations of the Elmslie Memorial United Church Sanctuary and preached on Sunday morning at the East End and South Sound Congregations.



*Meeting with Council Members at the Council Office*

Speaking at the Special Council Meeting and at the Retreat the Moderator and the General Secretary, among other things, expressed their appreciation to the leadership of the CIRMC

for the successful completion of the realignment of Charges within the bounds of the CIRMC. The realignment model implemented by the CIRMC is now being used in the other three regional Mission Councils. The CIRMC was also commended for effectively addressing and managing the challenges the local Congregations face as the result of the pandemic.

The Moderator and the General Secretary concluded their visit to the CIRMC on October 31, 2022.



Group photo from the Moderator's Retreat with Ministers and Lay Pastors in Cayman Kai

## THE PORTMORE UNITED CHURCH

New members being received at Portmore United Church, PUC, on November 6, 2022.



## NERMC INAUGURAL LAY PASTOR APPRECIATION SERVICE

On Sunday, October 23, 2022, at the Meadowbrook United Church twenty-nine Lay Pastors were awarded plaques for their years of service to the North Eastern Regional Mission Council, NERMC, ranging from five to over 20 years.

The preacher for the day was the Moderator, Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott.



### **Prayer Corner**

Renew our strength, Lord. Fill us with your supernatural power to overcome each obstacle in our path. With our eyes on you, Lord, with you walking beside us, working through us, We can make it.

## **Liturgy for Worship at Home**

*November 13, 2022  
Pentecost 23  
(Pirate's Week – Cayman)*

**Malachi 4:1-2a**

**Psalm 98**

**Luke 21:5-19**

### **Sing a Song of Hope in God's Victory**

Our psalm reminds us that we cannot look at the literal battle before us; we must remind ourselves of God's faithfulness and favour 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'?

Possible song 'On Christ the Solid Rock'

### **Prayer Requests**

- Rev. Dr. Cephas Stern whose mother, Rena Stern, passed on
- Pastor Edward Williams who lost his brother, Charles Williams
- Ms. Heather Thompson who lost her aunt, Ms. Annis Freeman
- Students, staff, parents and other members of the Oberlin High School community
- Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis whose mother, Mrs. Nellie Lewis, passed
- The family of the late Karl Bright who passed recently
- Lay Pastor John Macmillan and Mrs. Itza Bodden, Youth Worker, in Cayman who both face health related challenges
- The family of Ms. Rose Spalding, who passed recently
- Rev. Dr. James Gibbs, who is recovering from illness and who lost his brother, Winston George Gibbs
- All who have experienced weather related to the passage of Hurricane Ian
- 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

**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](mailto:ucschome32@gmail.com) or call the Director, Miss Bailey, at 876-373-8474 or 876-962-3768 to make your enquiries.

32 Villa Road, Mandeville P.O., Manchester

**NOTICES**



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  
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**November**

**Church School Month  
 National Parents' Month  
 Men's Month**

The Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Moderator of Synod,

invites you to the

# Service of ORDINATION

for

*Pastor Alja Dias*

*to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments*



Ridgemount United Church  
Thursday, November 10, 2022 || 2:00 p.m.

YouTube: UCJCI's Channel

End Violence Against Women  
and Children



Share your Thursdays in Black  
photos on Twitter, Facebook and  
Instagram and tag us @ucjci

**#WCC, #UCJCI #evgw  
#ThursdaysinBlack  
#endviolenceagainstwomen**



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# 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 24

Gospel Concert

December



*"Pringle at 100:  
preserving a legacy of service."*

## The Pringle Home for Children **Panel Discussion on Child Care & Protection**

Panelists



Rev. Norbert Stephens  
General Secretary, UCJCI



Mrs. Rosalee Gage Grey  
CEO, Child Protection and  
Family Services Agency,  
CPFSA



Mrs. Jesutofunmi Simpson  
Clinical Psychologist,  
Children First Agency



Miss Christina Silvera  
Assoc. Clinical Psychologist  
Adjunct Lecturer,  
UWI Mona

November **24** 2022  
6:00PM

**Webster Memorial United Church**  
Livestreaming on UCJCI's YouTube Channel

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

### Moderator:

Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

### General Secretary:

Rev. Norbert Stephens

### Regional Deputy General Secretaries

Cayman Regional Mission Council-  
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield

North-Eastern Regional Mission Council -  
Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

Southern Regional Mission Council-  
Mrs. Janet McConnell

Western Regional Mission Council-  
Mrs. Maureen Henry

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comments and input to  
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