



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

Season of Epiphany

January 19, 2023

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 03

UCJCI 43rd SYNOD THEME – **Rooted, Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit** (Return, Reconnect, Realign, Re-ignite)

Everything New!

Ms. Katherine Jackson (Cert. Hon.)

Please read Isaiah 43:15-16 and 19-21

When I was a little girl growing up on Elizabeth Street in West Bay, I would be so delighted if, when I was getting ready for school, my mother would say, “see, I’ve made you a new pair of garters”. My mother was an excellent seamstress and when the tops of my socks would get all stretched up, and Daddy hadn’t returned home from his turtling voyages to Key West, Florida when he would bring new clothes, socks, shoes, small bicycles, and some of everything for us, Mommy would make me a pair of garters so that my socks could stay up on my spindly little legs. Garters were simply a length of elastic with its two ends sewn together, and then you’d slip them over the socks and then turn down the tops of your socks so that no one could see how really stretched up they were! New garters were a hot item and you felt like a princess when you wore them to school. It was the same when you got a new school uniform at the start of the term, or a new dress, frilly socks and patent leather shoes to wear to the Christmas programme! All things new ...

In these Bible verses from Isaiah 43, “the LORD, the Holy One” is saying, “Forget the former things ... do not dwell on the past” – in other words, don’t park yourself there ... See, I am doing a new thing! now it springs up; do you not recognize it? Don’t you understand? I am making a way in the wilderness (a place that no one wants to get lost) ... and streams in the wasteland – a hot and harsh desert !”



There is so much zing and excitement in these lines, you almost wish you had wings to fly and celebrate ... but, before God says this, God reminds us of a few things God is going to do or has already done:

- Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
- When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
- and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.
- When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.
- he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters,
- who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:
- I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you!

This is a brand-new year, only 19 days old, and yet, already we’re moaning and groaning, we’re complaining, we’re just dragging along ... and less than 30 days ago we again celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and already we’ve forgotten that ... we’ve stopped playing the beautiful Christmas music ... the Christmas trees have all gone to the shredder or have been packed away in some box or other ... the twinkling lights have all been taken down – how irrelevant it all seems, just after a few days – are we just doing Christmas for the sake of it or because it’s a date on our calendar?

Is it all about the hurriedness and craziness of the days before Christmas ... yet God continues to remind us, “Behold, I am doing a new thing! Don’t you see it? Don’t you comprehend it? Don’t you feel it in your heart, in your soul? Don’t you smell it?”

God continues to pour out love on us through His Son Jesus Christ – “Come to Me ... come and sit for a while ... let’s talk” ... God continues to pick us up, clean us up, and dress us up in our finest, see? God makes all things new.

The beautiful hymn says, “New every morning is the love our waking and uprising prove; through sleep and darkness safely brought, restored to life ... and power ... and thought. New mercies each returning day hover around us, while we pray. New perils passed, new sins forgiven, new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven” – everything new!

As God allows each of us to continue through this year, I pray that you will be renewed and reanointed as you have a new and fresh encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ – He will make you brand new so that you can be His witness in your Church, your community and wherever you go. God is making all things

new; God is reigniting us to witness to His redeeming love and forgiveness.

Pastor Rick Warren says, “(New Year’s) Resolutions and rules aren’t enough to change the human heart. Heart transformation requires the love of God inside you. The beginning of healthy change starts inside you. When you invite Jesus to be the Savior and Lord (manager) of your life, your past is forgiven, you get a new purpose for living, you get a home in heaven, and you plug into God’s power to change your life.”

It is time for us to return to God for revival – allowing God to make all things new in our lives, in our Churches and in our families – forget about the past, put that into a box and put that box on the top shelf, in the corner! This is a new day ... this is a new year ... this is a new time – come, now is the time to return to God who loves us and gave Himself for us ... it is time for us to return to the Cross of Christ for it was there by faith we received our sight – behold, He is making all things new!

Prayer

Eternal and most gracious Father, we bow before Your throne of grace and offer to You our lives, all messed up as they might be, but we remember what you’ve said, “forget the former things, see I am doing something new!” So, help us that, as we rise, we will catch that vision and feel the newness in ourselves that can only come from You so that we will be empowered to go forth in Your name, and covered by Your Spirit, to share Your Gospel! In the amazing name of Christ, we pray, this day, Amen.

SYNOD CORNER

Bulletin #1

The 43rd Synod of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands will be held in the Cayman Islands. The last time the Synod convened in the Cayman Islands was 1987.

Theme: Rooted and Resilient: Reignited by the Spirit.

Moderator-Elect : Rt Rev Gary Harriott

Date: April 23-30, 2023

Venue:

- The Worship Services and Public Lecture will be held at the Elmslie Memorial Church.
- Business Sessions will be at the Savannah United Church.

Delegates: Congregations will be represented by the Minister, Lay Pastor (if applicable) and two Delegates.

How can you participate?

1. **Pray** for the Synod.
2. **Prepare** to welcome our Sisters and Brothers who will be joining us.
3. **You are invited** to attend all the Worship Services, the Public Lecture and Moderator’s Reception

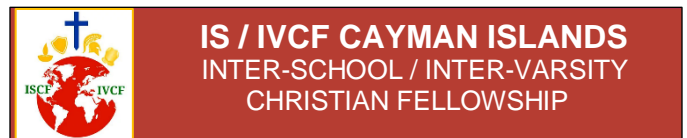
4. **Hosting** -we need persons to host the Delegates from Jamaica. Please indicate your willingness to host to your Minister, your Church Office or the Synod contact person in your Congregation.
5. **Decorating:** Are you good at decorating? We will need assistance in this area. Please contact the Council Office.
6. **Drivers:** Can you serve as a driver during the week of April 23-27, 2023? Please contact the Council Office.
7. **Each Charge has been assigned a day to prepare morning and afternoon snacks for the Synod-** What can you contribute? Please contact your local Congregation.

The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council welcomes the opportunity to host the Synod and do anticipate your participation!

Council Office contact:

Telephone: 947-1963

Email: rdgs@cicucji.com



Mrs. Latavia Henry-Campbell

The **IVCF Club** set up a booth on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at the UCCI Sports & Club Extravaganza. As students and staff moved from class to class, they stopped by the table to participate in a ‘What’s on your bucket list?’ activity. They were encouraged to convert their bucket list items into a prayer request and post them in a ‘bucket’. These requests will be prayer for during the club meetings, which are held on Wednesdays, 2:30-4:00 pm in Room B1 on the UCCI Campus. In addition to the twelve (12) students who joined the IVCF club at the start of the academic year, nineteen (19) more students also signed up to join the IV/ Club on that day. In addition to those who signed up, several students visited the booth collecting tracts, brochures, and of course snacks.

It is our hope and prayer that these students will actually come to the weekly meetings of the IVCF Club and develop and strengthen their relationship with the Lord.



All Are Invited

Come and Be Blessed

CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

Ash Wednesday Gathering

THEME: HEALED & RESTORED BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

6:30AM - 9:00AM

PROSPECT YOUTH CENTRE BEACH - COUNCIL OFFICE

*PRESENTATION ON HEALING
*HOLY COMMUNION
*FELLOWSHIP MEAL

(CCPP)

Child Care & Protection Policy

WORKSHOP

For all those assisting in Children & Youth Ministry, who have not been trained yet.

Saturday, February 4, 2023
9:00 - 11:00 am via Zoom

To register please contact your Minister or the Council office at 947-1963 or Cirmc.info@gmail.com by Friday, January 27, 2023

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 at this time

Lay Pastor John Macmillan (RYMC), Mrs. Itza Bodden, Youth Worker (EE-GB), Mr. Trevor Watler (GB)

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 21. (Saturday)
Council Meeting - 9:00 am - Elmslie Memorial UC

January 22. (Sunday) 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
Women's Fellowship Week - Jan. 22 - 28, 2023

January 23. (Monday) Public Holiday
NATIONAL HEROES DAY

January 28. (Saturday)
Women's Fellowship Breakfast - 8:00 am - Morritt's (East End)

United Church Women's Fellowship Council

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 28, 2023
Time: 8am - 10am
Venue: Morritt's, East End

Theme: Being a Peace-Maker

Guest Speaker: Rev. L. Christopher Mason

All Are Invited

Ticket: \$30



on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am

January 22, 2023
Mrs. Katherine Jackson

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