



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

## Season of Epiphany

February 02, 2023

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 05

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

### Return to Your Roots

Mr. Herman Wilson

The call to return to the Christian roots is a call for believers to fervently seek to know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ better each day. He is our life, the author and perfecter of our faith, and with whom we enjoy a mystical union, He is the one who enables us to become deeply aware of the glory, mystery, holiness, perfection, wisdom and goodness of God the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is what we were created for.

The call is for us by faith to maintain an eternal perspective on life, and to frequently remind ourselves of who we are in Christ Jesus. We are a new creation in Christ, a new humanity created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (See John 1:12-13; Eph. 4:24.) We are the Church, partakers of the divine nature in Christ, to be an expression of the light of Christ in the world, and the temple in which God lives by His Spirit. All believers in Christ have been chosen by God before the creation of the world. (See Ephesians 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; 1 Peter 1:2) We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ in the heavenly places, the realm of an invisible reality. (Ephesians 1:3) There must be a change in our worldview, a new way of life inspired by God who gives us the ability to have a deeper awareness of the eternal compared with the temporal. Our union with Christ Jesus is by virtue of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and is the essence of what it means to be a Christian. It is a spiritual reality that transcends our finite minds. It is supernatural and mysterious. (See 1 Cor. 6:17; 12:13; Eph. 5:31-32.) This union was revealed by Christ Jesus in His high priestly prayer shortly before His crucifixion. He prayed as follows for all believers.

<sup>20</sup> “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—<sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

<sup>24</sup> “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” (John 17:20-26)

A few years after the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, wrote the following with great confidence based on revelation from Jesus Christ.

<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

The Apostle Paul in his epistle to the Colossians, and by extension, to us today, made clear this truth of our union with Christ. He wrote:

<sup>3</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)

Christ Jesus further confirmed this spiritual reality. He said:

<sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” (John 14:21)

“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. (John 14:23)

Our union with Christ is of the greatest importance because it is vital. Returning to your roots entails continual realignment of spiritual focus. Of necessity, it involves dedicated reference to the Scripture for guidance in all aspects of life. By doing so we are yielding to the Holy Spirit with whom all believers have been sealed for the day of redemption. Out of Christ’s fullness, we have all received grace in place of grace already given. (John 1:16)

### Living in this World but Not of It

The ups and downs of life impact our sanctification in numerous ways and have the potential to cause the loss of spiritual focus. The following are among the typical challenges.

- Pressures of secular work environments
- Difficult family relationships
- Contending with false doctrine
- Temptations of the fallen human nature
- Failures to embrace the fruit of the Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control)

Christians are members of the cosmic family of God. Christ Jesus is the unique Son of God, and we are adopted by Him. Upon conversion, we have become sojourners on earth.

Christians live in the world but are not of the world. In the biblical context, we are saints in Christ – separated unto God, and holy to Him. Our engagement must be for the glory of God, and wisdom must prevail in our interpersonal relationships. Given the occurrences of ‘spiritual highs and spiritual lows,’ new converts might initially find this new mode of engagement somewhat challenging. The guidance of James 1:2-5 is apt in such situations. It states:

*<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (James 1:2-5)*

Of course, the guidance of more mature believers is also priceless. Further instructions are given in 1 John 2:15-17.

*<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. <sup>16</sup> For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup> The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. (1John 2:15-17)*

The subjective and objective aspects of our faith are kept in balance through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

### Family Matters

Difficulties may arise within families in which some are unbelievers. However, this should be expected, because even Jesus Christ had this experience. While He was on earth, Jesus’ brothers did not initially believe in Him. This is shown in John 7:2-5.

*<sup>2</sup> But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, <sup>3</sup> Jesus’ brothers said to him, “Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. <sup>4</sup> No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” <sup>5</sup> For even his own brothers did not believe in him. (John 7:2-5)*

Invariably, there are cases in which a spouse becomes a believer, whilst the other remains unregenerate. The apostle Paul envisioned the potential issues in such circumstances and gave the following advice.

*<sup>12</sup> To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. <sup>13</sup> And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. <sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise, your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.*

*<sup>15</sup> But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. <sup>16</sup> How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? (1 Corinthians 7:12-16)*

The Christian walk is experimental, and it is incumbent on every believer to exercise the level of faith which has been given by God at every point of their sanctification experiences. The quest should be the continual return to your *roots*; back to the place where you first believed, shelving all ‘idols and distractions’ on the way.

### Christian Unity

How do you relate to your fellow believers in Christ?

Concerning Christian fellowship, Christ Jesus requires His followers to love one another. Agape love must be the hallmark of the Christian faith. Cynicism, apathy, hypocrisy, and selfishness should be foreign to the Body of Christ. Believers should always be mindful of their spiritual status referred to in 2 Corinthians 5:15-17.

*<sup>14</sup> For Christ’s love compels us because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

*<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, and the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:14-17)*

We must be keenly aware that through our union with Christ, we are in fact united with each other in spirit.

*<sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Romans 12:5)*

This reality transcends whatever conflict that may exist within the Church. Returning to our roots entails continually seeking the kingdom of God. That is, practicing the consciousness of God moment by moment. This, of course, is an ideal; for we are always encumbered by our sinful nature, the tension between the old self and the new self. Nonetheless, we are enabled to persevere through the power of the Holy Spirit, because this is the chief aspect of our sanctification. We always discern divine providence because it is God who works in us to will and to act according to His purpose. (Philippians 2:13)

## False Doctrine

Can you recognize when you are being misled in spiritual matters?

As experienced by the early church, false doctrine has always been a potential hindrance to spiritual growth in cases where biblical literacy is lacking. Through the internet and international television, many are lured into believing half-truths and blatant falsehoods from various heretical sources. The Apostle Paul, for example, had to vigorously address the matter within the Colossian church. *“In Christ, all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form”*. (Colossians 2:9). He reminded them of the supremacy of Jesus Christ. He wrote:

*<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Colossians 1:15-20)*

The apostle had some time earlier cautioned the believers in Rome as follows:

*<sup>17</sup> I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. <sup>18</sup> For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their appetites. By smooth talk and flattery, they deceive the minds of naive people. (Romans 16:17-18)*

Discerning minds must be developed among believers, especially among new converts. Constant reference to, and systematic teaching of the apostles' doctrine are necessary to refute errors and falsehood. A true believer, however, cannot be completely swayed by false doctrine. Jesus said:

*<sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. (John 10:27-29)*

We also refer to the Apostle Paul's instruction to Timothy.

*<sup>15</sup> Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)*

We should aim at being confident in defending the faith. True faith is anchored on objective truths – the word of God.

## Exercising Spiritual Gifts

What is your spiritual gift(s)?

A return to our roots is also an invitation to intentionally determine our spiritual gift(s) given to us to build up the

Church. Our spiritual abilities are invariably confirmed through divine providence by fellow believers.

We should also embrace opportunities for evangelism – the awareness of the Cross of Jesus Christ, our entry into the grace in which we now stand.

*<sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:11)*

## Conclusion

It is incumbent on each believer to frequently contemplate the level of his or her relationship with Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church. The new creation in Christ should be our dedicated focus. Christ Jesus is our federal head, and we should anticipate His glorious return. We should always embrace God's provision for us to persevere in faith through the power of the Holy Spirit by systematically studying His revealed truths. We must be readers, hearers and doers of the word despite challenges. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to do this.

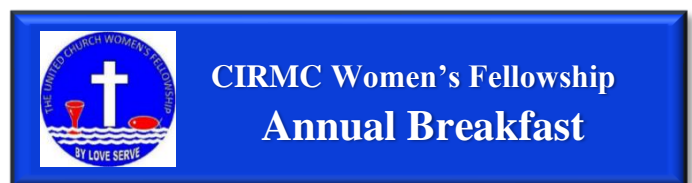
In this sinful world, our union with Christ manifests itself in spiritual rest. Having said all this, what is the subjective aspect of this union?

The call to return to your roots is a call to have a continual awareness of our life in Christ Jesus, the glorious state of eternal existence in the presence of Almighty God. Spiritual enthusiasm based on a solid foundation in biblical truths, and diligence in prayer will define who we are. Indications of our union with Christ are not based solely on emotionalism (ecstatic experiences). We live by faith, not by sight.

*<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (Colossians 2:6-7)*

To God be the glory.

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The Annual Breakfast of the Cayman Council Women's Fellowship (CCWF) took place at Morrith's Resort, East End on January 28, 2022, at 8 am. The new officers of the CCWF were installed by Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble – Bloomfield.

Rev. L. Christopher Mason, Vice-Chair for the Discipleship MAT (Mission Action Team) of Council spoke on the theme of 'Being a Peace-Maker'. The event was attended by approximately 90 women and men.



*Rev. Mason addressed the attendees.*

A special presentation was made to Ms Kathy Jackson (John Gray Memorial Church) for her years of dedicated service to the Women's Fellowship.



*Mrs Jacynthia Anderson (Cayman Council Women's Fellowship President) and Mrs Kathy Jackson.*

Mr Christopher Murray of Boyz to Men received a cheque from the Women's Fellowship for the work being done with the young men at the John Gray High School.



Another cheque was presented to Rev. Mason for the benefit of the Elmslie Pantry Ministry.

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## *In Other News*

Two Elders were Commissioned during the Sunday, January 29, 2023, Worship Service at the John Gray Memorial Church (West Bay). The CIRMC expresses congratulations to them and wishes God's blessing on their ministry.



*Elder Denby Groves and Elder David Gordon with Rev. Donovan Myers.*

The children of the JGMC (West Bay) during their class learned about what it means to be 'Fishers of Men'.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February 4. (Saturday)

**CCPP Workshop** – 9:00-11:00 am via Zoom

### February 5. (Sunday) 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

### February 11. (Saturday)

**Girl's Brigade Tea Party** – 3:30 pm - Frank Sound at Mr. Handel and Mrs. Audrey Whittaker's residence

## SYNOD CORNER

### Bulletin #3

**Theme:** Rooted and Resilient: Reignited by the Spirit.

**Moderator-Elect:** Rt Rev Gary Harriott

**Date:** April 23-30, 2023

The Cayman Islands Regional Mission will host the 43<sup>rd</sup> Synod of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands from April 23-30, 2023.

How can you help the Council to host the Synod?

#### Transportation

Delegates will be hosted in the homes in the Districts of East End, Bodden Town, George Town and West Bay. The Delegates will arrive on Saturday, April 22, 2023, either from Miami or Kingston.

During the Synod, the Delegates need to be transported to the Elmslie Memorial Church and the Savannah United Church where the main events will be held.

#### Arrival: Saturday, April 22, 2023

Owen Roberts International Airport to the Council Office – Prospect

*Time: -Will be available at a later date*

#### Sunday, April 23, 2023

From the Church Halls in the Districts to the Elmslie Memorial Church  
Service Time: 4:00 pm

#### Monday-Friday, April 24- 28, 2023 (Morning)

From Church Halls to the Savannah United Church  
Business Sessions begin at 8:30 am

#### Monday to Wednesday-April 24-26, 2023 (Afternoon)

From Savannah United Church Hall to Elmslie Memorial Church

Departure time from Savannah United – 5:30 pm

Return to Church Halls – departure from Elmslie Memorial - 8:30 pm

#### Thursday, April 27, 2023, Savannah United Church to the Church Halls-7:00 pm

*If you can be of assistance, please contact Mr Roy McGregor – 345 928 0085*

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

Council Office contact: Telephone: 947-1963

Email: rdgs@cicucjci.com



*Members of the CIRMC Synod Planning Committee with some of their counterparts from Jamaica and Ms Tessa Bodden joining via Zoom.*

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## Child Care & Protection Policy Workshop

Every year our Regional Mission Council conducts the Child Care and Protection Policy Workshop to ensure that both the Children and Youth Ministry in our region satisfies our denominational, national as well as international policy standards. These policies aim to protect not only the children/youth but also the leaders and volunteers who work with them, as well as to bring awareness to the importance of providing a safe overall environment in which these ministries are carried out. At the Workshop, the participants receive a certification from our Regional Mission Council. This certification is valid across all the regions of the UCJCI and participation in the workshop doesn't need to be repeated.

## 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](mailto:Cirmc.info@gmail.com)  
by Friday, January 27, 2023

UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA  
AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL  
MISSION COUNCIL

INVITES ALL

MEMBERS, CONGREGATION  
EVANGELISM LEADERS,  
ELDERS, MINISTERS AND  
PASTORS

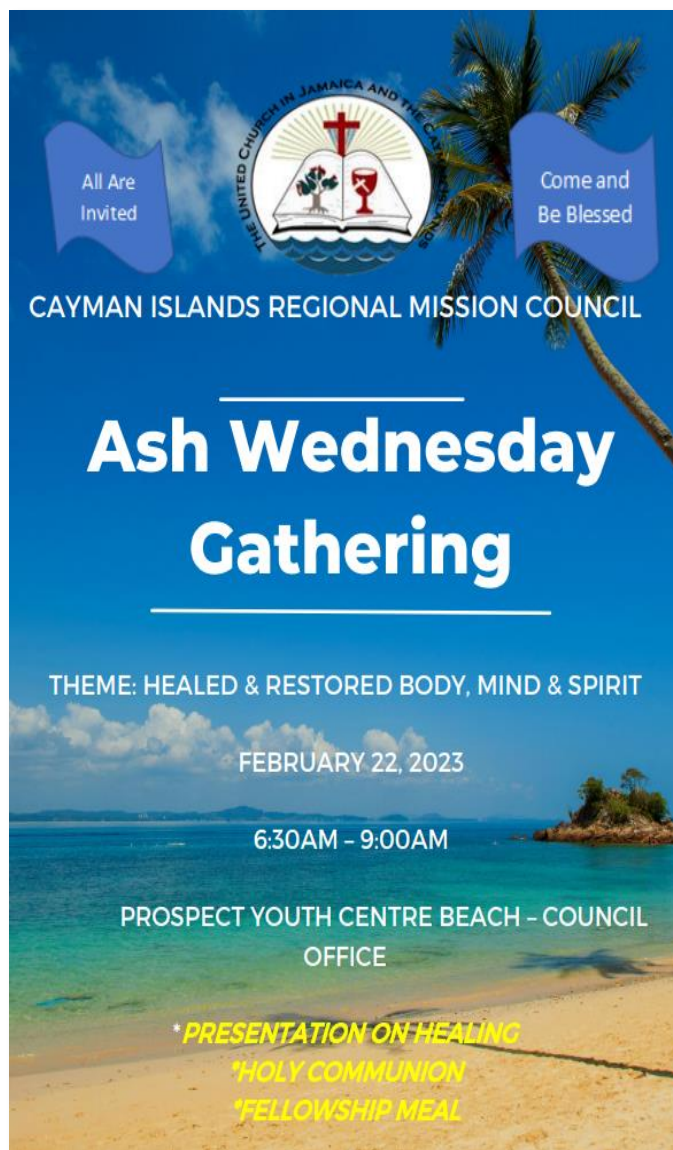
MAIN PRESENTER  
REV. DR. STEVENSON SAMUELS

AN  
*Evangelism*  
CONVERSATION


THEME:  
"WE ARE IN IT TOGETHER"

SATURDAY FEB 4, 2023  
10AM

MEETING ID: 886 6574 4944  
PASSCODE: EVANGELIZE



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



## Congregational Deputy Chairs and Secretaries Meeting 2023

Congregational Deputy Chairs and Secretaries Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 15, 2023**, at 5:30 PM at the Council Office.

Please bring the Congregational Meeting Minutes, the Congregational Board Meeting Minutes, the Logbook and the Members List for the annual inspection.

*Refreshments will be served.*

### 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)

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Epiphany**  
**February 02, 2023**  
**RETURN Relationships**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37



WORSHIP  
THE  
LORD

Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council  
Sundays at 7:45am on Radio Cayman

on Radio Cayman 89.9  
every Sunday at 7:45 am

**February 5, 2023**  
**Mr. Herman Wilson**

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