



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

Palm Sunday

March 30, 2023

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 13

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



With Palm Sunday, the Church begins the annual Holy Week journey. This journey opens with a joyful celebration, but in a few short days takes an unexpected turn and leads to a shocking conclusion.

As we witness the rapidly unfolding drama of the last week of Jesus' earthly life, the events speak volumes not only about God's passionate love for all but also about the sobering reality of sin that plagues humankind both collectively and individually.

Jesus became the new Passover Lamb whose blood was shed for all, so that those who believe in Him may be freed from the slavery of sin and have Life and have it eternally.

At the heart of the story of Jesus' passion is the manifestation of a love unlike any other. The love we confront is so sincere, selfless, and transforming that it is beyond human comprehension. In Jesus' suffering, we witness a love of unprecedented depths. The Son of God voluntarily enters the deepest humiliation ever seen to meet us in our fallenness, sin, and helplessness and raise us to the highest heights imaginable.

As we begin this Holy Week, let us try to walk through it with Jesus every step of the way. As we go about our days this week, fulfilling our daily duties, let us take to heart anew the magnanimity of God's grace, our total dependence on it, and the wonderful possibilities and responsibilities included in it.

Mission/Ministry Trip to St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Mr. Mike Bowerman and his wife, Mary, of the Elmslie Memorial Church received an invitation from Pastor Walford Thompson to visit the Islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for ministry during the first week of April 2023.

Pastor Thompson, who, for many years, was President of Ministries in Action, a mission based in Miami, Florida. He frequently visited the Cayman Islands, preaching, conducting

evangelistic meetings and running training sessions in the churches. He was also greatly responsible for encouraging members of the Elmslie Memorial Church to engage in missionary activities in Haiti. He and his wife Jen retired several years ago to their home island of St. Vincent, and felt led by God to start a church, Arnos Vale Covenant Assembly (AVCA). Pastor Thompson is one of the missionaries supported by the Elmslie congregation.

Mr. Bowerman and his wife will be away from Thursday, March 31st to Tuesday, April 11th. Mr. Bowerman will preach on Palm Sunday (twice), Good Friday and Easter Sunday. He will also conduct a mini-Bible conference on the four Holy Week evenings - Monday to Thursday, based on four passages from Philippians.

Let us remember them daily in our prayers and ask God for abundant blessings on their ministry and 'journeying mercies'. Through our prayers, we become their 'partners in the gospel' (Philippians 1:5).



The commissioning of the missionaries at Elmslie Memorial Church.



Mr Frank Fernando Conolly
October 8, 1927- March 30, 2023



*Precious in the sight of the LORD
 is the death of His faithful servants.*

Mr Frank Conolly, Elder, Organist, Council and Synod representative for the Gun Bay United Church was called to higher service on Thursday, March 30, 2023. Mr Frank, as he was affectionally called, served Christ and the Church with fierce faithfulness. He loved the polity and ethos of the Presbyterian Church and remained faithful to his calling to serve the Church with gladness and joy. He was renowned for his insistence on things being done decently and in order in the Church. His life was dedicated to maintaining the precepts and statutes of the Bible and he was not shy in his proclamation of the Gospel of truth.

Frank believed in the importance of attending worship and even during his illness sat in worship at Gun Bay United Church as often as he was able so to do. He requested and insisted to be taken to the Worship Service on Sunday, March 26, 2023, to hear his son McFarlane, lead the Gun Bay United Congregation in a Bible Study. This occasion brought him much joy.

Mr Conolly took a particular interest in the Ministers and leaders in the United Church, and he never forgot a face or a name, when or where he met them. Many Ministers visited him, and he would insist that they share breakfast with him and his family on a Saturday morning. His birthday celebrations were not to be missed either!

The Christian Endeavour movement, with the calling to "work together to know God in Jesus Christ", was Mr Frank's passion. It was his deep desire that young people should be exposed to the teachings of the Christian Endeavour, and he maintained the group in the Gun Bay United Church until recent years.

The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council expresses sincere condolences to his son Mr McFarlane Conolly, his daughter Mrs Aliceann Kirchman and the entire family.

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

(John 14:1-3)

SYNOD BULLETIN #1

*(Issued by the Office of the General Secretary,
 The Rev. Norbert Stephens)*

The 43rd Synod of the United Church will take place this year - April 23-30 guided by the theme: **Rooted, Resilient – Reignited by the Spirit.** Our Synod will be physically located in the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council and will combine virtual participation and face-to-face interaction. This will allow constitutional requirements regarding representation to be fulfilled so persons who will not travel to Cayman can still fulfill their role as delegates. It will also allow for the participation of the wider church in special events of worship, celebration of persons and Bible study.

Please pray for our Synod **every Wednesday at midday** as together we seek God's guidance for our planning to do God's work in the world.

Let's pray and prepare for our Synod – April 23-30, 2023.

APRIL 25, 2023
 At 12:30pm
 Savannah United Church

"CALLED TO SERVE"

BOOK LAUNCH & PRESENTATION

"An exciting read on the life of a modern day Moses - called to lead the Church body through change over many decades..."

Prices:
 \$20 KYD | \$25 USD | \$3,000 JMD

BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SYNOD (APRIL 25-30)

Synod delegates can pay in advance, pick up in Cayman!

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