



Divine Reconnection

“Abraham was living an uneventful life in the Babylonian territory. Nothing to write about in the tabloids. But God determined that He would use him to start the process of reconnecting God with His lost and wayward people. Abraham’s obedience made our own reconnection possible. We too, need to avail ourselves by saying like the songwriter, *“Here I am, Lord; it is I, Lord. I have heard You calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if You lead me; I will hold Your people in my heart.”*” – (UCJCI Preaching Themes – Sunday, June 11, 2023)

Please read Genesis 12:1–9 (God calls Abram)

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.” (Genesis 12:1-4)

The first eleven chapters of the Book of Genesis present the background story of humankind’s self-induced disconnection from its Creator. God’s handywork was described as ‘good’ (which we should take as ‘perfect’), and humankind was set for a bright, harmonious, and most satisfying coexistence with God and the rest of creation. They lived in a perfect relationship with God, immersed in the wonder of God’s presence, enjoying a bond that we may find hard to imagine.

We do not know how long this lasted. But at some point, the special bond and connectedness, was ruptured by the disobedience of Adam and Eve. It introduced sin into the world and ended the harmonious relationship between humankind and God. From that time on, as attested by the subsequent chapters (Genesis 4-11), we see further distancing between humankind and God.

In Genesis 4, we read the story of Cain and Abel, Adam, and Eve’s sons. Cain became jealous of Abel’s favor with God and

ended up murdering his brother. This act of violence exemplifies the widening separation between humankind and God, indicating the increasing power of sin manifested in negative, destructive emotions and actions.

As the number of people grew, sin and its forms also multiplied, and humankind became more and more estranged from God. Genesis 6:5 describes the state of humankind, saying, “The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.” Sin (disconnection from God) has reached such levels that according to (6:5-6) “The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. So, the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds, and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.”

In response to the widespread wickedness and corruption of humankind, God decided to send a flood to cleanse the earth and start anew. God chose Noah, a righteous man, to build an ark and preserve a remnant of creation. The flood wiped out the rest of humankind, illustrating the consequences of sin and the severity of God’s judgment.

After the flood, as humankind repopulated the world, the disconnection from God reached the highest level. Genesis 11 tells us how humankind gathered together to build a tower to reach the heavens, intending to make a name for themselves. Seeing their pride and self-sufficiency, God confused their language and scattered them across the earth. The Tower of Babel had become the symbol of the pinnacle of humankind’s rebellion, of the drive to exalt themselves rather than acknowledging and relying on God.

As we can see, the events in Genesis 3-11 demonstrate how a single act of disobedience initiated a disconnection from God and spiraled out of control. The state of perfect harmony and intimacy in the Garden of Eden was shattered, and subsequent generations experienced a gradual descent into further separation from God.

However, God never gave up on humankind and initiated a grand plan to reconnect and bring blessings, salvation, and reconciliation for people from every nation and ethnicity. Thus, we arrive at Genesis 12 and Abram.

The first step in God’s plan was to call a single individual, Abram, and then, through him, create a nation (the people of

Israel) with a purpose beyond themselves, with the sole task of becoming a people dedicated to God and God’s plan for the entire world, by bringing forth the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The significance of Abram’s call cannot be overstated. His answer to God’s call and his journey involved a great deal of disconnecting and a great leap of faith, not only once but over and over again.

By asking Abram to leave his country, kindred, connections, prestige, social milieu, and familiar surroundings, God separated him from everything Abram knew well, and provided him with comfort.

God’s call to reconnect can make us feel torn between. To begin with, being disconnected from God is normal for everyone due to original sin. But even those who reconnected with God at some point can develop certain convictions, attitudes, personal and collective mindsets, attachments, dependencies, and even addictions that exercise a powerful hold on their thoughts, emotions, and actions. Some connections that sabotage our reconnecting with God must be cut. This can be especially painful in some cases. It is unlikely that upon hearing the call of God, Abram cheerfully packed up the next day his family, and all his belongings, cut all his connections, and set out on his great adventure. But, at some point, he did that.

When God told Abram, “Go ... to the land I will show you”, God did not give him further details, road maps, instructions, or manuals. It must have been a real challenge for Abram to put his trust in God’s guidance and promises, even though he did not know the specific destination.

We naturally seek stability and certainty. To effectively manage our lives, we try to exercise control over our affairs with varying success. We also prefer sticking to well-established formulas that worked in the past, choosing the way of least resistance and the well-trodden path. It would have been easy for Abram to stay put in Harran. But he didn’t. Abram stepped into the great unknown and embarked on a journey of faith, obedience, and discovery.

His story shows that reconnecting is a process that has ups and downs, joys and sorrows, success, and failure; it involves decisions, challenges, opportunities, responsibilities, and promises.

Like Abram, we received the call to be part of God’s grand plan as individual believers and as the UCJCI. Let us take to heart the call to reconnect with God. Let us take the time to discern its implications for our personal and collective life and respond by making the necessary steps.

Welcome, New Members!

On Sunday, June 4, 2023, four new members were admitted into membership in the William Pouchie Memorial United Church, North Side, under the leadership of the Rev. Rohan Forrester.

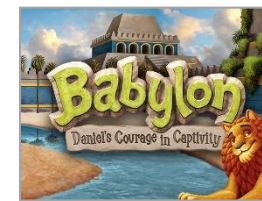
The new members received a heartfelt welcome from the Elders and members of the Congregation. May their joining be a blessing for them and their new spiritual fellowship.



L-R: Woodward Terry, Carol Terry, Hadee Ebanks and Dureen Myers

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

**WEBSTER MEMORIAL,
BODDEN TOWN**
July 3-7 (Mon.-Fri.)
8:00 am – 12:00 pm



SAVANNAH
July 3-7 (Mon.-Fri.)
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**JOHN GRAY MEMORIAL,
WEST BAY**
July 24-28 (Mon.-Fri.)
8:30 am – 2:00 pm



EAST END – GUN BAY
July 24-28 (Mon.-Fri.)
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm



**ELMSLIE MEMORIAL,
GEORGE TOWN**
July 31 - August 4 (Mon.-Fri.)
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm



ELMSLIE MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
presents a

MISSIONS WEEKEND | **JUNE 9 - 11 2023**

"NATIONS UNITED FOR CHRIST"
*Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations".
Matthew 28:19*

GUEST SPEAKERS
Mr. Paul Wheatley, OM Caribbean Executive Director
Mrs. Keitra Vilma, Regional Director Northern Caribbean

MAIN EVENTS
All events will be held at the Elmslie Memorial United Church

FRI Opening Worship Service @ 7pm - "Missions in our Backyard"
Youth Group @ 8:30pm

Breakfast & Workshop @ 8:30am - 11:30am
• Session 1 - Missions
• Session 2 - Everyday Evangelism **SAT**

SUN Worship Service @ 10:30am
Worship & Fellowship @ 6:00pm - "A Heart for the Nations"

Registration is required for the Breakfast on Saturday, June 10
Please scan the QR code to register online or
Contact the Elmslie Church Office at (345) 949-7923




GUN BAY UNITED CHURCH

Dinner Sale

11AM-UNTIL MONDAY
3 JULY 2023

Gun Bay United Church Ground

MENU

- Lobster
- Crab
- Turtle
- Fish
- Rabbit
- Conch
- Bbq Chicken
- Cassava Cake
- Yam Cake
- Homemade Ice cream

SAVANNAH UNITED CHURCH
YOUTH MINISTRY
presents

LET'S HAVE AN IMPACT
Make your ministry to children and youth matter !!

● **Saturday June 24, 2023**
10:00am - 12:00pm
At The Savannah United Church Hall

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- Group Dynamics
- Age Appropriate Activities
- Darkness to Light Pop Quiz
- Stages of Development
- How to Evangelize Children?



Mrs. Caris Bramwell
National Director
Child Evangelism Fellowship



Mr. Andre Bailey
Programme Facilitator
Family Resource Centre

ALL ARE INVITED !!
Mandatory for ALL Volunteers working with children and youth in our church




The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

SUMMER DAY CAMP
Cayman Islands



Children's Camp
July 12-16
8am - 6pm



Teens' Camp
July 19-23
8am - 6pm

"Ketch Di Fyah"

Cost: CI\$125
Venue: Prospect Youth Centre
Submit forms to cirmc.summercamps@gmail.com

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

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