



Reconnect with your Father

Mr. Herman Wilson

Some two thousand years ago on the day of Pentecost, ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the Apostle Peter preached the following to a massive crowd of God-fearing Jews in Jerusalem:

... *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:38-39)*

Since that day, the call of God has indeed resonated throughout the centuries, and millions of Jews and Gentiles have yielded to it through the power of the Holy Spirit and have become children of God.

On becoming children of God, believers are transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. Our awareness of this status is sustained through the power of the Holy Spirit in the face of challenges arising from the ups and downs of life, and the wiles of the devil regarding assurance of salvation. Our mindset must be a continual reconnection with God our heavenly Father.

How do we reconnect with our heavenly Father?

We reconnect with our heavenly Father by focusing on our relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, and the author and finisher of our faith.

How well do we know Him?

How well do we understand what He has done and is doing for us?

On two occasions during His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ declared the following to His disciples.

⁶ ... *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really know me, you will know my Father as well.” (John 14:6-7)*

⁷ *“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father*

except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. (Matthew 11:27)

All believers in Jesus Christ are God’s elect. We have been saved by grace through faith, a gift from God, and have the confident assurance of entering into His presence through our mystical union with Jesus Christ.

The Scriptures remind us as to where mankind came from, and to where we are going. That is, the Eden that was lost, and the Eden that will be restored. God is calling mankind back to Himself through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, and to whose likeness we are destined to be confirmed.

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

The span of God’s love is infinite. In spite of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, God promised the ultimate redemption of fallen humanity. God’s promise is recorded in Genesis 3:15. Despite humanity’s disobedience at Babel as recorded in Genesis 11, our sinful propensities cannot deter God’s redemptive plan.

God continues to sustain us and protect us from self-destruction through the establishment of systems of law and order among us.

In the fullness of time, God sent Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son into the world to effect His promise given in Genesis 3:15. Jesus Christ satisfied God’s justice on our behalf through His atoning death and His subsequent resurrection and ascension. He inaugurated the kingdom of God in its redemptive form, and is enabling us through the power of the Holy Spirit to persevere in exercising justice, kindness and righteousness, in which God delights.

By virtue of our mystical union with Him, our life is now hidden with Jesus Christ in God. Christ is seated at the right hand of God where all authority in heaven and on earth has been granted to Him, and He is interceding for us. In a spiritual sense, we are also there with Him, and consequently are continually being reconnected with God our Father through Him.

We should always be mindful of the fact that we have been created to glorify God and to enjoy God’s presence forever. Our spiritual eyes have been opened and we are now enabled to perceive that what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. We are enabled to embrace the realities of our existence

through our supernatural awakening, awaiting the age to come while we meaningfully engage in this natural sphere.

We are reminded of these realities through the continual inspiration given us in the Scriptures, the living and active Word of God.

We are partakers of the divine nature, and embrace this reality through acts of worship, being aware of sacred space as we approach God's presence. There may be times of 'spiritual dryness' or struggling to grow spiritually.

This condition may arise from:

- Un-confessed sins
- Trials and temptations
- Infrequent prayer
- Failure to study the Scriptures
- Failure to counter feelings by faith
- Lack of Christian Fellowship

Regarding these things, we are reminded of the following verses of Scripture:

⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*

² *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. (James 1:2-3)*

¹⁸ *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Ephesians 6:18)*

¹⁵ *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 live by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

... our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3b)

We are inspired by the Scriptures to meditate on the glorious ways that Jesus Christ is paving for us throughout our sanctification. Our increasing knowledge of Him brings us closer to God our Father.

Among many other passages of Scripture, reflection on the following continually inspires a spiritual sense of reconnecting with God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews wrote:

¹⁰ *In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed*

to call them brothers and sisters. ¹² He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises." ¹³ And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." (Hebrews 2:10-13)

The apostle Paul reminds us of our spiritual status.

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

¹² *In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12)*

Spiritual Engagements

We reconnect with our heavenly Father through the exercising of our spiritual gifts and engaging in the Great Commission of evangelism given by Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:16-20.)

In our evangelistic missions, we maintain that the Church, the body of Christ, is the most important institution in the world, and that no one can have a relationship with God the Father except through Jesus Christ our Lord. He is now King of kings and Lord of lords. The claim of many that all people are children of God is not biblical and should be discouraged. We are made children of God by adoption through Jesus Christ. That is, we must be born again; be made a new creation after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:24)

Christians have a filial relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ, and can approach Him with freedom and confidence, calling Him Abba Father. Continually abiding in Christ reconnects us with God the Father. He said:

"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. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. (John 14:13-14)

In closing, the kingdom of God from the salvific perspective is concurrent with our physical existence. Beyond our awareness, we are experiencing a 'now but not yet' spiritual reality pending the consummation at the Second Coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. All believers are citizens of the kingdom of God. Reconnecting with God our Father is assured.

- God calls His people.
- Close fellowship with the Creator is a privilege.
- We were made for a deep and satisfying relationship with our Creator.
- God's love for humanity cannot be fathomed by our finite minds.
- Relationship with humanity is God's greatest desire

- We are saved, we are being saved, and we shall be saved.

Today we celebrate Father's Day. We pray that our earthly fathers will continue to enjoy God's richest blessings, and that they also will have a mindset for things eternal.

Let us rejoice and be glad for God's glorious grace. Amen.



“The world has often given distorted ideas of the relationship between fathers and their children. Many believe that fathers rarely connect emotionally with their children. However, reconnecting with God should remind us that our relationship with Him is a precious gift worth holding on to. Reconnecting with our Father, God, connects us with the clearest and most powerful examples of a father’s love. He, our Heavenly Father, gave His only Son to enable our reconnection with Him. His love exemplified for us, the depth, power and sacrifice of a Father’s love.” – (UCJCI Preaching Themes – Sunday, June 18, 2023)



The Cayman Islands Girls' Brigade International Day of Prayer Service was held at 4:00 PM on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at the John Gray Memorial Church (JGMC), under the theme: 'Rise in Strength for such a time as this', based on the story of Esther.



Rev. Donovan Myers, Minister of the host Congregation, pointed out that remarkable tales of courage and resilience often emerge from the most unexpected places. Such is the story of Esther, a young Jewish girl who became an unlikely heroine. As an orphaned exiled girl in a foreign land, Esther's journey embodies the transformative power of faith, personal agency, and the importance of supporting relationships.

Through a series of extraordinary circumstances, Esther became the Queen of Persia. This unexpected development put her in a position to be instrumental in shaping the destiny of her people. Mordecai, Esther's uncle, recognized the potential within her. When an unexpected, disastrous danger emerged, threatening the Jews with extermination, Mordecai encouraged Esther to embrace her agency, take hold of her power, and act on behalf of her people. Inspired by her uncle's wisdom and her growing understanding of the precarious situation facing her people, Esther made a momentous decision. She realized that God put her in a position of power for the sake of her people's survival. With great courage, she embarked on a daring plan to confront the king, risking her own life.

Esther's story is an inspiring example for girls and young women everywhere. It demonstrates the transformative power of trusting God with our lives, having a strong sense of identity and belonging, recognizing our agency, and the importance of embracing the support and encouragement of trusted mentors and leaders. Like Esther, girls, and young women can discover their hidden strengths, rise above their circumstances, and make a lasting impact on the world around them.

In the Church Hall, the girls from the various Companies across the island displayed their art and craft, reflecting on the theme, and enjoyed a time of fellowship and refreshments.



CIRMC Peace Initiative Project



The CIRMC faithfully continues to engage the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre (CICC) as its Peace Initiative Project. The Cayman Island Crisis Centre can accommodate twenty-seven persons and there are on average four adults and six children per week.

The relationship that began in October 2022 has already yielded generous contributions toward the Peace Initiative Project. In response to the Christmas and Easter Drive, through our collective efforts, we offered significant financial donations and essential supplies to assist the CICC in its mission. With our contributions, besides providing practical assistance, we also convey a message of love, empathy, and solidarity to those experiencing crisis.

The Mission MAT of the Council is now organizing a **Back-to-Scholl Drive** and invites the Congregations and individual members to support this worthy cause.

Items needed:

- School bags -unisex designs
- Lunch bags
- Water bottles
- Pencil cases
- Uniform vouchers (Uniform Vouchers can be acquired from the Uniform Centre, located at 62 Hospital Road. They cater only to Government Schools)
- School shoes (gift vouchers from J Michaels or #1 Shoes Shop)
- Gift- vouchers (Supermarkets/ Cost-U-Less)
- Cash donations

The deadline for delivery of the items to the Council Office is July 31, 2023.

Thank you for your participation and continued support!

Nations United for Christ

Mrs. Betty Ann Mobley

To God be the Glory great things He hath done!

This will go down as an inspiring, challenging, and fun-filled weekend for all! From June 9 to 11, 2023, Elmslie Memorial held its **Missions Weekend** with guests from Operation Mobilization, Mr. Paul Wheatly, Caribbean Executive Director, and Mrs. Keitra Vilma, RD Northern Caribbean. The program included a culture-rich Youth Night and excellently presented workshops with practical information. The three-day event ended with a festive and well-attended finale with over ten nations represented. There was plenty of food, singing, dancing, and an undeniable Christian union as the international community shared and worshipped together. We can't wait until next year!



(Note: a longer, more comprehensive report with more photos will be published in an upcoming July issue of the Weekly Update)



(L-R: Rev. L. Christopher Mason, Mrs. Betty Ann Mobley, Mrs. Keitra Vilma and Mr. Paul Wheatly)

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

NOTICE

Dear sisters and brothers, please be advised that the CIRMC Weekly Update will not be published for two weeks. Publication will resume on Thursday, July 6, 2023.

Food

GUN BAY UNITED CHURCH
Dinner Sale

11AM-UNTIL
 MONDAY
 3 JULY 2023

Gun Bay United Church
 Ground

**Let's eat
 CAKE!**

MENU

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

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

SUMMER DAY CAMP
Cayman Islands

Children's Camp July 12-16
Teens' Camp July 19-23
 8am - 6pm

"Ketch Di Fyah"

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



on Radio Cayman 89.9
 every Sunday at 7:45 am

June 18, 2023
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