



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

### RECONNECT WITH HUMILITY

by Ms Cathy Gomez

Our topic for this week is reconnecting to God with humility. What is humility? It is the quality of being humble. What does humble mean? It means having a **modest or low opinion of your own importance**. As we reflect on these meanings, we should then wonder why Christians are often referred to as being 'holier than Thou'. It is said that humility begins with a sense of subordination to God because we are not above the rule and reign of God. In order to be subordinate to God, we must humble ourselves to Him, and totally surrender everything to Him – our thoughts, our words, our actions.

The Bible defines humility as 'the fear of the Lord'. In Proverbs 22:4 we read '*Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life*'. Humility acknowledges that as followers of Christ, we cannot expect to get better treatment than Jesus got, therefore, humility does not return evil for evil. It is not a life based on selfish motives.

How then do we reconnect to God with humility? Here are 5 ways to consider:

- We must become subordinate to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. In Matthew 10:24 we read '*A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master*'. These are Jesus's own words as He was deploying His disciples and giving them authority to drive out evil spirits and heal diseases. In verse 14 He told them '*If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town*'. In other words, be humble: do not argue or force them to listen. We must study God's word and know what He requires of us. So often we complain about this or that and forget that we should be honoring God instead - and giving Him thanks in everything.
- As followers of Jesus Christ, we must not expect better treatment than Jesus himself, but instead humble ourselves before Him in all our trials and challenges of life. Humility does not return evil with a spirit of revenge. 1 Peter 2: 21-24 reads '*To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth. When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to He who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds, you have been healed.*' This passage is a powerful reminder of how much Jesus suffered for us in His death on the cross, and what did He say? He simply asked God to forgive them. When we are asking the questions, '**Why is this happening to me?**' '**What did I do to deserve this terrible treatment?**' '**Why do bad things happen to good people?**' '**Why am I suffering so much?**' We must remember how much Jesus suffered for us, and how he responded.

- We must forget about ourselves and our egos and show God's love in everything we do. Having a boastful and proud nature is not of God, and only serves to elevate ourselves. In 2 Corinthians 4: 4- 5 we read: '*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the Gospel of the Glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.*' In verse 10 we read '*We always carry around in our body the DEATH of Jesus, so that the LIFE of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.*' The light we carry is not about us, but about Jesus Christ and what He did for us on the Cross.
- Humility allows us to accept and confess that we are flawed. We are sinful beings who need God's Grace daily. In Psalm 86, David cried out to God '*Have mercy on me O Lord, for I call on You all day long*' (verse 3) and in verse 7 he said, '*In the day of my trouble I will call on You, for You will answer me*'. Often, we go from day to day forgetting to confess our sins – some we may not even be conscious of – but we need His Grace daily. Often, we think that when we are baptized, we are 'good to go' but we need to remain in His provision of Grace daily. Romans 6: 1-11 reminds us that when we enter the water to be baptized, we die to sin, and when we rise from the water, we are alive in Christ! Humility enables us to recognize our dependence on God to keep us from sin daily.
- Humility is dependent on our acceptance of God's Grace. James 1:21 says '*Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the Word planted in you, which can save you.*' When we realize the depth of God's Grace and accept His love and His Word in our hearts, we are humbled, and we acknowledge that God alone is Worthy. We are nothing without Him and we cannot save ourselves.

Humility depends solely on God and is an important element in reconnecting with Him. With humility, we consistently ask Him to create in us clean hearts and purify us. God bless you all.

### FIFTY YEARS OF ORDAINING WOMEN IN THE UCJCI!



On June 17, 1973, Rev Dr Adlyn White was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the then United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman. She was also the first woman to head the church, serving as the Moderator of the Synod from 1991 to 1993. Since the ordination of Rev Dr White, twenty-seven women have been ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and are

currently serving in pastoral ministry, teaching and administration across the denomination. In 2013, the UCJCI called a second woman as Moderator of Synod, the Rev Dr Yvette Noble- Bloomfield, who was ordained in July 1984. She was the fifth woman ordained in the denomination, following Rev Madge Saunders in 1975, Rev Hyacinth Edwards in 1982 and Rev Sharon Johnson in January 1984. She served as Moderator from 2013-2015 and is currently the Regional Deputy General Secretary of the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council. We celebrate the Rev Dr Marjorie Lewis who served as the first female President of the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI) and the Rev Verna Cassells who served as a lecturer in Christian Education and Deputy Warden at UTCWI for many years. Our ordained women have served as Chair of Councils, Chairs of Synodical Committees, and the Director of the Kelly Lawson Centre, and the Madge Saunders Conference Centre. We salute the women who have earnestly responded to the Call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and thank God for the work, ministry and mission they have done in the UCJCI. We pray for Revds. Anna Kay Henry McGregor, Sandra Collins, Laddia Young, Karlene Thomas -Barnes, Dawn Bryan, Novlyn Hanson, Kimberly Hines, Carlene Walford, Norlene Jackson, Valerie Reynolds, Khereen Wilson Bailey, Tara Tyme, Delia Picart- Hibbert, Icylyn Parkinson, Tamara Coleman Smith, Verna Cassells, Margaret Downer- Messiah, Jacqueline Chin, Dorothy Grant, Ellen Thomas, Lorna Letts-Jones, Alice Blair, Elsa Clarke, Yvette Noble-Bloomfield, Sharon Johnson, Hyacinth Edwards. We call to mind Madge Saunders and Adlyn White of blessed memory. Women who have been ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the UCJCI, thank God for the opportunity afforded by the church for us to fulfil our calling in Christ Jesus our Lord. We pray for our sisters in other denominations for whom this opportunity to serve is not a reality.



**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

**CIRMC - Capacity Building Retreat – June 2023**



The CIRMC Ministers and the RDGS had their annual Capacity Building Retreat on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, in North Side. The focus was on the UCJCI Synodical 2023-2025 Strategic Directions and the progress of the CIRMC Charge Realignment.

**SUMMER CAMPS!**  
 Please encourage and support the Children and Teens in your Congregations to attend the Summer Camps. The Camps will be held at the Prospect Youth Centre from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Children’s Camp will be held from July 12-16 and Teens Camp will be held from July 19-23, 2023. **Ketch the Fyah!** is the theme for both Camps. CI\$ 125.00 is the cost per camper.



on Radio Cayman 89.9  
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