



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

Hydrating the Soul

*Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott
Moderator - UCJCI*



“Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.
2 Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

(Isaiah 55:1-2)

The world has been experiencing the impact of global warming, even though some people would like to deny that reality. Connecting to that reality is the high temperatures that have been experienced over this summer. The heat has been on the lips of many; persons have been given different instructions to combat the possibility of heatstroke. Among such instructions, drink more water to stay hydrated - at least 8-10 cups of water. Lack of hydration has caused some people to end up in hospitals and has even caused death resulting from heatstroke. We are advised by medical professionals of how critical it is to keep hydrated if the body and its organs are to function and if we are to be protected from a medical crisis.

In the same way, if our souls and spirits are not kept hydrated, not by physical water, but by the Spirit of God, we too will fall into a spiritual crisis and even spiritual death. The world today; the attractions; the appeals; the craving for material things; the worldly pleasures; some of the technological advancements and human achievements are intended to dehydrate our souls; to rob

us of the refreshing of God’s Spirit and so if we are not careful, things like going to church; intentionally shaping the spirituality of our children; living our lives in accordance according to the values of the Kingdom of God becomes a thing of the past.

Hydrating our soul is of critical importance. Its significance is captured in Isaiah 55:1 “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.” This was God’s invitation through his prophet Isaiah to His children; the children of Israel. It’s an invitation to us as well;

It’s an invitation to the thirsty.

“Thirst” suggests a desperate need; a desperate need for hydration; for refreshment because life is at stake. God, through the prophet Isaiah, was helping the people to know that they had a desperate, critical need - “Come, all who are thirsty, come to the waters.” Thirst is not just critical, it is urgent; it is an urgent need to be responded to. There is that sense of urgency ringing through the invitation in the text - “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters.” It’s a call for everyone to include those without money; the poor; the destitute; and the nobodies.

It’s great news for the thirsty. What is needed to quench real thirst; spiritual thirst is actually free and is available. God, through Jesus Christ, is available for the thirsty; for those whose souls are parched and dry and need to be refreshed; to be hydrated. The Psalmist in Psalm 42 also addressed the need of a parched soul and he pointed to the answer; he turned to God. In the Psalm, we find the words,

“As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.
2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?”

The question is asked in the text,

“Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

3 Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.

When souls are thirsty it manifests itself in different ways. People go after things; after material things; after pleasures, trying to satisfy what is really a deeper need for something more. For some people, they just cannot be satisfied; they want, and they want, and they want... For some people, it's a craving for power and even when they would have received it, there is still an emptiness, a longing. Do you know anyone like this - a family member; a friend; a co-worker; an associate? Does that describe you? You have tried different things; you have gone after different things, but somehow, there is a longing for something more. Behind the external is a great need. Some of us are good at pretense; we put on a nice face; we fix up the external; we try to fit in with what's going on around us, but deep down there is sadness; depression; a parched soul that is crying out for connection; for connection with God; for a refreshing; for hydration. The Psalmist, speaking from that place said, "Hear my cry, O God, attend unto my prayer, from the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I (Ps. 61)

One songwriter captures the need for quenching; for refreshing; for hydration when he penned the words, "More of you; more of you; of things, I've had my fill, and yet I hunger still. Empty and bear, Lord hear my prayer, for more of you."

Yes, people in the world may have this spiritual thirst; this spiritual longing; this craving for God, but people of the church may have it as well. The invitation in Isaiah 55, "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; was an invitation to those who belonged; those who were God's people carried away into exile in Babylon, but who were longing after their God. We see Nicodemus in John 3; he was deeply religious; he was a Pharisee and strict observer of the laws of the Jewish faith, but he never knew or had the experience of the new birth; of being born again. He needed to experience the birth by water and the Spirit. He needed to experience the cleansing that comes from God and the rejuvenation; the empowerment of the Spirit.

It is possible to be handling the things of God but not truly know God. It is possible to be engaged in the work of God but have no joy; no inner push; no inspiration. It is possible to give to support the work of God but have no commitment to that God. The more dehydrated souls we have around, the more secular; godless, and evil the world becomes. The more our children and young people grow up without a sense of God, the more dangerous the world becomes; the more at risk we become.

Those of us who know others, and we all do; others whose souls are parched; dry; dehydrated, we should pull out all stops to bring them to the place; to the reach of God where their souls can truly be refreshed and be reconnected with God. If you are in church; if you are engaged in the activities of the church but have no joy; no drive in doing so, turn to God.

"Like the woman at the well, I was seeking for things that could not satisfy, and then I heard my Saviour saying, draw from the well that never shall run dry

Fill my cup, Lord,
I lift it up Lord;
come and quench this thirsting of my soul.

Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more.
Fill my cup; fill it up and make me whole."

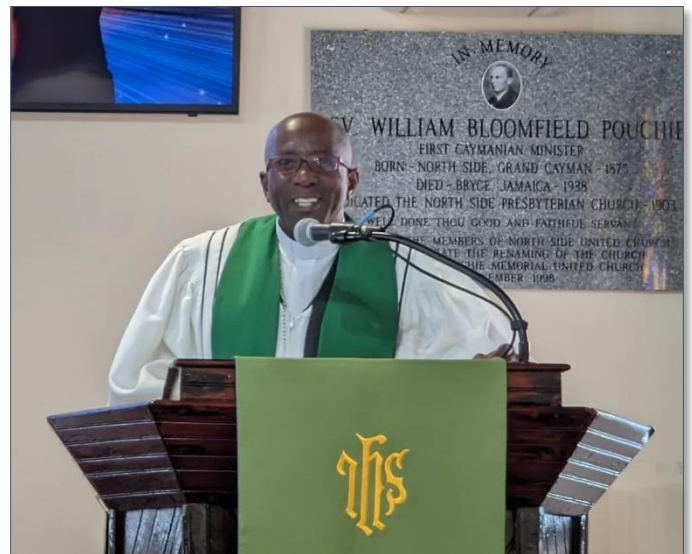
(Lyrics/Music by Richard Blanchard)

Moderator's Visit to the CIRMC

Rev. Rohan Forrester and Rev. Otto Menko

On September 8, 2023, at the invitation of the former East End-Gun Bay Charge of the CIRMC, the Moderator of the UCJCI, the Right Rev. Gary Harriott, arrived in Grand Cayman for a week-long unofficial visit. Unofficial it may have been, yet it was no ordinary visit, for it was an opportunity for the Moderator to reconnect with old friends and reunite with the congregants of his former Charge. The Moderator served as Minister of the East End-Gun Bay Charge between 1993 and 1997. (Note: Since 2022, the East End and Gun Bay Congregations, along with the William Pouchie Memorial United Church in North Side, constitute the current North-East Charge of the CIRMC).

In addition to visiting his former congregants in their homes, the Moderator also served as guest preacher and as the Celebrant of the Sacrament of the Holy Communion on Sunday, September 10, 2023, at the William Pouchie Memorial United Church and the East End United Church. The Moderator's sermon focused on "Hydrating the Soul" from Isaiah 55 and charged the congregations to look at where they are now and where they need to be. He said that a dehydrated soul manifests itself in several ways, such as staying away from the church, a lack of participation in the ministry, lacking spiritual growth, anger with themselves and others, and ignoring the leading of the spirit.



On Monday, September 11, 2023, the Moderator participated in the Annual Convocation of the Edna M. Moyle Primary School, North Side, held at the William Pouchie Memorial United Church. Ms. Dairdie Tingle, Principal of the school, shared with students and parents the expectations of the new school year.



Chaplain of the school, Rev. Rohan Forrester, gave the main address to students, staff, parents, and other members of the community, including the Hon. J. Ebanks, the Member of Parliament. The theme of the Convocation was “New Beginnings”. Rev. Forrester, based on Genesis ch. 1:1 said that “New Beginnings” often feel great, as they give a sense of hope and joy and are filled with excitement and relief.



We must seize the opportunity whenever we leave the past behind and enter a new season with hope, promise, and a new vision. Before there can be a new year with new beginnings, the old, with its challenges, must be left behind. However, what's new soon becomes old, and we sometimes feel no reason offering praise or even taking notice of what God is doing. God started a new thing at the beginning of creation, and to date, God is still doing a new 'thing' in the lives of our children and school staff. Rev. Forrester also encouraged the children to look at what they did last year and what they need to improve in this new school year.

As in all new seasons, our only certainty and security is God. To God, we must cling as we journey forward. Too often, though, in our hurry through life, we fail to notice or

acknowledge God's creative work. The Word by which God created the heavens and the earth gave structure and meaning to all created things.

When we find ourselves in the starting blocks of new beginnings, we must:

- Choose to trust Jesus no matter what,
- Know that Jesus has purposed your journey,
- that Jesus is in control,
- and that Jesus has a plan.

The same day, the Moderator took time to meet with members of the Clergy for a simple but heartfelt lunchtime fellowship at the Savannah United Church Hall. The gathering provided an opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences, and discuss the challenges and joys of serving in a rapidly changing world.



The Moderator also took on the responsibility to lead a Bible Study Meeting at the East End United Church on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, and to do a radio recording for the ‘Worship the Lord’ radio program of the CIRMC, aired on every Sunday at 7:45 am.

The CIRMC wishes to express its gratitude to the Moderator, the East End, and Gun Bay United Churches, and all those who facilitated his visit to Grand Cayman. May God abundantly bless all of them and the Moderator in his ministry and the fulfillment of his manifold responsibilities.

More photos from the Moderator’s visit



Sunday morning at the East End United Church



Rev. Rohan Forrester, Minister of the Charge and the Moderator with members of the East End and Gun Bay United Churches.



The Moderator with Mrs. Thelma Range, the oldest member of the William Pouchie Memorial United Church. Mrs. Range, a retired teacher who taught in both Cayman and the United States, celebrated her 103rd birthday on September 3, 2023.

ATTENTION!

Website Address Change

Dear sisters and brothers, please note that our website address has been changed.

Old address: www.unitedchurch.org.ky

New address: www.unitedchurch.ky/

Please update your bookmarks and inform others about this change. Thank you.



CIRMC COUNCIL MEETING

The next ordinary CIRMC Council Meeting
Will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2023,

At 9:00 AM

At the Savannah United Church

Remember in your prayers

All those God has placed on your heart and those brought to your attention in some way. Please include in your prayers especially our retired ministers and their loved ones, Rev. Joe Crawford, Rev. Harry Boddan and Rev. Godfrey Meghoo.

LET'S NOT BE
COMPLACENT.

HURRICANE
SEASON IS NOT
OVER YET!



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

September 17, 2023
Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott
Moderator

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