



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

Re-ignite - Gather the kindling

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Youth Minister – Savannah United Church

Psalm 119: 9-11: “How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

After silver is mined, it has to go through a refining process. When heat is applied, all the impurities (called dross) in the silver float to the top and are removed by skimming. For the true beauty of silver to shine, it must undergo refinement to fulfill its purpose.

In every believer's walk with God, there is a refining process whereby all our impurities are brought to the forefront. Ezekiel 21:24 states that our transgressions will be exposed to ourselves and others. That is where the realities of our human imperfections resonate in our conscience. It's similar to the experience when a mirror is placed before our eyes, revealing our innermost impurities or sins.

John the Baptist said in Matthew 3:11, "I baptize you with water, but He who comes after me shall baptize with fire and the Holy Spirit." That total immersion of being cleansed by the Holy Spirit brings forth an awareness of our humanness and the need for daily repentance.

Psalm 119:9-11 talks about being kindled by the power of the Word of God, which ignites the flames of the living God within us (dynamis is the Greek word for power, and the word dynamite comes from it).

"How can a young person stay on the path or purity? By living according to your Word". 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness." The Word of God has the power to convict us of sin, teach us truth, and lead us into righteousness. Hebrews 4:12 likens the Word of God to a two-edged sword that is alive and powerful to convict us and dispel our self-deception.

How does the Word of God fuel our flames?

Psalm 119:105 says, "Thy Word is a lamp until my feet and a light unto my path." The Word of God shows us a clear path to righteousness.

- It is the schoolmaster that teaches us the ways of God.
- It illuminates the things of the world and gives us hope in times of darkness.
- It exposes the things that so easily beset us.
- It guides us with stories of God's justice, wrath, standards, grace, and unconditional love. It tells us a history of victory, purification, sacrifice, and loyalty.
- The Word of God reminds us of God's promises of hope, protection, provisions, and faithfulness.
- It brings warmth and comfort in difficult times; it purifies and melts the hardness of our hearts.
- Its fiery impact awakens us to the need to be transformed daily by the Holy Spirit of God.
- It ignites the flames that equip us and empower us to live a surrendered life to the Holy Spirit, who lives within and through us.

In John 15:3, Jesus says, "You are already clean because of the Word I have spoken to you." It is the Word of God that fuels and ignites the power of God that burns within us. How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to the Word of God.

Prayer: Father, may your words be the lamp unto our feet and the light unto our path as we seek cleansing and purification daily and as your Word empowers us to be the light of the world. Amen.

10th YEAR ANNIVERSARY

IS/IVCF CAYMAN ISLANDS
10th ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING DINNER

IGNITE
OUR STUDENTS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 2023
RISTORANTE PAPPAGALLO

\$100 • 7:00 PM
FORMAL ATTIRE
RSVP 929 - 5111

The Launch of National Domestic Abuse Awareness Month at William Pouchie Memorial United Church On October 1, 2023



Left to right: The Hon. Jay Ebanks – Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing & Infrastructure, Ania Milanowska – Director of CI Crisis Centre, Rev. Forrester, Mariasha Spencer – Outreach Coordinator of CI Crisis Centre, Livia Siqueira – Children and Youth Coordinator of CI Crisis Centre and The Hon. Isaac Rankine, Minister of Border Control and Labour.

The Cayman Islands Crisis Centre recently launched the Domestic Abuse Awareness Month at a church service held at the William Pouchie Memorial United Church on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

At the beginning of his sermon, Rev. Forrester shared some statistics that are not limited to the Cayman Islands but are used globally:

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of Domestic Abuse, whether physical, sexual, verbal or emotional.
- 1 in 7 women and 1 in 25 men have been injured by an intimate partner.
- 1 in 10 women have been violated/ raped by an intimate partner.

According to Rev. Forrester, Domestic Abuse is learned behavior. It is not inherited; it is not genetic. It can be unlearned or changed. However, male abusers do not easily abandon their violent ways. They need to be challenged and held accountable for their actions. As a school of thought, boys learn how to abuse women from their fathers, and girls learn how to be submissive and accept abuse. However, Domestic Abuse happens in different ways, ranging from the ongoing use of

demeaning words like “you’re stupid,” ugly, or crazy to excessive jealousy, control, insults, belittling, and violence.

- It can also be total access to and control over bank accounts and finances.
- It can be threats to injure children or pets.
- It can be monitoring and limiting friendships, going out, and talking on the phone.
- It is not about having a bad temper or being out of control or the excuse of drinking too much alcohol. It is about power and control—one person exerting power and controlling another.

Domestic Abuse knows no boundaries and does not respect gender, race, class, location, or social status. In the context of the Cayman Islands, it doesn’t matter if you are a Caymanian or expatriate.

Two of the most unfortunate things about Domestic Abuse are its impact on children and the role of the Church. Firstly, children are also victims of Domestic Abuse. They not only have to endure abuse personally but also witness abuse in the home between parents or loved ones. Furthermore, in certain instances, the Church has been complicit in justifying the abuse using biblical arguments, particularly concerning matters of power and control used to dominate others. However, God calls the Church not only to speak out against domestic abuse but also to minister to both the abused and the abuser.

Using the text from Hebrews 13: 1-7, Rev. Forrester encouraged the congregation to break the cycle of Domestic Abuse in two ways: first, to **Pursue Brotherly Love** (philadelphia) by showing hospitality to everyone, and **Guard Brotherly Love** in intimate relationships such as marriage and to be content with what we have.

Remembering to Break the Cycle

We remember those who are imprisoned by fear, compulsion, secrecy, and silence.

We remember survivors and families who have lost members due to domestic abuse, and who carried the secrets of their abuse silently in their hearts.

We remember those who were made the scapegoat; who said, “No!” but to no avail; who thought the abuser would hear their cries; who carried the secrets of their abuse silently in their hearts.

We remember mothers, who had few choices; who did what they had to; who resisted sometimes quietly, sometimes loudly; and who carried the secrets of their abuse silently in their hearts.

We remember neighbours, whose cries we heard in the night, whose bruises we saw in the day, and who fought back and paid the price; who carried the secrets of their abuse silently in their hearts.

We remember those who were not believed; and who carried the secrets of their abuse silently in their hearts.

