



## Nehemiah on being Re-ignited

*Mrs. Jusan Hamilton-Lewis*

*Youth Minister – John Gray Memorial United Church*

For the past weeks, we have been looking at the broad theme, **Reignited by the Spirit**. Through the story of Nehemiah, we explore what it teaches us about being reignited and revived.

Nehemiah's story came from a place of "deadness" so to speak, the fire in Israel was broken down in more ways than one. Their homeland was in a dead state, and their relationship with God was in a dead state because their faith needed resuscitation. What does the story of Nehemiah teach us then about Reigniting Faith or revival of faith?

### 1. Nehemiah teaches us that if we want to experience revival, we must be willing to do God's will.

Men have regularly tried to step away from the call of God, and no doubt sometimes they have. Moses tried to excuse himself from speaking to Pharaoh because he was a non-charismatic, non-public speaking type. We might hear someone excuse themselves today by saying, "It isn't just me." Nehemiah began to feel a burden from God for God's people to come upon him. He was praying but then he sensed that maybe God was going to use him in his unique position to speak to the king of Persian empire. We must not think that it was natural or easy for him to initiate a conversation with the emperor. One could not express his thoughts unless they were asked for by the king. And as we see in the first verses of chapter 2, he was not even allowed to show his own heart. He could not display or reflect his problems or concerns.

Is God asking you to be willing to do something? Some people are hung up fearing that God would appoint them to be some missionary in a place they would never like to go. So they harden their hearts, but a hardened heart is a dead heart. But don't you think that God would prepare you for what He has you to do? We need to trust the judgment of the God who designed us. We must be willing. If not, you may be a part of the problem. Are you part of the problem or solution?

"George Mueller said that in order to receive counsel "the first step is to get [the heart] into such a state that it has no will of its own in a given matter. When you are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be, nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome."

### 2. Nehemiah's story teaches us that to be reignited means stepping out in trust/faith.

Nehemiah had used such total self-control before, that when he did choose to express his feelings, he was very scared. For a brief moment, he showed his grief over the Israelites' predicament. As he did so, he realized that he had stepped where he had never gone before. He was out on **the limb of life**. By being vulnerable, he did two things:

- 1) He was faithful to what God had moved his heart to do, (and)
- 2) He was even risking his life.

Are you willing to be vulnerable to the Lord? Are we willing to step out and do what God is pushing our hearts to do? Vulnerability is the very trust in God, the step in faith, the belief that what God can do or wants is more important than your preferences in your life. Without this stepping out in faith, we are stepping back into unbelief and essentially a place of spiritual death.

### 3. The book of Nehemiah also teaches us that a revived people is a bold people.

We must repent from the numerous circumstances that we have turned down to be bold to do what God wants in His way. Ask for necessary boldness. God will help. Repent from our doubts and timidity. Ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit to do what God desires.

Was Nehemiah a special man? We would probably say yes even though his burden and environment seem so far from ours. But it was not his cupbearer royal position that made him so important but that he was willing to give it up for the sake of obedience to God. What we choose to hold onto is what we lose, but those things we deliberately give up to fulfil the will of God are transformed into things that we never could get.

**4. A revived people is committed to prayer and fasting.** God has destined most of His great work on earth to be accomplished through prayer. Prayer is an important means God uses to restore His backslidden people to Himself. We need prayer to reach the God of Heaven to accomplish God's great redemptive process.

Pray without ceasing. Pray by lifting holy hands. Pray while it is still day for soon cometh the night when no man can work. Prayer is not as many think an irrelevant or secondary activity of passive saints. Instead, prayer is what every great man and woman of God has discovered to be the key to bringing God's



dynamic and redemptive will to earth. All these verses in Nehemiah chapter 1 do not allow us to overlook this. May they by God's grace bring us to our knees.

The ancient practice of fasting is a natural way to express your faith with your whole being – body and spirit together – whenever you experience a sacred moment that compels you to respond. Your spirit's hunger for God can find fulfilment when you fast with your body. Fasting is a way for us to reconnect and be with the Lord.

Living without prayer is like **putting the car in drive without your hands on the steering wheel**. We will get something done, but the question still lingers are we getting what God wants to get done? The one who is praying is always connected to God and has an alert spirit moving about becoming the vehicle of God's holy power accomplishing the will of God.

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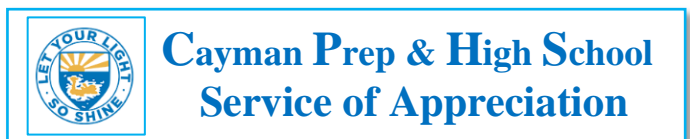
In the early evening of Friday, October 6, 2023, people of all ages gathered at the Savannah United Church sports court for a friendly sports competition and fellowship. The event organizer, the Savannah United Church Sports Committee, was not disappointed by the response to their invitations, as close to one hundred fifty (150) gathered for the occasion. Those present included various Churches and youth organizations, such as the Savannah United Church, Elmslie Memorial United Church, John Gray Memorial United Church, Webster Memorial United Church (Bodden Town), East End United Church, Church of God Prophecy, the North Sound Community Team, Cays Foundation Boys and Bethel Refuge.



Four Junior and seven Senior teams participated in a basketball competition, with numerous family members, siblings, and friends enthusiastically cheering and enjoying the games. In the end, the Junior division was claimed by the Savannah United Church, while the North Sound Community Team won the Senior division. Congratulations to the teams, their leaders, the organizers, and all those who came out and supported the event!



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The Annual Service of Appreciation for the Staff of the Cayman Prep and High School (CPHS) was held on Sunday, October 8, 2023, at the Elmslie Memorial United Church at 10:30 am. In addition to the congregants, over 100 staff members (administrative, academic, and ancillary) and their families attended the event.







After the service, teachers and staff members were presented with Bibles as tokens of appreciation for their dedication and contributions to the mission CPHS, summed up in the school's motto, "Let Your Light So Shine." This was followed by a fellowship meal in the Church Car Park.



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## Other CPHS News



Students from CPHS received certificates as winners of the 2023 KPMG Brain Bowl Academic Tournament. The tournament took place on October 4, 2023, at the Kimpton Seafire Resort and Spa. This marks the second consecutive year that CPHS has won the competition. Congratulations!

On Monday, October 9, 2023, on behalf of the CIRMIC, Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield (RDGS - CIRMIC) presented five Bibles to the CPHS Library. The Bibles were received by Ms. Amber Bothwell, Head of English. Another five Bibles were presented to the Primary School Library by Rev. Rohan Forrester, Chair of the CIRMIC.



(from left: Rev. Forrester, Rev. Dr. Bloomfield, Ms. Amber Bothwell and Mr. Karl Murphy, CPHS – High School Principal)

Rev. Forrester also presented Bibles to the Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl, the Head Boy and the deputy Head Boy.



Rev. Forrester and Head Girl, Ms. Scarlett Akiwumi.



Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council




**Women's Fellowship**

Presents

## GATHERING 2023

Saturday, October 21, 2023  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Theme: Let's Realign Our Worship**

Venue: Savannah United Church

Come, expecting a Training Session on  
Worship Leading

- Keynote presentation
- Practicum in Liturgy, Prayers, Reading of Scripture, Notices and Offering

**ALL ARE INVITED**

*'BY LOVE SERVE'*



IS/IVCF CAYMAN ISLANDS  
10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING DINNER

# IGNITE

OUR STUDENTS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 2023  
RISTORANTE PAPPAGALLO  
\$100 • 7:00 PM  
FORMAL ATTIRE  
RSVP 929 - 5111



**Children's Ministry Commission**



*"Transforming Children To Make A Difference For Christ"*

## Church School Month

November is Church School Month and this year our church is celebrating the month under the theme "A Peace Wi Sey!."

This Church School Month we want our children to give peace a chance by smiling, sharing words of love, hope, and peace.

Let us help our children to resolve conflicts without violence and let them know it is okay to disagree with a smile and reflect on Romans 12:18 NIV.

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."


**JGMC YOUTH MINISTRY** [jgmcyouthmin@gmail.com](mailto:jgmcyouthmin@gmail.com)

# CAREER EXPO 2023

Career Connections: Empowering Your Path to Success

**27TH OCTOBER @2PM** ★ **John Gray Memorial Church Hall**





on Radio Cayman 89.9  
every Sunday at 7:45 am

**October 14, 2023**  
**Mrs. Jusan Hamilton-Lewis**

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292 Prospect Point Road  
P.O. Box 1700 Grand Cayman KY1-1109 CAYMAN ISLANDS  
Tel: 1 345 947-1963 Email: [rdgs@cicucjci.com](mailto:rdgs@cicucjci.com) or [cirmcinfo@gmail.com](mailto:cirmcinfo@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.unitedchurch.ky/](http://www.unitedchurch.ky/)