



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

December 27, 2023

CHRISTMAS

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 51



UCJCI 42nd SYNOD THEME – Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)

World Communion of Reformed Churches Christmas Message

Source: WCRC (wrcr.ch)



(Image by Sliman Mansour)

Hope Will Be Born Where Perseverance In Witness Is Lived

The world is surrounded by worries, anxiety, uncertainties, and the language of war, division, and enmity. We wonder how we will celebrate today with all the challenges and troubles.

If we look at the Christmas story, we are surprised that it has a similar context. We recognize how troubled Mary was when the angel Gabriel told her, “Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus” (Luke 1:26). Or Joseph, her husband, as the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 1:18). Or remember Zechariah, who was worried as the angel Gabriel appeared to him and said, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.” (Luke 1:13). Or the “shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night, and an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. And the angel said to them, ‘Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will come to all the people’” (Luke 2:8–10).

Despite all their worries, Mary, Joseph, Zachariah, and the shepherds did not succumb to their worries but persevered in their witness and participated in the hope story. They focused

on waiting for the birth of the child, and they had strength and never gave up hope, holding on to the resilience of life and its fullness and dignity that are claimed by God. Emmanuel is with us, changes our worries to confidence and opens our eyes to the reality that our strength comes from above and will inspire our witness, and no one can steal our hope.

The Christmas story provides strength in the midst of our weakness, in a manger away from home. It is the story where fear does not have the last word, but joy does with the new beginning: a Savior is born. It is the story where our eyes are turned away from our fears to assurance that we are not alone, as we hear the words addressed to Mary by the Angel: “Rejoice! The Lord has granted you a great favor. God is with you!” (Luke 1:28)

As we struggle today with continued injustice around the world and recognize that little is changing the world, we might feel helpless and discouraged. But when we focus on our perseverance in our witness, we recognize hope.

As a communion, we live in hope and trust that the Lord will continue to send us as a community ready to pitch our tent wherever it hurts, wherever the dignity of God’s people is stepped on, and where people are far from fullness of life.

We continue to stand in hope for all who have the courage to witness, whether in Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, South Korea, Sudan, or many other areas around the Communion. Their witness brings hope, and we are inspired by their stand and commit ourselves for their journey.

We continue to celebrate Christmas in our witness and perseverance as we recognize anew that God is with us.

Have a joyful Christmas.

—President Najla Kassab



The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) is the largest association of Reformed churches in the world. It has 233 member denominations in 110 countries, together claiming 100 million people. The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands is a member of the WCRC.

Believers Baptism in Bodden Town

On December 17, 2023, following the morning Worship Service, three persons from the Webster Memorial United Church (Bodden Town) received the Sacrament of Baptism by immersion. May their life and witness be a blessing.



Rev. Euthman Wray, Minister of the Congregation with the newly baptized and Mr. Kemar Ferron.

Save the Date

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN
CAYMAN ISLANDS

**IS/IVCF CAYMAN ISLANDS
Annual General Meeting**
SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024

**CAYMAN ISLANDS
REGIONAL MISSION
COUNCIL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

**PATIENCE
IN THE
MIDST OF
CHALLENGES**

**FELLOWSHIP
BREAKFAST**

Speaker **REV. DONOVAN MYERS**

\$35

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024
TIME: 8AM - 10AM
VENUE: MORRITT'S, EAST END

Remember in your prayers

All those God has placed on your heart and those brought to your attention in some way. Please also include in your prayers especially

- The bereaved
- The sick and ill
- Those going through a challenging time
- Those before an important decision
- Those needing guidance, support, or encouragement
- Those who feel lost and hopeless,
- Those caught in the middle of armed conflicts, persecuted, mistreated, exploited, disenfranchised, or abused.



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

December 31, 2023
Rev. Rohan Forrester

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