



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

## Season of Lent

February 15, 2024

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 07

### Rooted and Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit to Re-connect

#### Welcome to the Season of Lent

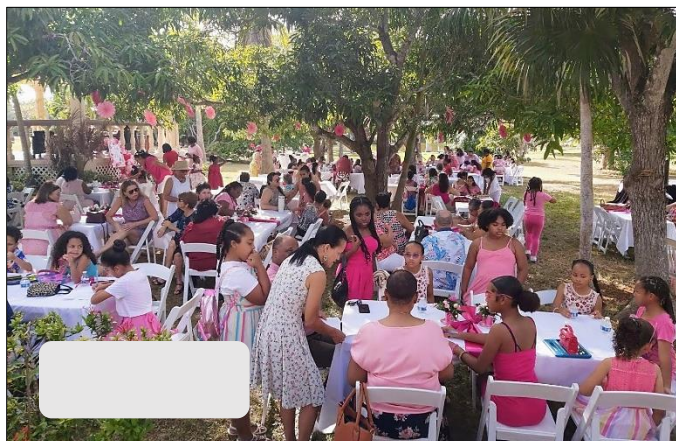
As part of the Church's annual liturgical journey, we have transitioned from the **Season of Epiphany** into the **Season of Lent**. During the six weeks (and five Sundays) of Lent, we engage in meaningful spiritual preparation for **Easter**, the greatest Feast of the holy days in the Christian calendar.

The first step of this preparation, **Ash Wednesday**, sets the tone for our spiritual journey to the Cross and the Empty Tomb of our Lord. The symbolic meaning of ashes indicating mourning and sadness is a stark expression of our sinful nature. It is also a solemn reminder of our mortality and desperate need for forgiveness through repentance and reconciliation with God. On our own, we are hopeless, but through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, there is the promise of cleansing and new life that extends beyond the grave! Let us then journey on in faith, hope, and love!

#### Annual Girl's Brigade Tea Party

*Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield  
(Girls' Brigade Chaplain, Acting RDGS)*

The 14th Annual Girls' Brigade National Council Tea Party was held on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at Mr. Handel and Audrey Whittaker's residence in Frank Sound, depicting the theme "Pretty in Pink." Over 120 girls and adults attended the festive occasion.



Master of Ceremonies, Mrs. Sheena Anglin, led the girls and adults in several games and other activities. The girls also participated in Karaoke and expressed joy and delight in admiring the peacocks and pheasants that freely roam the premises. The food items were delicious and enjoyed by all. The girls indulged particularly in marshmallows and strawberries at the Chocolate Fountain.



The event was a great success. Special thanks to the gracious hosts and all those who planned, facilitated and contributed to this memorable afternoon.



**Cayman Islands  
Girl's Brigade**

# A Humble, Teachable Spirit/Confession

Rev. Godfrey Meghoo

Please read Matthew 4:1-11

As we enter the season of LENT, from Ash Wednesday to Easter, we are called to confess with humility, to take up our cross, and to follow the LORD. This is what Jesus did when He was on earth physically. As soon as He was baptized by John the Baptizer, He was approached by Satan, with many suggestions. "oh, yes?" the Devil argued, 'If you are the Son of God, wanting people to become god-fearing and loving people, I have some valuable ideas: First, Give people BREAD and jobs, and all the material things they want. Secondly, said the devil, 'Work miracles so that they will be startled, and know that God moves in a mysterious way. Thirdly, You Jesus, you should worship me, Satan, and offer people a lower moral standard of life.'

But Jesus, for over 40 days, rejected the Devil's ideas, and instead, Jesus chose death on the Cross as his way of making people happy and contented. One must be of a humble, and teachable spirit; one must be able effectively to confess and acknowledge your sins. This is what King David did. Oh yes, David had all the power he ever wanted as king of Israel, but he spoiled it all, by committing adultery with Bathsheba, and compounded it by arranging the death of Bathsheba's husband. Yet, when he was confronted by God's prophet, he admitted and confessed his wrong-doing.

(Psalm 51): *"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness. According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out all my sins. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquities and cleanse me. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness. Restore unto me the joy of salvation...The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit...A broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."*

So God is not to be worshipped with only bringing him formal prayers and gifts. We also need to be humble enough to confess.

In view of David's confession, it is hard to believe, but true, that he was not only the writer of many of the Psalms in the Bible, but he was called "A man after God's own heart!" This was also the result of David's subsequent refusal to hurt his enemy, the previous king Saul—when he said I will not lift one finger to hurt the Lord's Anointed. Meaning I will not hurt the one whom the Lord has chosen and anointed king. Are you humble enough to confess and acknowledge your mistakes and sins?

We are reminded by Jesus in the Beatitudes, 'Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth'. In many ways, children, who are always humble, want to learn more and more, ask many questions, especially ASKING Why?

When the people of God had miraculously crossed the river Jordan, to enter the Promised Land, they were told to place twelve stones into the river bed, as a Memorial of Thanksgiving to God. When your children ask, in days to come, 'What mean these stones', you should tell them that the LORD delivered us by a mighty hand!"

Children are still asking serious questions today. We have to find time and means to answer children when they ask, otherwise they will find other ways to get help, and maybe get the wrong answers. "Why do we eat bread and drink wine in Church at Communion? Tell them that it is a Memorial and Eucharist and Thanksgiving of Jesus, giving us forgiveness—giving his Broken Body and shed Blood for older and younger persons.

Other questions frequently asked are, 'Why do we have to go to School? Why do good people suffer from sickness? Why was that man born blind? Was it his sins, or his parents?'

The day before Jesus died on the Cross, He went with the Disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane, to pray. At first, he prayed, 'If it is possible, let this cup of suffering pass from me!' Jesus knew in advance that He was destined to give His life, as the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world. He had told His Disciples about this long in advance. But although He was God, He also had human feelings, and death is not easy when the time comes. So He kept praying in that Garden. After praying over and over, to be spared from death, He finally prayed, 'Not my will but yours be done!'

The Hymn Writer, Cecil Frances Alexander, in the hymn, 'There is a Green Hill Far Away' reminds us,

'We may not know; we cannot tell  
What pains he had to bear;  
But we believe it was for us.  
He hung and suffered there'.

He was wounded for OUR transgressions; he was bruised for OUR iniquities.

"Wounded for me, wounded for me;  
There on the Cross he was wounded for me;  
All my transgressions, and now I am Free  
All because Jesus was wounded for me!"

Have you ever wondered why God gave us the opportunity to CHOOSE what we should do today or tomorrow? You may be asking, why did God give us



freedom? Why did he not create us in such a way that we could choose what is kind and loving? If God had made us like that, we would be like machines. We would do what we do using only INSTINCT, like animals. So, for example, in the story of the Prodigal Son the younger son asked for, and received in advance, his share of his Father's estate and travelled far from home to spend it all. The Father did not object, because the Father in that Parable( Luke 15) is God, who gives us Freewill. And God is honored when we use our free will to choose to do right. Still, God forgives us when we do wrong and are sorry. So the Father in the case of the Prodigal is a Loving and forgiving father.

When the Prodigal son started suffering in the far country, he decided to go back home to his father. I will say to him, ' Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before Thee, and I am no longer worthy to be your son. Please give me a job, as a hired servant.'

The son was still far away from reaching home, when his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and embraced and kissed his son. Imagine a father, imagine God the Father, having compassion, and running to welcome you again.

His older brother objected that his father had treated the Prodigal so kindly. That is exactly what the Pharisees did. They objected when they saw Jesus treating sinners and Publicans so kindly. After all, there is joy among the angels of heaven, over one sinner that repents. They did not think that sinners should be given a second chance to repent and be restored. The LORD is saying to us that even the smallest minority should be given a chance to start again.

Lord, thou hast here thy ninety and nine: Are they not enough for Thee? But the Shepherd answered, 'This of mine has wandered away from me:

And although the road be rough and steep, I'll go through the desert, to find my sheep.'

In that parable from St Luke 15, the Shepherd had hundred sheep and lost one.

If you are that one, God goes through all that pain and suffering, because He cares for you.

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## **Worship Leaders Training Workshop At Webster Memorial**

On Saturday, February 10, 2024, eighteen members and adherents of Webster Memorial United Church in Bodden Town participated in a worship leaders' training workshop. The Rev. Euthman Wray, Minister of the Congregation, and Acting RDGS-CIRMC, the Rev. Dr.

Yvette Noble-Bloomfield, served as presenters of the event, which was an enriching and transformative experience for all participants. Held with the aim of honing both spiritual and practical leadership skills, the workshop featured dynamic sessions on the essence of worship, effective planning and song selection, Scripture reading, and ushering. Along with the presentations, the attendees had the opportunity to engage in interactive discussions and practical exercises.



Overall, the training workshop served as a catalyst for renewed inspiration and commitment among worship leaders, empowering them to lead with passion and authenticity in their Congregation.



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## **A Humble Spirit Overcomes**

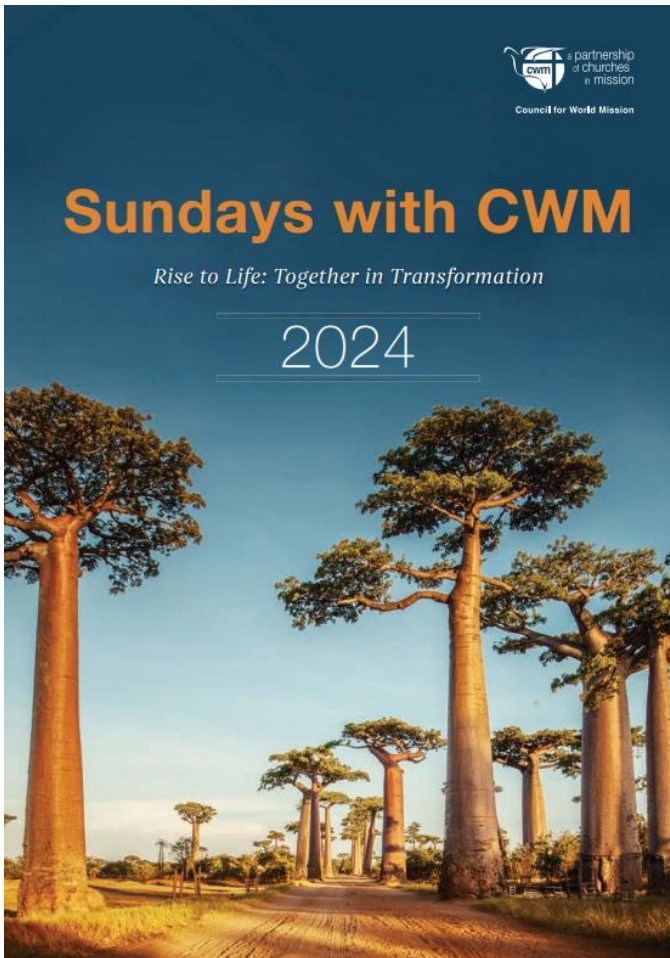
Genesis 9:8-17 and PSALM 25:1-10

Lent is a season of personal introspection; a call to repentance and reconnection. We yield to God's Spirit sacrificially, to establish a covenant that goes from our generation to the next. As God Chasers we seek God in everything (especially in the times of testing), never wavering, feasting on God's Word.

It is when we become vulnerable before God - open to public scrutiny, and spiritual examination - that we receive the accolade 'Well Done'. Nurturing the flock must, therefore, include a call to yieldedness (humility) and teachableness, for these are what please God. - (UCJCI Preaching Themes - Sunday, February 18, 2024)

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## Sundays with CWM 2024



Since 2015, the Council for World Mission (CWM) has been publishing 'Sundays with CWM,' a weekly devotional booklet intended to serve as a worship resource for personal, family, or congregational gatherings.

In his foreword to the 2024 edition, CWM General Secretary Dr. Jooseop Keum says,

"'Sundays with CWM 2024' aims to be a weekly touchstone, guiding us through reflections, prayers, and narratives that resonate with our theme. Each passage has been thoughtfully curated, aiming to inspire, challenge, and reinvigorate our connection with the Divine and with each other.

This year, with the theme "Rise to Life: Together in Transformation," we seek to echo the universal resonance of change, growth, and renewal. In this spirit, our anticipation builds for the forthcoming CWM Assembly in Durban. It serves as a beacon of unity and collaboration, an opportunity to come together and share our stories, insights, and aspirations. We must remember that transformation is not an isolated process; it is most potent when we come together as a community to uplift and support one another. May this

devotional booklet be a companion on your journey of faith, inspiring you to rise to life together in transformation."

This publication is an excellent resource for broadening our Christian perspectives and helping us embrace a more mission-minded outlook in our Christian life and ministry.

The publication is available free of charge in PDF format at: <https://www.cwmission.org/resources/sundays-with-cwm/>

Children's Ministry Conference 2024

Cayman Islands Baptist Church presents

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CONFERENCE 2024

Encouraging and equipping church staff and volunteers to share the love of Christ with kids and families in Cayman

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**  
**9am-3pm**  
(Coffee/refreshments @ 8:30am)  
(Lunch also provided)

\*Be encouraged and equipped!

\*Meet others (just like you!) who are passionate about serving kids!

No cost, but please RSVP to  
[carla@cibaptist.ky](mailto:carla@cibaptist.ky) // 926-2422 by Wednesday, February 28

Cayman Islands Baptist Church  
163 Pedro Castle Rd, Savannah

BETHESDA  
COUNSELLING CENTRE

<https://www.bethesdacounsellingcenter.com/>  
Tel: 946-6575

WORSHIP THE LORD

on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am

**February 18, 2024**  
**Rev. Godfrey Meghoo**

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