



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

Season of Lent

February 21, 2024

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 08

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

Ash Wednesday Gathering

On February 14, 2024, around 130 persons gathered from the nine Congregations of our Regional Mission Council at the Prospect Youth Centre beach for the annual Ash Wednesday Gathering, themed 'Here I Am.'



The day commenced at 6:30 am with praise and worship songs led by musicians and singers from Elmslie Memorial, Savannah United, and John Gray Memorial Churches. Mrs. Betty-Ann Mobley, from Elmslie Memorial Church, shared her testimony about her faith journey. Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield (Acting RDGS-CIRMC) based her message on Isaiah chapter 6, emphasizing the significance and implications of the day's theme, 'Here I Am' for our personal faith journeys.



Following the reflection there was a time for group conversations, prayer, and the Sacrament of Holy

Communion. Refreshments and drinks were served at the end, courtesy of the Women's Fellowship.

Special thanks to the Discipleship MAT members for organizing the event and to all those who helped prepare the grounds and served in various capacities.

Here I am, Lord!

Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield

(Excerpts from the Ash Wednesday Reflection)

Please read Isaiah 6:1-8

There is a difference between 'I am here' and 'Here I am.'

'I am here' is an announcement of our presence. 'I am here to control, display power, and ensure things are according to my will and desire.'

'I am here' is not dependent on a call or a request from anyone. It is not a response but rather a self-assertion and suggestion of self-importance.

When the same three words are re-ordered as 'Here I am', the words become a response to a call and a submission to the caller's request. The humble posture we need to have before the Lord.

'Here I am' is found seventeen times in Genesis, Exodus, Samuel, and Isaiah. It is a response to God, or a response to an angel, who is God's proxy. It is the response given by Abraham to God in Genesis 22:1, Jacob to God in Genesis 46:2, Moses to God in Exodus 3:4, and Isaiah to God in Isaiah 6:8.

'Here I am' is also a parent's response to a child and a child's response to a parent, e.g., Abraham to Isaac in Genesis 22:7

'Here I am' indicates that the call has reached its intended target, and the responder gives full attention to the call. The previous references from the Scriptures suggest that the life of the person who responds with 'Here I am' is transformed.

We are invited to adopt the same posture and respond to God's call with a sincere, heartfelt 'Here I am.'

Examining the reading from Isaiah reveals the following details:

King Uzziah's death marked a significant change in Isaiah's life. What do we know about Uzziah?

- He ascended to the throne at the age of 16.
- He ruled for 52 years.
- Initially, he was an obedient and faithful king.
- Over time, he succumbed to the allure of fame and power.
- He adopted the 'I am here' posture in the temple, disobeying God by performing duties reserved for priests and using incense.
- Upon confrontation, he refused to cease and consequently developed leprosy, leading to his death.

Isaiah's transformative experience with God happened after Uzziah's death amid political, national, and international crises. The outlook for Isaiah and the nation was troubling, with an uncertain future.

But amid all this crisis, Isaiah had a vision. He saw the Lord in a dramatic theophany—a direct call from God. Angels and Seraphim (associated with burning and God's holiness) ministered to Isaiah in what seemed to be God's heavenly throne or court. Isaiah heard the angels' song proclaiming, 'Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts; the heavens and earth are full of His Glory.' This encounter allowed Isaiah to experience the majesty and mystery of God. Feeling called to attention, he recognized his unworthiness in the presence of God.

Let us consider the following three points based on Isaiah chapter 6.

1. Isaiah was CALLED and CONVICTED

When, in his vision, the prophet entered God's holy presence, he was confronted not only with the distressed state of the nation, marked by confusion, crisis, cruelty, corruption, and imminent collapse but also with his inadequacy. Isaiah responded with confession, seeking God's forgiveness.

2. Isaiah was CONSECRATED

The live coal, administered by an angel, represented the act of consecration. It signaled the purification of Isaiah's lips and his overall life. He was cleansed from the stains of sin and emerged clothed in righteousness, which was a prerequisite for his consecration.

Forgiveness, restoration, and consecration speak of God's love for the prophet and nation.

3. Isaiah was COMMISSIONED

Finally, when Isaiah heard the question, "Who will go? Whom shall I send?" he responded with a resounding "Here I am! Send me!" After receiving forgiveness and becoming consecrated, he was ready to offer himself for God's service.

Dear Sisters and Brothers, God calls all of us to seek forgiveness, restoration, consecration, and commissioning. We miss the point if we ask only for forgiveness and restoration. We must be open to be consecrated and commissioned. Deep within our hearts, we know that without these, there is no authentic renewal and transformation.

Look around where you live and work. Do you see the needs? Consider what God is calling you to do. God needs those who offer themselves to serve wholeheartedly.

May our answer be **'Lord, I hear your call on my life. Here I am! Consecrate me now and commission me for your service.'**

***'Lord,
I hear your call on my life.
Here I am!
Consecrate me now
and commission me
for your service.'***

Children's
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 // 926-2422 by Wednesday, February 28**
Cayman Islands Baptist Church
163 Pedro Castle Rd, Savannah

Know your Church The UCJCI Logo



The Cross – is that which unites the antecedent denominations, Jesus Christ the Head of the Church.

The Open Bible – represents the centrality of the word of God. This was a significant feature in the logo of the former Congregational Church.

The Chalice – represents Christ's death and resurrection; the symbol used by the former Disciples of Christ.

The Burning Bush – “burnt but not consumed” perpetual flame of the gospel; a symbol of Presbyterianism.

The Sea – symbolic of a church in two nations, the witness across the Caribbean Sea as well as a witness not confined to the boundaries of the shores of the Caribbean.



TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS MODULE 1

BEGINS MARCH 9, 2024

TOPICS INCLUDE
EVANGELISM, DISCIPLESHIP,
COMMUNICATION, BIBLE
STUDY, WORSHIP,
CAREGIVING

**THIS TRAINING IS FOR
PERSONS PREPARING
TO SERVE AS:**

- Elders
- Specialized Ministry Leaders
- Lay Pastors

2nd and 4th Saturdays- March to
September 9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.
via Zoom. Register through regions
opens February 27

FOR MORE INFO
ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com
1876-4327057

**ORIENTATION SESSION VIA
ZOOM ON SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 24 AT 10 AM**




Remember in your prayers

All those God has placed on your heart and those brought to your attention in some way.



BETHESDA COUNSELLING CENTRE

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



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

February 25, 2024
Rev. L. Christopher Mason

Bake Sale

**WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
#266 BODDEN TOWN ROAD**

**SATURDAY 24TH FEB 2024
10AM - 2PM
JOIN US!**



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