



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

Season of Easter

April 11, 2024

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 15

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

Reignite for Witness

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It may be said that Jesus' appearances to His disciples after His resurrection were to make known to them the spiritual realities of His inaugurated kingdom. (cf. Luke 24:36b-48) Throughout His earthly ministry, He healed the sick, raised the dead, and forgave sins, thus showing the great depth to which humankind has fallen since the glorious experiences in the Garden of Eden. Jesus' post-resurrection message is for us to focus on the way He has paved for believers, the new humanity in Him. He wants us to visualize the ultimate eternal, heavenly realities and the beatific vision in a restored Eden. The Apostle John, the author of the Book of Revelation, had a preview of these realities. He wrote the following:

³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Rev. 21:3-5)

As believers anticipate these glorious future experiences, **we are called in the interim through the written Word of God to be reignited for witness** - to engage in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the power of God for the salvation of those who believe (cf. Romans 1:16a). Jesus Christ gave us His Great Commission as recorded in Matthew 28:18 - 20, and this has been passed down to us since the Day of Pentecost. The Apostle Paul wrote:

¹⁵Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that

he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,(1 Cor. 15:1-4)

Romans 3:10-12, and 21-22 reads as follows:

¹⁰As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;¹¹ there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. ¹²All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."(Rom. 3:10-12)

²¹But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²²This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. (Rom. 3:21-22) [cf. Luke 24:44-48]

We cannot have a relationship with God apart from God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, which comes about through witnessing.

We must always be mindful of the depth to which Jesus Christ, the Son of God, descended for the sake of humanity to elevate us to the eternal heights:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (Phil. 2:6-7)

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. (Heb. 4:15)

²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:21)

¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making

peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Col. 1:17-20)

In the Great Commission, Christ Jesus assures us that He will always be with us to the very end of the age. (cf. Matthew 28:20b).

The Scriptures remind us that believers in Christ are partakers of the divine nature. On this basis, we should therefore be inspired for witness as led by the Holy Spirit. It requires studying the Scriptures diligently and praying for enlightenment and confidence to evangelize. We must seek to reignite our Christian worldview by coming to a greater understanding of the cosmic reach of the gospel of Jesus Christ. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him (Cf. Matthew 28:18). In this spiritual context, Jesus Christ, the God-Man, now reigns in heaven and on earth. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords, and believers are citizens of His growing, spiritual kingdom. Our acknowledgment of this through the singing of choruses such as 'Reign in Me, Sovereign Lord,' 'All Hail King Jesus, All Hail Emmanuel,' and others should not be mere custom but must be embraced as a concrete fact for our meditation. We walk by faith and not by sight.

*“Our way of life
is a form of
witnessing...”*

Jesus Christ is transcendent and immanent, and Christians have eternal allegiance to Him. According to the Scriptures, many have been chosen by God the Father before the

creation of the universe and are yet to be called in time. The gospel is the only means by which God calls potential believers from the secular world to be members of the Church, the Body of Christ.

Despite our finite knowledge, our thoughts of heavenly realities should be motivated by what is revealed in the Word of God.

Our praise and worship should be inspired by Hebrews 12:22-24 which states:

²² *But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,* ²³ *to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,* ²⁴ *to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (Heb. 12:22-24)*

The chorus 'We Are Standing on Holy Ground' is most apt for engagement in this cosmic setting; spiritually speaking, it is the place to which all believers have an

eternal invitation. By virtue of the mystical union with Christ, believers on earth, by faith, participate in this heavenly worship. Our role in extending this invitation to others through witnessing is therefore paramount. As the new creation in Christ, there must be a constant awareness that the chief end of humanity is to glorify God and to enjoy His presence forever. Others are yet to be a part of this worshiping community of faith.

Regarding the eternal status of believers, the Apostle John wrote the following:

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be, has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. (1 John 3:1-3)

Potential Challenges to Witnessing

It is important to acknowledge that there may be challenges when it comes to being an effective witness. These challenges might include a range of factors:

- Shyness
- Perceived rejection
- Humiliation
- Failure to be articulate
- Lack of biblical knowledge
- Lack of faith

All these potential shortcomings can be overcome through the power of the Holy Spirit. Prayer, diligent study of the Gospel According to Saint John, and the memorization of Scripture are highly recommended.

We are saved by grace through faith, which is a gift from God. It comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Jesus.

Although no one is perfect in this earthly life, Jesus has told believers to let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. (cf. Matt. 5:16)

Our way of life is a form of witnessing, and through divine providence, it has the potential to attract queries from people influenced by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said:

⁸ *The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)*

Let us be intentional bearers of God's truths so that others may embrace a true, eternal perspective on life.

Although we are not always enthusiastic, we should view faith and feelings in context. We should be mindful of the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual dryness is occasionally perceived and is indeed an aspect of our ongoing sanctification. However, as per Philippians 2:13, it is God who works in us to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose. The Word of God is our source of continual inspiration; it enables us to persevere. Romans 8:28 states:

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Rom. 8:28)

Bearing witness to Jesus is not optional. It is a requirement for those who believe and are called by Him. This is what feeds the flames of revival and growth in our church. The power in each believer is the same that God used to raise Christ from death and seated Him in the heavenly realms (cf. Eph. 1:18-20). Be motivated by the power of the Holy Spirit to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and be messengers to others destined to be members of His Church.

To God be the glory... Amen



Samaritan's Purse Children's Heart Project

Samaritan's Purse began assisting with pediatric heart surgeries in 1997 in the war-torn Balkan region. The Children's Heart Project continues to operate today, working with hospitals and medical personnel in North America and **Grand Cayman**, arranging transportation, interpreters, and surgeries for children in need.

Over the past seven years, the **Savannah United Church** has hosted twenty Mongolian children and their family members, who have benefitted from life-saving procedures. Many of them have also become followers of Jesus Christ, receiving a "new heart."



Mrs. Olga Gourzong (SUC) with the two families at the Mission House.

On April 7, 2024, two children, with their mothers and an interpreter, thanked the Congregation for their love and generosity and said goodbye as they prepared to return to Mongolia the next day.

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you." Ezekiel 36:26

Community Care MAT Sunday at Savannah United Church

The Savannah United Church had its **Community Care MAT** (Mission Action Team) Sunday on April 7, 2024, the fourth in a series of Worship services focusing on the ministry of the various MATs created in the Congregation.

The Community Care MAT includes the following specialized ministries:

- First Impression Ministry
- Fellowship and Hospitality
- Seniors Ministry
- Visitation Ministry
- Outreach Ministries
- Family, Health, and Wellness

The **First Impression Ministry** aims to ensure that all members, adherents, and visitors feel at home, fostering a warm and friendly atmosphere. The ministry team consists of guest book attendants, greeters, ushers, and parking attendants. In addition to extending a warm welcome, they also engage in follow-up calls and emails to those who have visited the congregation, ensuring that everyone feels valued and connected.



The **Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry** coordinates and facilitates activities that respond to both the spiritual and material needs of the congregants and the wider

community. This includes providing the meal following Sunday Worship Services, distributing grocery cards and food baskets donated by church members.

This ministry also extends support and care to individuals during significant life events, such as reaching out to newlyweds, families welcoming a new birth, those undergoing surgeries, or individuals facing illness.



The **Seniors Ministry** is dedicated to fostering spiritual growth and providing opportunities for seniors to express their talents through arts and crafts. In addition, they organize informative sessions with medical professionals to discuss health issues relevant to seniors' well-being.

Members of the ministry team actively engage with seniors who remain active during the weekends, as well as those who are homebound, by visiting them to share moments of devotion, fun, and fellowship. These visits create a sense of connection and community, ensuring that every senior feels valued and supported.



The **Visitation Ministry** is dedicated to reaching out to those who need support, encouragement, and companionship. Whether it is spending time with patients in hospitals or in their homes, comforting grieving families, or simply providing companionship to those who are isolated, this ministry plays a crucial role in extending the love and compassion beyond the church walls by offering a listening ear, a comforting presence, words of hope, and encouragement.

The **Family, Health, and Wellness Ministry** focuses on promoting overall well-being, addressing the diverse health needs of individuals and families across all age groups. Through various initiatives and events this ministry aims to empower individuals and families with knowledge and tools to make informed decisions about their health and wellness and embrace healthy lifestyle choices.



One of the primary services of the **Outreach Ministries** is to provide assistance to individuals who require transportation to or from the church, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the congregation's activities and gatherings. In addition to transportation support, this ministry also engages in the preparing and delivering of meals to individuals and families in the community.



It is important to note that all of these ministries extend beyond the church, positively impacting other members of the wider local community as well.



CIRMC COUNCIL MEETING

An extraordinary CIRMC Council Meeting
Will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2024,
At 6:30 PM
At the Council Office



Elmslie Memorial United Church Presents:

GLOBAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Nations United for Christ

Guest speakers



BISHOP RAPHAEL HAULE
Bishop of Ruvuma Anglican Diocese, Tanzania



MRS. KEITRA VILMA
OM Regional Director Northern Caribbean

10th-14th April 2024 | Elmslie Memorial United Church

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MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Schedule

- 10
APRIL
7:00PM

Church-Wide Bible Study
Missions: My Christian Responsibility
Led by Bishop Raphael Haule
Location: Elmslie Church Hall
- 12
APRIL
7:30 PM

Youth Night
Cultural Simulation of India, Africa, Mexico & Brazil
Short talk with Bishop Raphael Haule & Keitra Vilma
Location: Elmslie Church Hall
- 13
APRIL
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Breakfast & Workshops
Evangelism & Mission Strategies
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Location: Elmslie Church Hall


- 14
APRIL
10:30AM

Sunday Service
Special Missions Service
Speaker: Bishop Raphael Haule
Location: Elmslie Church Sanctuary
- 14
APRIL
6:30 PM

International Missions Finale
A vibrant night of worship, diverse food, music & fashion representing over 8 various nations.
Speaker: Bishop Raphael Haule
Location: Elmslie Church Sanctuary & Courtyard

YOU ARE INVITED TO

An Evening of Music

JOHN GRAY MEMORIAL CHURCH
SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 6:30PM


A special offering will be collected to support
Lilla Nell Music Fund.
Stay for light refreshments in Hall after concert.



BETHESDA

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on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

April 14, 2024
Mr. Herman Wilson



Sunset Sail

Inter-School Inter-Varsity
Christian Fellowship
Annual Sunset Boat Cruise

Worship on the Waves

ADULTS: \$50
STUDENTS: \$25

SATURDAY MAY 11, 2024 @ 4:00 PM
Departure Location: The West Bay Yacht Club

Ticket prices Include: 2 Stops and 1 Meal

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