



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

## Season of Easter

May 9, 2024

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 19

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



## 'YOU COULD BE NURTURING A MOSES'

*Mrs. Sonia Wallace*

To all mothers, the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands honor you as God's nurturers to your families.

In the Bible, nurturing is conveyed using the Greek word *paideia*, which denotes the training of a child and includes giving instruction and discipline. The Latin derivative of the word *nurture* means *nourish*. When one nourishes a child, it implies cherishing, protecting, and tending lovingly with care. Therefore, I am aware that the words *nurture* and/or *nourish* in the Bible include spiritual, educational, emotional, and physical instruction and care of a child.

Today, nurturing a child has colossal challenges. We hear reports of increased mental illnesses, more youths on drugs, more anxiety due to threats of war, addiction to social media, and traumatic abuses. I therefore ask the question, could mothers nurture a Moses today?

As a mother, I testify that knowing the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and having an exemplary mother who nurtured me with the Word of God provided for me the secure foundation upon which I spiritually nurtured my own two children and others I have influenced. Today, they have forged Godly destinations of personal spiritual growth and wholistic engagement where God has led them.

I do believe that our children, when committed to God, have the divine potential to be our Moses, who will live lives dedicated to serving God wherever the future takes them. Hence, I propose that nurturing children with a single-minded focus on God-given principles can guide, protect, and empower our children in Godly ways. I call this single-minded focus on God-given principles spiritual nurturing. Our scripture reference is the story of Moses in Exodus 2:1 to 12.

Moses' mother, Jochebed, sister, Miriam, and Pharaoh's daughter were the mothering figures in his life, while the Israelites (Hebrews) were in slavery in Egypt. Exodus 2:1 tells that Jochebed had baby Moses and saw the child was beautiful, meaning a "goodly child," but the ruling Pharaoh had ordered that all male babies be cast in the River Nile. She refused to entertain the thought her child should be killed.

**1.** Jochebed's single-minded determination was first based on the **principle of selflessness**.

To be single-minded demanded selflessness when surrounded by an enemy that had no respect for your rights and your life. Even in slavery, Jochebed stopped at nothing to protect her child. She was motivated by a selfless determination and risked her life and that of her child. After hiding Moses, Jochebed placed him in a daubed basket on the river and instructed Miriam to watch the basket as it floated in the river. Jochebed was willing to abandon herself for the cause utterly while submitting to divine intervention. Her actions speak to us today that to spiritually nurture a Moses we should be selfless as we boldly defy the enemy. We live in a time when many real dangers capture the attention and very life of children, whether from friends selling them drugs, sexual predators, secular worldviews denying the existence and love of God, or confusing messages on gender; we mothers often must selflessly face these to watchfully preserve the life and God-given destiny of our children. Mothers, you may need to give up some priorities and be truly involved in your child's daily interactions to resist the enemy. James 4:7 tells us to submit to God, and when we resist the devil, he will flee.

**2.** Secondly, Jochebed demonstrated the **principle of single-minded reverence for life**.

Spiritual nurturing embraced by Jochebed and Miriam informed their act of dependence on God and moved Pharaoh's daughter's heart to give baby Moses an opportunity for life, regardless of Pharaoh's edict to kill male babies. God still requires spiritual nurturing by mothers or mothers-to-be and those who foster, even in these dark times. We should teach in the family unit that when the world says abortion and children face increased evil acts, including death, God desires reverence for life. If you are a mother who spiritually nurtures children by teaching a reverence for life, you could be nurturing a Moses.

**3. No doubt, Jochebed shows us a third principle to model by example spiritual nurturing.**

In the passage, we see that sister Miriam, too, engaged with a single-minded focus on protecting Moses. When Pharaoh's daughter saw the child, the Bible states she had "compassion," although she immediately knew it was a Hebrew child. Commentaries suggest that the child was circumcised, as would children of families observing the Hebrew rituals. Jochebed was undoubtedly a Hebrew who observed the practices as required by Jehovah, and in return, Moses received compassion in the place of death. Convinced by Miriam, Pharaoh's daughter paid Jochebed to provide maternal care. God had honored Jochebed's selflessness and the grief it may have caused her in handing over Moses to be raised in the palace, yet even Pharaoh's daughter was used by God to accomplish divine destiny for this baby. When we model spiritual nurturing before others, God does send ready help for our families, sometimes from unexpected places.

**4. Fourthly, Jochebed enacted the principle of balance.**

Whereas Pharaoh's daughter provided physical nurture of living accommodation, Jochebed provided Moses with an emotional connection to Hebrew practices such as circumcision. Jochebed nurtured by teaching Moses about his people, their observances, and their fortitude. By passing on to Moses this self-identity, she influenced Moses' compassion for other Hebrews, so he identified with and intervened in their suffering when, in Exodus 2: 12, a Hebrew slave was being beaten. This cultural and emotional nurturing also determined the trajectory of Moses' life to fulfill his destiny as the one commissioned by Jehovah to deliver Israel from slavery in Egypt.

**5. Fifthly, the cultural training was balanced with the principle of faith-filled action.**

Hebrews 11:23 emphasizes Jochebed's faith in God. The verse reads: "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the

king's command. By faith, Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked for the reward." Jochebed is recorded as an example of having exercised faith in God when she spiritually nurtured Moses.

Mothers, if you are passing on to your children a lifestyle based on genuine faith in God, you are spiritually nurturing a Moses. Our children will, like Moses, live by faith in God and fulfill the God-given call on their lives. Hebrews 11:6 tells us that by faith, we believe that God is; we believe His word that God so loved that He sent Jesus, His only son, to pay the price for our sins. We also believe He will give divine protection because Jesus prayed for all who believe in Him in John 17:15 & 20. A mother's belief in who God is, His answers to prayer, and His redemptive work through Jesus, as revealed in the scriptures, are all aspects of her faith that she passes on to her children. In addition, her selflessness, reverence for life, training by modeled example, and faith-filled actions to defy and overcome the enemy all play a part in spiritual nurturing.

I ask us to reflect on our own lives and our family situation. Mothers and all who nurture, are we constantly seeking the welfare, security, and protection of our children and those in our care? Do we know their whereabouts and involvements, including on social media? When last have we prayed for and with our children or shared the scriptures with them? Are they attending Sunday School or Youth Fellowship so they can be taught the Word of God and grow with other believers? Are they living a balanced life wherein their physical, social, and spiritual wellbeing are looked after?

If you can't spiritually nurture a Moses because you have never accepted Jesus as your Saviour, I encourage you to pray and invite Jesus into your heart. Then, join a house of worship where you can learn more about Jesus.

May God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit nurture you in His love and fill you with the capacity to spiritually nurture children in your families and community. Amen.

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**The most important work you will ever do will be within the walls of your own home.**

**Harold B. Lee**



# Webster Memorial United Church (Bodden Town) 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Prayer Breakfast

Members from across the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council joined the Savannah-Bodden Town Charge for the launching of the 170th Anniversary of the constitution of the Webster Memorial United Church in Bodden Town.

The Prayer Breakfast opened on the beach behind the Church Hall with praise, prayer, and reflection on the theme, **'Answering God's Call.'**



In his reflection based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (**"Speak Lord, your servant heareth"**), Rev. Donovan Myers emphasized three critical points pertinent to the members of the congregation celebrating the Anniversary. God has a calling for all of us and invites us, as individuals and as a community of believers, to **say 'yes'** to

1. **Christian Service,**
2. **Spiritual Listening, and**
3. **Purposeful Speech.**



The celebration and fellowship continued in the Church Hall with a breakfast and special prayers offered, such as a prayer of thanksgiving for the past by Rev. Godfrey Meghoo, a prayer for the nation and the world by Mr. Harwell McCoy Jr., a prayer for youth by Mrs. Sayda Foster, and a prayer for family by Rev. Rohan Forrester.



Ministers who served in the WMUC from left to right: Rev. Godfrey Meghoo (1962-64, 1974-94), Rev. Otto Menko (1995-2009), Rev. Rohan Forrester (2010-2022), and Rev. Euthman Wray (since 2022)



## Celebrating 170 Years of Service

In May 2024



### WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH, BODDEN TOWN, GRAND CAYMAN

Cordially invites you and your family to join us for the following special events:

#### **May 12, Sunday – 11:00 AM**

Mother's Day Service with Holy Communion  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Norbert Stephens (Gen. Sec.)

#### **May 18, Saturday – 10:00 – 3:00 PM**

170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Beach Day (Coe Wood Beach) with lunch provided

#### **May 19, Sunday – 11:00 AM**

170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Youth Sunday

#### **May 19, Sunday – 6:00 PM**

Singspiration Service

#### **May 20-24, Monday-Friday – 10:00 – 3:00 PM**

Historical Display in the Church Hall

#### **May 26, Sunday – 11:00 AM**

170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations Closing Service  
Guest Speaker: Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott (Moderator)

**Come and celebrate with us!**

**BETHESDA**  
COUNSELLING CENTRE

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



The United Church in Jamaica  
and the Cayman Islands

# SUMMER DAY CAMP 2024

**Cayman Islands (CIRMC)**

**"Spread the Fyah"**

FUN, WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP



**Children's Camp**  
July 9-14



**Teens' Camp**  
July 16-21

Venue:  
Prospect Youth Centre  
8am - 6pm Daily  
Cost: CI\$150

**USE QR CODE  
TO REGISTER**

Deadline: June 17, 2024



**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

WHATSAPP/CALL: 345-929-5111

**WORSHIP  
THE  
LORD**  
Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council  
Sundays at 7:45am on Radio Cayman

on Radio Cayman 89.9  
every Sunday at 7:45 am

**May 12, 2024**  
**Mrs. Sonia Wallace**

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