



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

May 30, 2024

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Rooted and Resilient: Re-ignited by the Power of the Resurrection and by God's Spirit

Re-ignited to Deepened Faith by knowing God's Spirit

Rev. Louis-Herard Sully

Please read 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Listening is the art of receiving sounds that are processed and identified by our brain and then converted into messages. But there are some sounds that are received that may or may not be processed because the language is unknown to our brain. When one is familiar with a language, once it is being spoken, your brain will process it and you will understand the message from the sound that your brain received. Once the language is unknown it will not be processed. To know a language, you must learn it for your brain to be familiar with it. For example: the world is speaking a language through technology and many people refuse to learn it. Which means some will be left behind as technology evolves.

The passage in 1 Samuel 1:3-10, invites us to look at a conversation between God and the boy Samuel, and between Eli and Samuel. The time that God was calling Samuel was a period of extreme limited prophetic activity and the few visions that God did give were not widely known. Just before dawn, while the lamp was still burning, Samuel was called to his prophetic ministry. However, Samuel had not yet encountered the Lord in a personal way and had not yet received the word of God in a divine way. The Lord was calling Samuel, wanting to interact with him, but Samuel was not ready because the word of God was unknown to him. Interestingly, Samuel ran to Eli and yet Eli was slow to recognize that God was calling Samuel. This is a clear indication that Eli's spiritual perception was not what it should have been as a Priest and Judge of Israel.

In 1 Samuel 3:7, the indication is that Samuel did not yet know the Lord and the word of the Lord has not yet been revealed to him. So, Samuel was in the house of the Lord, yet he did not know him.

When we consider what is happening around us are we hearing God's voice calling us to action? Maybe our spiritual mind is clogged up and therefore our light is going dim, and we are not able to see, hear, and so obey.

The passage is inviting us to **Re-Ignite to Deepen Faith by knowing God's Spirit.**

This means that we ought to know God, have faith and obey him.

What does it mean to know God?

Knowing God is not just knowing God's qualities, but it is having a deep relationship with God. One may admire qualities in others but never get to know them personally. The difference here is that God knows God's children, but they do not know God as God wants them to know Him. When you embrace God, others can identify you with God. They can see and claim on your behalf that you are a child of God.

I recall a testimony that a Christian man was going to an eye clinic every morning to make deliveries. The custodian one day stops him and said: you are a Christian; he replies by asking why do you say so? The custodian answered, because you are the only person who comes here every morning and say 'good morning' to me. One small action can cause others to connect you with Christ.

In John 17 as Jesus was praying in verse 3, He said "now this is eternal life, that they may know You the only true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

In 1 Samuel, Eli the Priest and Judge in Israel for some reasons, his connection with God was failing away because of the corruption that existed in the house of God. Therefore, God was not speaking with him. As it says in verse 1 that in those days there was extremely limited prophetic vision. Eli needed to be re-ignited spiritually, and the presence of Samuel in the house of God under Eli was the key to that transformation.

Samuel needed to know God and deepen his relationship with God. What God wanted from Samuel was to know him so that he could minister in God's

house. Are we not the voice of God? Yes, we are. So, we have the responsibility to nurture our community with the living word so that people can be enabled to live a life that can be identified with God. God wants people to know and be acquainted with Him. God wants people to walk with Him. God is always seeking for us to get to know God. Maybe you have come to realize that the fire that used to be in you is going out and you feel the need to be re-ignited, I want to invite you to get back to your first love. When you get back to your first love, you will commit to knowing God's word more, spend time in prayer, in fellowship with others and you will be encouraged to disciple others.

Knowing God implies that we should have the mind of Christ that is characterized by humility, purity and truth.

1Cor. 2:16 reminds us, Who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. Having the mind of the Lord will influence us in the way we think. Having the mind of Christ will enable us to have an intimate relationship with him. That is why Paul, in Philippians 2 says that your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Christ, humbled Himself, willingly give up His rights through obedience so that He could serve us. Christ's humility should be our example, meaning to have a servant attitude. We can decide and choose our attitude. It could be to conform to worldly values and customs, out of guilt or fear. But having the mind of Christ should lead us to be conformed to the values of God and look for opportunity to serve others. In John 13, Jesus demonstrated to us how we ought to live with one another, the only possible way is by being the servants of others.

In Philippians 4 Paul tells us to condition our mind with thoughts that are pure, noble, true, admirable, excellent, lovely, and praiseworthy. So, to be reignited we need to recondition ourselves by applying God's word into our lives so that we can minister as God has called us.

God is calling people today. Do you recognize and identify God's voice, can your brain process it that it is known to you? If not, that means your light is running out of oil, it needs to be replenished. Perhaps we each need the opportunity to revisit our lifestyle and say to God:

"Take my life and let it be
Consecrated Lord to thee.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from thee
Take my intellect and use
Every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine,
It shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart it is thy own
It shall be thy royal throne".

Don't let your spiritual light go deem. Renew your mind with God's word each day. Amen



Webster Memorial United Church (Bodden Town) Celebrates 170th Anniversary

The month-long 170th Anniversary Celebrations of the Webster Memorial United Church, Bodden Town, ended on Sunday, May 26, 2024, with a **Closing Worship Service and Dinner** at the Church Hall. The Sanctuary was filled with church members and visitors from across the Island who gathered to celebrate and hear the message of the **Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Moderator of the UCJCI.**



The President of the **Cayman Women's Fellowship Council**, Mrs. Jacynthia Anderson, and Ms. Kareen Watler, Elder, paid tribute to **Mrs. Francine Gardner** for her decades of tireless service to the Women's Fellowship and the Webster Memorial United Church, Bodden Town.

In his sermon, the Moderator reflected on the development of Cayman over 170 years. He highlighted its transformation into a modern, sophisticated, multicultural society with new social challenges and challenged the celebrating Congregation to consider the nature of its mission in this new context. Drawing

parallels with the prophet Jeremiah, whom God called during a time of crisis, Rev. Harriott emphasized the importance of being attuned to God's voice and mission. The prophets warned against excuses and stressed the need for spiritual readiness and obedience to God's call, even when the tasks seemed daunting. God's people must clear away old habits and attitudes hindering transformation and growth. By surrendering to God's guidance, our congregations can become channels of God's blessings wherever they are.



A Heartfelt Thank You to Ms. Francine Gardner from the WMUC, Bodden Town

Ms. Anna Kareen Watler



Mrs. Francine Gardner grew up in this church, and as she grew into adulthood, she became more active. She was baptized and became a member in 1975. She joined the Women's Fellowship in 2006 and, after only a few months, became their Secretary, and she held that role for ten years. She was not reluctant nor unwilling to assist wherever the need arose.

She was active in many areas of the church, from her involvement with fundraising activities and visiting our shut-ins and others in the community to being Congregational Secretary and Board Recording Secretary for many years.

On one occasion, when we were between Ministers, she was the one who ensured things still ran smoothly with the church's ministry. She kept the connections with the members and then prepared to receive the new pastor and ensured a smooth transition for him into his new role. She was a constant presence in the church and, on many occasions, the face of it.

She was elected Elder of this church and served for over three decades in that capacity. She was also a Council Elder, meaning she sat on our Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council to represent our church at a higher level. She traveled to Jamaica for Synods as this church's representative several times. I believe the last time may have been in 2013 when she and I were our church's representatives. When you attend Synod, you are encouraged to assist with various tasks to help the conference run efficiently. Sure enough, that year, Ms



During the service, the Moderator and Rev. Euthman Wray, Minister of the Savannah–Bodden Town Charge, unveiled a **Memorial Scroll** listing the names of the stalwart members who gave themselves to the service of God's Kingdom and paved the way for the Church of today. The Moderator prayed that the names of those on the Scroll may inspire the members of the Congregation to avail themselves to serve

faithfully and be remembered by future generations as such.

Francine stepped up and was one of the volunteers. She was the liturgist leading worship services such as these on countless occasions. She never shirked from using the gifts God had blessed her for her church, and she took her responsibilities seriously. She was willing, competent, and dependable. She would go above and beyond what was required. If she saw a need, she acted; she was caring and compassionate.

At the end of 2019, she decided to demit office as Elder and Congregational Secretary due to some health concerns. Although she was still involved and came back to church once we reopened after the pandemic, her health continued to weaken, and she was unable to continue, and we miss her deeply.

We are forever grateful for her unwavering commitment and selfless service in the various ministries of this church. She gave countless hours of labor in faithful service to God, this church, and our community, and we know they were a blessing to many people. She has earned "Well done, good and faithful servant" from her Master. May God continue to bless her and her family.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Ms. Francine Gardner from the Cayman Council Women's Fellowship

Mrs. Jacynthia Anderson - President

"The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love. He will rejoice over you with singing."
Zephaniah 3:17



The Cayman Council Women's Fellowship Members extend a heartfelt appreciation to Mrs. Francine Gardner for her incredible service. As our motto says, 'By Love Serve,' and Ms. Francine has truly embodied that spirit throughout her time with us.

She has faithfully served in various leadership roles at both the Council and Branch levels, including President, Vice President, Secretary, Chair of Recreation, and Chair of Service. Ms. Francine's commitment to the church has been unwavering. Her heart overflows with love for others, and she has truly dedicated herself to serving our fellowship. We are incredibly grateful to her son, Mr. Arek, and the extended family for sharing her with us. A true worshipper, Ms. Francine inspires us all. May God continue to shower her and the family with blessings of hope, joy, love, and peace.

Following the tributes the congregation stood with the Women's Fellowship members and gave a resounding round of applause to show their appreciation for Ms. Francine's remarkable service!



CIRMC COUNCIL MEETING

The next ordinary CIRMC Council Meeting
Will be held on Saturday, June 08, 2024,
At 9:00 AM
At the William Pouchie Memorial United Church Hall
in North Side



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





Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council
Ministry of Praise and Music

on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

June 2, 2024
Rev. Louis – Herard Sully

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