



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

June 6, 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 When We Cry Out to God

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Please read 1 Samuel 8: 4 - 20

According to 1 Samuel 8: 4 - 20, Samuel's sons forsook the faith of their father, and the elders of Israel came together, approached Samuel, and called for a King, symbolizing the end of the era of the prophets. Samuel was not pleased with this request, so he prayed to God. God told Samuel, "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected Me as their King." God viewed their request as a lack of faith in God's authority.

In our world today there are many things that indicate a lack of faith in God's authority. **I offer three things: fear, denial, and displaced faith.**

1. Firstly, if we are fearful, we cannot have faith. We fear so many things in life: losing our jobs, becoming ill, the economy, our marriages falling apart, moving to a new location. Some even fear family gatherings - everything becomes a problem, and we become addicted to fear.

Max Lucado, famous Minister and Author, in his book 'Fearless' wrote "Fear, it seems, has taken a hundred-year lease on the building next door and set up shop. Oversized and rude, fear is unwilling to share the heart with happiness. Happiness complies and leaves. Do you ever see the two together? Can one be happy and afraid at the same time? Clear thinking and afraid? Confident and afraid? Merciful and afraid? No. Fear is the big bully in the high school hallway: brash, loud, and unproductive. For all the noise fear makes and room it takes, fear does little good."

He goes on to say:

- "Fear never wrote a symphony or poem, negotiated a peace treaty, or cured a disease.
- Fear never pulled a family out of poverty or a country out of bigotry.
- Fear never saved a marriage or a business.

Courage did that. FAITH did that." Simply put, fear is incompatible with faith. We cannot step out in faith if we are fearful.

2. Secondly, denial of God can hinder our faith. In Hebrews 11:6 we read "And without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God, because anyone who comes to Him MUST believe that He exists and that He rewards those who ERNESTLY seek him." Do you know people who deny God, yet call on Him in times of trouble? There are those who have little or no faith and only cry out to God in times of crisis.

3. Thirdly, our faith may be displaced faith. We put our faith in people, wealth and possessions, careers, and the list could go on and on. In our everyday life, we see many examples of people that we trust betraying us, our possessions disappearing in the blink of an eye and the insecurity of our jobs and careers. These things all fade away, but God calls us to put our faith in Him so that we can enjoy eternal life with Him.

As believers in Christ, we can ensure that God remains at the forefront of our practices by being in constant prayer and studying His word daily. Draw close to God and He will draw close to you. Even though God told Samuel that the people had rejected Him, and not Samuel, God's presence and support remained with them. No matter what we are experiencing, God never leaves us or forsakes us (Hebrews 13:5) Just as in our passage in Samuel's day, we too can identify ways in which God is rejected in our communities and in our country. The most obvious is the diverse population with well over 130 nationalities with of course different beliefs, religions, and culture.

I recently had an experience where I would frequently hear someone declare that he/she did not believe in God. These influences and beliefs spread, and as Christians we have a responsibility to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, that He came to save us from our sin, through His death and resurrection, so that we may live a peaceful and happy life in the now as well as in eternity. His gift of grace is a free gift; we only need to believe and accept it.

Psalms 130: 5 reads *'I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word, I put my hope.'* Psalm 138: 3 says *'When I called you answered me; You made me bold and stouthearted.'* I would encourage you to read the full chapters in Psalm, as well as 2 Corinthians Chapter 4.

These readings all remind us that reliance on God's spirit is crucial for spiritual renewal and growth. 2 Corinthians 4 vs 18 reads *'so we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.'* This is the essence of faith.

Helen Lemmel, the writer of the famous hymn 'Turn your eyes upon Jesus' became blind after she was married. Her husband left her, and she struggled with multiple heartaches during midlife. Despite her blindness, she wrote nearly 500 hymns during her lifetime. She had no way of writing down the words and relied on her close friends to do so. Helen had a small plastic keyboard by her bed. There she would play, sing, and cry. 'One day God is going to bless me with a great heavenly keyboard' she would say 'I can hardly wait!' Despite her blindness, her friends found her to be full of life, joy, and enthusiasm - that is what faith in God will do for us! Helen Lemmel died in 1961 at the age of 97.

As believers in Jesus Christ, we must never allow our faith to dwindle when we are faced with difficult situations in our lives. Our time here on earth is very short compared to eternity. When we are passing through difficult times, it is not easy to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but as time goes by, we can reflect on that difficult time and see how God gave us the strength to persevere. Each time we cry out to God our faith is re-ignited and re-affirmed. God hears us and He will answer. His answer may not be how or when we want it to be, but this is the essence of our faith and why we pray 'Thy will be done...' God bless you all today as you re-ignite your faith in God.

UCJCI Preaching Theme for Sunday, June 9, 2024

Re-ignited to Deepened Faith when we Cry out to God

1 Sam 8:4-11; 16-20; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Samuel's sons forsook the faith of their father. The elders called for a king, symbolizing the end of the era of the prophets. God viewed the request as a lack of faith in God's authority. What are the things that could indicate a lack of faith in God's authority today? How may we, as believers, ensure that God remains at the forefront of our practices? (Note the difference in attitude between the Israelites in Samuel's day and Adam's passing the

buck). Consider that if the light had dimmed in the temple when the leadership of Eli was in tatters, the rejection of Samuel and other prophets would have almost put it out! However, while the end of the era did not necessarily mean an end to God's presence and support, the way God would interact with the people shifted. Look at the things that seem to push God out of your country and community.

Shift gears to the Psalm and Corinthians passages. In both texts, reliance on God's Spirit is crucial for spiritual renewal and growth. How might this be kindled in the congregation? Use some of the sermon time/service for an intentional season of prayer for the church and nation.

Reception of New Members at the Savannah United Church



On Sunday, June 2, 2024, **six new members** were admitted into membership at the Savannah United Church under the leadership of the Rev. Euthman Wray. The new members received a heartfelt welcome from the Elders and members of the Congregation. May their joining be a blessing for them and their new spiritual fellowship.

Appointment of Interim Minister to the John Gray - South Sound Charge

Following the affirmation and appointment of Rev. Donovan Myers by the Central Mission Council (CMC) of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) to the office of Regional Deputy General Secretary (RDGS) in the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (CIRMC), the Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield was appointed by the Council Executive Committee to the John Gray and South Sound Charge as Interim Minister while the two Congregations search for a new Minister. Rev. Noble-Bloomfield commenced her duties as of June 1, 2024.



Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield at the South Sound United Church on June 2, 2024.



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



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

GUN BAY UNITED CHURCH

Dinner Sale

July 1st, 2024

Gun Bay United Church Ground

11AM- Until

MENU

Lobster

Crab

Turtle

Conch

Fish

Rabbit

Bbq Chicken

MENU

Cassava Cake

Yam Cake

Homemade Ice

Cream

Drinks

Crafts



The United Church in Jamaica
and the Cayman Islands

SUMMER DAY CAMP 2024

Cayman Islands (CIRMC)

"Spread the Fyah"

FUN, WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP



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

Children's Camp
July 9-14

Teens' Camp
July 16-21

**USE QR CODE
TO REGISTER**
Deadline: June 17, 2024



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

June 9, 2024
Ms. Catherine Gomez

Remember in your prayers

All those God has placed on your heart and those brought to your attention in some way. Please also include in your prayers especially for our retired Ministers, Rev. Harry Bodden, Rev. Joe Crawford, and Rev. Godfrey Meghoo.

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