



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL WEEKLY UPDATE

June 13, 2024

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 24

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

### **Trevor Eyston Watler 1936 - 2024**



With deep sadness, we announce the passing of Mr. Trevor Eyston Watler. He transitioned from this life on June 10, 2024.

Trevor Eyston Watler was a member of the Gun Bay United Church for over thirty-three (33) years. He began his spiritual journey at the East End United Church, where he accepted Christ at the young age of ten (10) years.

Mr. Watler lived a life of service. He served in various capacities in both the church and the community as follows:

- Deputy Chairman of the GB Congregational Board
- Elder and Synod delegate for over thirty-three (33) years until his passing.
- Chairman of the Gun Bay United Church's Property Committee
- A devout member and former President and Treasurer of the Christian Endeavour
- Helped to organize the annual Garden Party
- Frequently donated funds for maintenance and mission
- Tourism Ambassador for the district of East End
- Member of the Lions Club of Grand Cayman.

Mr. Watler was deeply engaged in every aspect of the church's mission and outreach, often asking, "What is the church doing to bring young people to Christ?"

May God be glorified in his death as in his life!

*And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" (Revelations 14:13)*

### **Re-ignited to Deepened Faith by God's Spirit - and Not in Our Own Might**

Mr. Bryan Bothwell

Please read 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13

This Sunday, June 16, 2024, Father's Day will be celebrated. We thank God for all those who share in that crucial and joyful role of a *father*. The role is so *crucial* that fathers and mothers are highlighted for "honour" in the Ten Commandments! Though let us *not* see that as an isolated requirement on *children*. How do our children *develop* such *noble character*, that they are able to *honour us* in word and deed?

Fatherhood, as God created it to be within the human family, is indeed an *attainment*, a  **blessing** , to be *celebrated*. And taken seriously; a life-enhancing, love-gestating *fullness*. And the key to being a *God-defined* 'father' is *certainly not* the biological act; it is *love*; love in all its manifold, comprehensive and *interlocking* components. And our human capacity for *such love* comes *only* from the One in Whose Image we were "fearfully and wonderfully made" [Ps. 139: 14], thus imbued with the capacity to *truly* love. Therefore, the man who *aspires* to be *the father* that God wants him to be, the type of parent whom God wants *nurturing the child* God created toward that child's God-given *fullness*, can look to only one Source. The same Source that

today's theme calls *all of us* to embrace, in order to be the 'awesomely and wonderfully' made person God created us each to be.

*"People must feel the presence of our congregations in their communities; if not, you are wasting time. People's lives must be touched by our congregations, if not you have no purpose."* Those piercing words were thrust into us by our United Church Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, at the United Church Convocation, held on May 5, in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

At least *I hope* they pierced the consciousness as well as the hearts of *all our Members*; for we know that without purpose, there is *no Church*. Christ Jesus *certainly* did not establish His Church or leave it *without a purpose*. And *it was the only* creation He left with, and for, *that purpose, His purpose*. I think it is safe to say also, that for the Church, and, therefore, the Christian individually, "wasting time" is a sin. Jesus never *wasted* time. And *also* cautioned His disciples *to stick to their calling*, their purpose: *"keep watch" ... "be ready" "give them their food at the proper time" and be "doing so" "when [the Son of Man] returns"* [Matt. 24]. And He no doubt shocked them with the reality of what would be the outcome if we, His disciples, failed to continue following Christ in love for God and service to others, when He asked them, *"However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on Earth?"* [Lk. 18:8]

If we think that hate, violence, soul-destroying poverty, disparity, and destruction are bad *now*, imagine if *everyone* saw only himself/herself as their own god - *no faith*, no higher concepts, no selfless love.

So, our Moderator implored: *"I call us, and I charge us to be a Church with a purpose."*

*"To **be**".* Not for us to *know* the purpose for which Christ called and empowered His church and emblazon that as our congregation's mission. But *to be* that Church. *Each of us ardently following Christ in the work He started on Earth, the inseparable outcome when one has truly accepted Salvation in Christ.*

With the same aim, our church has emphasized the need for *each of us* to be *Re-ignited to Deepened Faith*. Specifically, let us ponder what it means to become ***"Reignited to Deepened Faith, by God's Spirit - and not in our own might"***. For we acknowledge before God that we have *no personal power, no "own might"*, with which to reignite the level of Faith needed to be *secure in Christ* and *effective disciples*. For when we try that, we see too many "giants" facing us, just as the Israelites tended to do thousands of years ago, when God first called a people to follow Him.

In 1 Sam: 17, we find the widely known story of David & Goliath. It is set with the army of the Israelites facing the

invading army of the Philistines. Goliath was a giant of a warrior, over nine feet tall, and protected by thick, state-of-the-art armor. David was still a boy, who happened to be at the battle front that day, delivering food.

Let us examine a few of the verses:

*"11 On hearing the Philistine's words, [King] Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified."*

26 David asked the men standing near him, "... Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he *should defy the armies of the living God?*" ... 32 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." 33 Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "... 37 *The Lord* who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear *will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.*" Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, *but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel*, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, ... and the whole world *will know that there is a God in Israel*. 47 All those gathered here *will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give all of you into our hands.*"

We all know the dramatic outcome, where one rock from David's sling slew the giant, of whom *even the King* had been *"terrified"*. The Israelite king and army cowering because they would not trust the power of God's promise. Israel saved by a young boy, anointed by God, *freely trusting in God's power and promise*. However, we must also remember what followed. Verses 51b and 52 tell us that: "51b When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. 52 *Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines*" out of Israel. *Indeed, often "it only takes a spark ..."*

This text has similarities to [Num 13] where God had Moses send the scouting party ahead into the Promised Land. On returning, they confirmed that, indeed, *"it does flow with milk and honey"*, and showed off one cluster of grapes they had cut that was *so large* it had to be *carried by two men!* But when Caleb moved that, "We should go up and take possession of the land, *for we can certainly do it*", the *other eleven* scouts said, *oh no, we saw giants there, that made us feel "like grasshoppers in our own eyes"*. Surprisingly, the majority of Israelites sided with those eleven scouts.

*God was not pleased: "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe*

in me despite all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?" Remember, "these people" had been rescued from slavery in Egypt, seen the Red Sea parted to rescue them from Pharaoh's army, seen water gush from rock, and bread and quail fill their plates every day. Yet, as the Rev. Robert Buchanan Jr. notes, in a sermon titled "**The Grasshopper Complex**", "their own fear of inadequacy stopped them from moving forward and left them wandering in the wilderness for forty years". So, he appeals to us as Christians that, "As we pursue God's purpose for our lives, may He give us the courage to admit our human inadequacies and accept His Divine empowerment". God did take them into the Promised Land, and the powerful "giant" that kept them from reaping the fullness of God's promise, and suffering the terrible consequences, was their own recurring unfaithfulness to God, their resistance to following Him. Let us, the present "followers of God" through the work of Christ, not fall back into that same trap. Instead, trust in God's promise, renewed by the Risen Christ: "Surely I am with you always." Yes, there are 'giants' facing us in our land: the increased opposition to accepting Christ and the fullness of His "love your neighbor" precept; the resulting social ills, like those voiced in the recent Planning meeting in West Bay and dozens more, all of which also degrade family life, which we celebrate today. We've faced those before; think of Rev. Elmslie 178 years ago, against the giants of spiritual and educational depravation. God was so much bigger! Go in His Name, embrace the power of who we are: in Rev. Buchanan's words, "Humanly inadequate, Divinely Empowered".

Let us, therefore, truly turn to the power of God's Holy Spirit to Deepen our Faith in God, alone. That requires sincere responses by us: Paul teaches, "... faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" [Ro 10:17]; we must get to know God, so we indeed know the voice of the Good Shepherd, and do not listen to other voices leading us astray [Jn 10]; "always pray and never give up" [Lk 18]; and, as Jesus stressed repeatedly, "do" what He says, not just call Him Lord, but "go and bear fruit ... that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask for in my Name." [Jn. 15: 16]. So we all can live in and for Christ as Lord and Saviour, forgiven, and devoted to the purpose to which He called us, to the glory of God, Amen.

## UCJCI Preaching Theme for Sunday, June 16, 2024

Re-Ignited to Deepened Faith By God's Spirit and  
not in our own might

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 16-17;  
Psalm 20

The parable in the Gospel reading subverts the popular understanding of leadership traits and power throughout history. A shrub is not expected to be large enough shade for humans, but it can provide some cover for sparrows and other smaller birds often overlooked by many. Could the text then be inviting readers/worshippers to see God's anointing on their lives in their own spheres of influence? Present God's comment, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but 936 - explore what it means for today's average believer. Bear in mind the fact that God's Spirit knows us and intercedes for us. Link this to the Trinitarian premise of presence and prescience. Explore the implications for our faith walk in uncertain spaces and difficult situations. Note the assurance of God's favor, as set out in Psalm 20:1-3.

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### Leaders' Appreciation Gala at the Savannah United Church

Ms. Camile Watt

Youth Minister (Savannah United Church)

On Saturday, May 18, 2024, the Savannah United Church Youth MAT hosted a special Leaders' Appreciation Gala to honor all volunteers and leaders working with children and youth.

The event recognized the contributions of **Girls Brigade Leaders, Vacation Bible School Leaders, Youth Group Leaders, and Sunday School Leaders**. Leaders who have served in Children and Youth Ministry for over twenty-five (25) years received recognition plaques. Mrs. Marisa Crawford was honored with a special love gift from the Youth MAT for her forty-six (46) years of service as Sunday School Superintendent.



The evening was marked by elegance, with Mrs. Vicky Anderson transforming the hall into a red-carpet event. Special thanks go to the Youth Discipleship Teens, who impressed everyone with their white gloves and black-and-white attire as they served and entertained their leaders.



## GUN BAY UNITED CHURCH

# Dinner Sale

July 1st, 2024

Gun Bay United Church Ground

11AM- Until

| MENU        | MENU         |
|-------------|--------------|
| Lobster     | Cassava Cake |
| Crab        | Yam Cake     |
| Turtle      | Homemade Ice |
| Conch       | Cream        |
| Fish        | Drinks       |
| Rabbit      | Crafts       |
| Bbq Chicken |              |

**BE  
STORM  
READY!  
  
MAKE A  
PLAN!**

**JUNE 1 – NOV. 30**

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

on Radio Cayman 89.9  
every Sunday at 7:45 am

**June 16, 2024**  
**Mr. Bryan Bothwell**

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