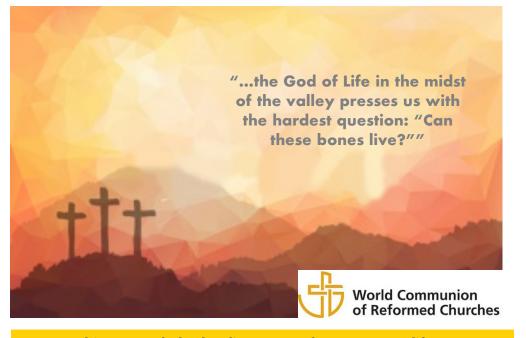
CIRMC WEEKLY UPDATE

VOL 3. ISSUE 11



This Easter, help the disconnected reconnect to life...

"Can These Bones Live?" - Easter Reflection

Excerpts from the Easter Message of Rev. Dr. Christopher Ferguson, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) based on Ezekiel 37:1-10

This last year has been hard in the life of our world. All of us in this Communion of over 100 million faithful have gone with Ezekiel and encountered an endless valley filled with the bones of broken bodies—those destroyed and uprooted by war, violence, climate change, poverty, hatred and discrimination. Creation itself is wounded and in peril!

Through our prayers, we, like Ezekiel, have been led to valleys of bones, to broken places: to those pushed off their lands and denied livelihood; to those saying no to a culture of rape and violence against women; to those who struggle for life against a market economy that puts wealth in the hand of the few and bleeds the life from the many; to those who have simply lost hope and direction. The Spirit guides us to where life is threatened, where our churches seek migration justice for those forced to flee their homeland, where churches struggle for non-military solutions to war and conflict based on dialogue and reconciliation rooted in justice, to where people of faith join with all those who struggle against racism, casteism, and white supremacy.

And the God of Life in the midst of the valley presses us with the hardest question: "Can these bones live?" We call on God for that answer, but the Spirit—through those who are most violated, oppressed and excluded—answer back: "Prophesy to the broken bodies. Breath will return, life will animate again that which has been put down." But we must be part of the picture! Life will mean joining bone to bone, body to body, mobilizing for life and transformation by the very ones most afflicted. The women who went to the tomb to stand among the bones of the broken Jesus asked also and were also given a task: "Go and tell." Remember—remember Galilee where there is still a struggle for life and land—Jesus' body joins with others to breathe life into the struggle for life.

In this tough year the dry bones have received the gift of life within our family of churches and beyond. We hear the rattling of Black Lives Matter moving for freedom. We hear the noise of holding hands across borders on the Korean peninsula. We hear Dalits and Adivasi peoples make common cause with all those who battle against exclusion and domination. I saw the dry bones coming together and heard a rattling of life in a story from Florida, USA. A family was trapped by currents in the ocean as they tried to rescue their sons who had been pulled out by a riptide. Each person trying to help was unable to do it alone. And worse, they themselves got trapped in the swirl and pull of the current.



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

> WEEKLY UPDATE!

March 29, 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

EASTER REFLECTION FROM WCRC

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MODERATOR ATTENDS GOVERNOR'S SWEARING IN The Moderator participated in the Swearing in Ceremony for the new Governor of the Cayman Islands. He offered the prayers.



ROBERT YOUNG HOSTS A GARDEN PARTY

On Saturday, March 24, 2018 The Robert Young Memorial United Church held its first ever Garden Tea Party!

CIRMC WEEKLY UPDATE

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 26 – 29 Holy Week Services in Congregations

March 29 Maundy Thursday Service – Savannah United Church

March 30 Good Friday Services & Baptisms

April 2

William Pouchie Memorial Men's Fellowship Fish Fry – William Pouchie Memorial United Church

April 7 Men's Fellowship Breakfast – Elmslie Memorial United Church at 7:30am

April 7 Church School Teachers' MAT – 9:00am

April 7 Women's Fellowship Council Executive Meeting – 10:00am

Click here to view the full CIRMC Calendar

Look Ya Nah!



A Moment with Bethesda: Be JOYFUL in hope, PATIENT in affliction, FAITHFUL in prayer.

Check out & Like our page https://www.facebook.com/BethesdaCounsellingky/



THEME: The Resurrected Christ

April 1 - Rev. Donovan Myers (Theme: The Resurrected Christ Living in Us) Easter Sunday Reflection

April 8 - Lay Pastor John Macmillan (Theme: The Resurrected Christ in the Family)

"Can These Bones Live?" - Easter Reflection contd.

"OUR COMMUNION HAS RECEIVED SUCH A CALL. CALLED TO COMMUNION, COMMITTED TO JUSTICE" A woman who was on the beach decided that she would go out and bring them back but knew that the disconnected bodies on the beach would have to come together. She mobilized 80 people on the beach to join hands and link arms to form a human chain to wade into the water and rescue the family. She called the disconnected to reconnect to life.

Our Communion has received such a call. Called to communion, committed to justice, we are brought by the Spirit to the valley of the bones, sunk up to our neck in fear and then mobilized in hope by God's Spirit through the living power of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What's Happening in CIRMC?

MODERATOR PARTICPATES IN GOVERNOR'S SWERING IN CEREMONY

On March 26, 2018, the Moderator participated in the Swearing in Ceremony for the new Governor of the Cayman Islands. He offered the prayers. The Swearing in Ceremony was held in the Legislative Assembly. The new Governor, His Excellency **Anwar Choudhury** has commenced a three-year tour of duty in the Cayman Islands. He has emphasized four main areas of interest for his tenure, namely crime reduction, protecting Cayman's financial services and independent judiciary, protecting human rights and forging closer links between Cayman and the U.K.





ROBERT YOUNG MEMORIAL HOSTS A GARDEN PARTY!

On Saturday, March 24, 2018 The Robert Young Memorial United Church held its first ever Garden Tea Party! The Garden Party served as a fundraiser for the new Children's and Sunday School ministry that currently being set up within the congregation. Since more children are attending worship a Sunday School programme is in the early stages of being formed. The Tea Party was attended by most of the congregation along with friends and family members.

Not only was there lots of food and delicacies, but there was also entertainment by the congregation's musicians and some youth from the John Gray High School who performed solos on various musical instruments. One of the highlights of the event was the fashions show which showcased many items designed by one of our members, Coralgene Myrie. The evening ended with a prayer and blessing shared by the minister Rev. Wray. The expectation is that this would be the first of many!

WEBSTER MEMORIAL YOUTH PARTNER WITH MEALS ON WHEELS



Webster Memorial Youth Group visited the Elderly with Meals on Wheels in Bodden Town community. It is also wonderful to our United Church youth taking an active role in assisting members of the community.



CONVOCATION PREPARATION: SPECIAL TIME JUST FOR YOUTH!!



Have plans to attend Convocation? Does it involve bringing children/youth with you? The Children's Village is back! With special focus on Peace with the Earth and with others. Youth will get the opportunity to physically engage with the Earth (Wink! Wink!) The youth will also be a part of the Convocation service in various ways!

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SAVE THE DATE!

COUNCIL EVENTS

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MEETING April 4, 2018 Council Office at 5:30pm

CAMP MINISTRY 2018

Camp Leaders Training #1 April 20, 2018 Council Office at 5:30pm

CAYMAN CONVOCATION

April 22, 2018 Cayman Prep & High School Auditorium Walkers Rd. Starting at 9:00am

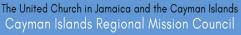
COUNCIL MEETING May 26, 2018 John Gray Memorial United Church

INTERESTED IN BEING A LEADER AT CAMP THIS YEAR?

CAMP LEADERS TRAINING!

APRIL 20, 2018 COUNCIL OFFICE, AT 5:30PM

Let's put in the effort to make our Camp Ministry impactful!





CATCH UP ON WHAT YOU MISSED! PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE CIRMC WEBSITE!

CLICK HERE TO SEE MORE

Or go to our website <u>www.unitedchurch.org.ky</u> Click on "Newsletters" (Gives you two options: UCJCI Update & CIRMC Weekly).

Stay up to date with the happenings of our Council and the United Church!

