



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

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UCJCI 42nd SYNOD THEME 2021 – Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)

Peace Amidst Chaos and Strife

By Mrs. Katherine Jackson

In St. John 14: 27, Jesus says, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Peace and harmonious relationships were elements that God placed in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve were created – love, peace, and harmony – God said that this work was “very good”.

So it was, yet, that was not to remain. Why? Well, God also put the element of “choice” into the mix as He didn’t want his creation to be “beholding” to Him, nor did He want puppets on a string, or mechanical robots. So, enters Mr. Slippery Slick who moved into the territory with his sweet words and smooth talk ... and convinced the woman that there was so much more to life than God was letting on about. That lovely fruit would reveal all – but it destroyed the love, peace, and harmony that God had planted.

God’s peace was also a forerunner of the peace that Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour would bring ... that’s why Jesus could say: my peace I give to you – not as the world giveth, give I unto you – let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” ... so from the very first act of deception in the Garden, humankind has tried time after time to build peace – with each other, within communities, among nations – and we still can’t get it right, or make it last. It almost seems as though chaos is causing life to tumble down through the ages, and as it does, it is unraveling whatever it passes by ... but again, what does Jesus say to us? “Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

There is so much fear, so much pain, so much anger, and so much envy in our societies that these elements can only birth chaos and strife ... pain and anger within the homes ... fear in the hearts of our people ... degradation of our societies through shame, anger, envy and materialism ... mega-stress within our relationships – but I offer that, through faith and trust in God Almighty, we can rise to a place where we can stand to confront the surging emotions within and around us, for it is through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that we live and move and have our being. We can be bold, we can be strong, for the Lord our God is with us.

Psalms 121 says, “My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. He who watches over Israel does not slumber nor sleep” ... and, believe me, it is only through God’s love and grace that we can forgive those who have hurt us. The writer reminds us in Psalm 34 verses 17 & 18: “The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles. 18 The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” God’s peace will reign in our hearts when we chose to forgive.



Once I had the wonderful opportunity to view a painting of a great waterfall, something like Niagara Falls – there was so much going on in that painting: tons of water flowing from far yonder to over the rocks – huge rocks – slippery rocks – clouds of mist rising from where the water thundered as it fell to the bottom of the grotto – trees in the distance – you could almost hear the roar of the water, and yet, despite all that was going on in the picture, right in the corner of this eye-catching landscape, the artist had painted a strong tree, with just a few branches, without leaves, jutting out of the side of the rock, and there at the end of the branch over the side of the falls was a bird’s nest, and if you looked closer you could see a mother bird in her nest – and, where there’s a mother bird in a nest there are usually babies, or eggs waiting to hatch. The painting was simply entitled, “Peace” ... and the sweet hymn came to mind: “When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorry like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, “It is well, it is well with my soul.”

So, as we move from day to day, let us heed the words of St. Paul as he writes in Ephesians 6: 10 - 12: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Chaos and strife come from the enemy, but peace, perfect peace comes from God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ as the Holy Spirit lives within us. So, as you read the newspapers or listen to the news on TV or the radio, and feel fear building within you from all the happenings in our island and around the world, always remember the words of Christ: “These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16: 33) ...

So there you have it, folks! Our Saviour has overcome the world ... He has already won the victory ... and we are covered by His precious blood and carried by His grace – we just have to believe it, and trust Him to guard our souls unto the perfect day.

CIRMC 2021 Vacation Bible School

**ELMSLIE MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
(GEORGE TOWN)**



The Elmslie Memorial United Church held its VBS on August 2-6, 2021, (Mon.-Fri.) 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. focusing on the theme, **"Mystery Island...Tracking Down the One True God"**.

In the world there's a so much confusion about who God is and what God's like. Through the daily Bible studies and various activities the children and youth were uncovering the truth about how amazing God is! Each day they learned about one of God's amazing attributes such as *great, almighty, ruler, Emmanuel, trustworthy*, and how these apply to their lives.

On average 120 attended every day and a total of 50 leaders and volunteers assisted throughout the week. The VBS closed on Sunday, August 8, 2021 with a special morning worship service held in the Sanctuary.



HAITI APPEAL

My sisters and brothers,

Greetings.

The earthquake, which had its epicenter near Haiti, on Saturday August 14, 2021, has been devastating for that nation. The severe physical, economic and social impact on Haiti have been made more challenging as shortly thereafter they experienced the passage of Tropical Storm Grace. All of this follows the recent assassination of their President.

The earthquake has caused much disruption in the lives of the people of Haiti, particularly in the Les Cayes Region. At the last count over 1,400 persons have lost their lives, and more than

6,900 persons have been injured. It is anticipated that these numbers will continue to rise. Additionally, there has been significant damage to, or the destruction of, homes and other buildings. Many persons are now homeless and desperate and the livelihood of others is severely threatened.

As part of our initial response as a church, we wish to offer financial support to the relief efforts in Haiti, through our established contacts there.

We are therefore requesting that your congregation/charge makes a contribution to this effort through a special offering over the next two Sundays August 22, and August 29, 2021. We are aware of the restrictions on attendance in worship in Jamaica and would suggest that, where possible, congregations make a contribution from their own funds.

In Grand Cayman, please send your contributions to your local congregations, which will then remit the same to the Cayman Regional Office.

While we offer this much needed support, let us also continue to pray for those affected in our sister nation.

Blessings,
Rev. Norbert D. Stephens,
General Secretary, UCJCI

TS Grace

By Rev. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield



A fallen tree blocking the driveway to the Council Office.

Tropical Storm Grace was a stark reminder of our vulnerability but also of God's Grace. As true Reformed Christians, we recognized early that we would be saved by faith through God's Grace and that the presence and peace of Christ would be with us.

For some persons, this was a new experience but for many, it was a recall of hurricanes past. Prayer, resilience, hope and patience became the tenets for the twelve hour passage of Lady Grace. Thankfully, these were daylight hours and that enabled persons to cope better.

We are recovering and the efforts will continue over the next few days. The image from the Prospect Youth Centre reflect many of the situations island wide.

We are thankful that all lives have been spared and that the community is working together to return the Cayman Islands to its cleanliness and beauty.



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council

175th Anniversary



HOPE IS HERE!

Back to Church

Sept. 12, 2021 Sunday

John Gray Memorial (West Bay) - 10:30am	Savannah United (Savannah) - 10:00am
Elmslie Memorial (George Town) - 10:30am	Webster Memorial (Bodden Town) - 11:00am
South Sound United (George Town) - 9:00am	East End United (East End) - 11:00am
Robert Young Memorial (Crewe Rd.) - 8:45am	Gun Bay United (East End) - 9:30am
William Pouchie Memorial (North Side) - 9:00am	

All are invited!

PLEASE REMEMBER
to prayerfully and actively participate
in this ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 22. (Sunday) 13th Sunday of Pentecost



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

August 22, 2021
Mrs. Katherine Jackson

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