



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Weekly Update

April 13, 2022 || Volume 9 Issue 15

An **Excerpt** from **The HOLY WEEK of DRAMA' || by Rev. Paul Dacosta- Pinto copyright 2021**

Dem tek im way. From Annas, to Caiaphas to Herod to Pilate. An a so dem a run up an down. An Jesus calm, like Him in charge, as if everything wa happen a him set it so. You can imagine me after all my big talk. Me fraid an pride a kill me. I was following. I stay far. Everything keeps turning over in my head.

(Voices)

“Father if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not my will...”

Pilate: Are you a King Jesus: You say so

“He was led as a sheep to the slaughter and as lamb...he opened not his mouth”

“You have no power over me... know this, if I wanted I could have called ten thousand angels”

“They parted my garments among them, and for my vesture did they gambled.” (Matthew 27:35)

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)

“Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

“Woman, behold thy Son.” (John 19:26)

“My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34)

“I thirst.” (John 19:28)

“It is finished.” (John 19:30)

“Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit.” (Luke 23:46)

And we had to leave him there, the Rabbi, the Master; Malchus said he was truly the Son of God; hang up like a daag, between two real criminal. What just happen? What jus happen? Enduring the night wid him dead hanging there and then all of Saturday was a life sentence. But, he did say “three days”.

Me full a shame. After I told him that even if the rest forsook him I would never, I would stand with him, I would never deny him. Three times. O God. Funny thing is Mary, his mother, was still and calm, no sign of fear.

SATURDAY

We all made our way back there by five o clock in the morning. The captain of the guard told us to move away from there, near the cross, and go home. We moved but we tried to make ourselves obscure, attempting to hide ourselves in various places, crags, thick shrubs, boulders, bandit huts; just waiting to see what would happen. Just watching him, up there on the cross, in disbelief. Even the soldiers – armed to the teeth, pacing, guarding, nervous, looked like they themselves couldn't believe se a dem actually crucify him. Dem could see us but dem feel same way like us so dem low wi.

Everybody wondering what next, then comes Joseph, Jesus rich man friend, who dem se is really his uncle; yep, his mother's brada, him and Nicodemus come and take down Jesus off di cross. They did it carefully, gently, slowly, lovingly, as if he wasn't actually dead. Well, it was Joseph of Arimathea so you know the linen was expensive. They wrapped him in the linen and took him away. We naa show up wiself but we follow dem straight to the cave where they put him to lay down. As we understand it, that was the rich man's grave, fresh, brand new.

SUNDAY: SPICES AND SURPRISES

The doors were locked and barred, everybody afraid and fretful, nervous and twitching. Every little sound said the Soldiers were here to get us. And Thomas? Missing. Judas? Hm. We, the three mystery “Ms” prepared the stuff to go give him the respect that was due. We were silent, except for a little humming here and there. Sometimes we'd look up simultaneously, glancing at each other, but somehow we weren't sad. His mother sat on the other side of the room staring at the door.

A sword had pierced her heart. She sat there, hands clasped, head bowed, when she was not staring at the door. The mysterious thing that kept playing over and over in my mind was the dinner at Lazarus'

house. What made me take up that box and put in my bag, I don't know. But I went to my secret spot, took up my alabaster box with the spikenard in it, wrapped it with my best piece of purple linen, and put in my bag. This was the most valuable thing I owned and nobody knew about it. I didn't know why I took it out and why I took it with me. I was in the room with everyone else and had no appetite. They were all talking as if trying to impress him, (scoffs) but he knew everyone of us inside out.

A power overtook me, it was God himself, a love filled me up as never before, it was his Spirit, then I felt this...this, urge. When I moved toward him you could hear a pin drop. Everybody's eyes, wide, were fixed upon me and then as I approached him the eyes were flashing between me and him to see what I was up to and what his reactions would be. His eyes were tender and assuring. As if saying to me "come along, do the work you were given to do". Everyone was stunned by the aroma of the spikenard, drunk as it were. Silence... as this woman of no class or means, offered her value to the master, as he received her hands, her ointment, her hair, and she being purified in the ritual became a Reference for all women and the world to remember.

Judas broke the silence. Jesus silenced him. Others followed Judas. Others, but not Peter, nor James nor John and definitely not any of the rest. Jesus silenced those others. Did you hear? Talk is cheap, about the poor for whom you claim to care, and whom you always have with you but for whom you do nothing. And as for me the master said, "she has anointed me for my burial". It all makes sense now.

Day soon light so we hurried out of the house without a word to anyone. Only his mother knew what our mission. They moved too slow and I couldn't wait. I got there as if in no time. Gunguz! Soldiers spread out on the ground as if dead! Big stone rolled away! Now I am confused and crying and angry. What happened? Where is he? What have they done with him? Where have they placed my Lord? Then as sweet and loving as ever that voice came "Mary".

He called my name. I knew it was him. He cleared my head. I knew him. I could have grabbed him and kissed him and anointed him with my hair all over again. But he said "you mustn't hold me, not yet. I must report to our Father. Go on now. Let not your heart be troubled. Go and tell my brothers and sisters, your brothers and sisters, especially Peter.

Well now here we are. Here we are. And you know the rest.

He is risen. He is alive and we are forgiven.

EPILOGUE

There's a Peter in all of us.

Crucifier in all of us.

A Pilate in all.

Could there be...a Judas in all of us?

He is alive and we are forgiven. Now we can live in the power of the resurrection. An di story still no done yet.

Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council

Induction of Minister of the John Gray Memorial – South Sound Charge

The gathering of Council for the Service of De-Linking, Linking and Induction of Minister was constituted at 3:58 pm by the Chair of Council, Rev. Rohan Forrester.

All three (3) Congregations were represented by their members on this special occasion (Elmslie Memorial for the De-linking, John Gray Memorial, and South Sound United for the Linking).



100th Anniversary Celebrations

From Elmslie's Family News

On March 19, 2022, the first event of Elmslie Memorial's 100th Anniversary Celebrations - an old-fashioned Caymanian Fish Fry - was held at Elmslie Church. Many thanks to the organizers, especially Evelyn Rockett, (head of fundraising) and her team, as well as Brian Barnes and his team from the Lions' Club of Grand Cayman - who made this event such a great success.



Following an Easter Sunday Musical on 17th April, the next event will be one you don't want to miss - Jazz Under the Stars which is now set to be held 20th May 2022.

Theme:

"Youths, Let's CLICK (commit, Lead and Inspire in Christ-like Knowledge)"

News from Joan Page Bain



While Joan is officially retired as a missionary of the UCJCI, she still lives and ministers in her beloved Haiti with her husband Allemand.

She has recently returned from her bi-annual visit to Mandeville, Jamaica, which includes her regular medical check-ups and taking care of some business.

Her daughter Jirene, having completed college, was employed for a few months as a teacher at Knox College, filling in for someone who was away. Jirene is looking for permanent employment, and Joan asks for our prayers.

Joan continues to be concerned for the needs of Haiti following the recent disasters that so adversely affected the country. Further, crime has increased, with violent, armed gangs ambushing buses and cars at will. She indicated that a bus trip to Port-au-Prince from Les Cayes has doubled in price as gangs await the buses halfway along the route and demand payment before allowing it to continue – and sometimes they take everything. As a result, Allemand is not able to travel that way to the city, and the only other way, - by a small mission plane - is unaffordable. He continues as principal of a school in the hills but has long reached retirement age. He also wants to spend more time helping the churches. However, the Government seems unable to pay him the pension funds owed him.

Joan meantime helps with women's and children's groups in various churches and still assists with the clinic at Guichard. Please pray for Joan and her family during these difficult days.

Congratulations!

Salem United Church



Two males being baptized.



Two males being received into fellowship.

In Honour of
The Pringle Home for Children
100
Anniversary

Congregations are being asked to do a *walk-up offering* every Sunday in the month of May.

Proceeds will go toward the centenary celebrations.



*Tune in to United in Faith Sundays on **RJR 94** F.M at 6:30 a.m.*



Anchor FM

<https://bit.ly/2YtPnv>

You can listen to United In Faith episodes at your convenience on our Anchor F.M. Platform.

Click the link either in our Instagram bio or when it is circulated via WhatsApp on a Monday.

Prayer Corner

- Rev. Laddia Young and her family. A shooting incident resulted in the death of her step mother and the wounding of her father and one of her brothers
- Rev. Delroy Harris whose niece passed recently
- Rev. Rohan Kong, his wife Stephanie and their son, Joel Kong, who continues to improve but is still in the hospital
- Rev. Roy Dodman who had a surgery
- Ukraine and all affected by the invasion of Russia
- Victims and perpetrators of crime and violence in Jamaica and security force and government as they respond
- Patients, families and workers in the health sector in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID-19



Liturgy for Worship at Home

April 17, 2022
Easter

Resilient: In the face of Unbelief

Jesus had prophesied about His resurrection and His disciples found it hard to believe the women.

Old Testament: Isaiah 65: 17
Responsive Reading: : Psalm 118: 1-2; 14-24
New Testament: St. Luke 24: 1- 12

Prayer

Dear Lord,

May I realize afresh today what Your death and resurrection mean for me. Forgiveness, freedom, and the ability to walk with You through this fallen world into eternity. May I always find my satisfaction in You and Your willingness to offer Yourself to me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



COVID-19 UPDATES

Affecting Congregational Life



Cayman Islands

ACTIVE CASES

637

DEATHS

27

NEW CASES

70

*COVID-19 statistics as of April 12, 2022.

The Cayman Government has responded with regulations aimed at controlling the spread of the virus, including but not limited, to protocols for travel and gatherings. Consequently, indoor gatherings, are now restricted to no more 500 people while outdoor gatherings are restricted to no more than 1000 persons.

Churches with an indoor capacity of more than 500 persons can only exceed the 500 person limit if they can ensure social distancing between people who do not live together.

Jamaica

ACTIVE CASES

266*

*In the last 2 weeks

NEW DEATHS

2

*COVID-19 statistics as of April 12, 2022.

NEW CASES

15

*In the last 24 hours

The Government of Jamaica, announced that the Order and measures contained in The Disaster Risk Management Act (DRMA) will be withdrawn effective March 18, 2022.

Consequently all regulations relative to congregational life, (worship, funerals and burials, weddings, meetings and gatherings [bible studies, prayer, children and youth etc.,]) are no longer in force. Basically this means we are back to operating, at the congregational level, as we did before the advent of COVID-19.

It must be noted however, that COVID-19 is still active and as such under The Public Health Act Regulations, the following are applicable to congregational life:

- Hand washing and sanitizing
- Mask-wearing in enclosed spaces
- Persons who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate
- Maintaining physical distance is highly recommended but not mandated

We strongly advise that you ensure compliance with The Public Health Act Regulations. Let us continue to pray for all those who continue to be affected by this pandemic, including our sisters and brothers in the Cayman Islands where protocols to control the spread of the disease are still in place.

NOTICES

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
TECHNOLOGY TRAINING SEMINARS
 MARCH - MAY 2022



- DATA COLLECTION & MANAGEMENT
- SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES
- LIVE STREAMING & PRODUCTION

First Saturdays are theoretical sessions via Zoom.
 On the second Saturdays, the practical sessions for Live Streaming and Production will be done at the locations below:

NRMC Webster Memorial Mar 12/19	WRMC & CIRM St. Paul's (St. James) Apr 23/30	SRMC Ridgemount May 14/21
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REGISTER NOW

<https://training.ucjci.com> 876-926-6059



"IGNITE" FOR CHRIST

LOOK OUT FOR VIRTUAL TRAINING SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022

GET READY FOR FACE TO FACE VBS 2022




WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
 Family of Christ Disciples, making Disciples

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY
CHILD OF GOD
 "Living The Word, Changing Lives ..."

TRAINING SESSIONS

You are Invited to Participate in Training Sessions on

The Development of Active Spiritual Discipline:

- Developing the Art of Stewardship
- The Act of Discipling
- Reading, Studying & Meditating on the Word of God
- The Discipline of Prayer & Fasting

PERIOD FOR TRAINING SESSIONS:
Tuesdays
 6:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.
 March 1, 2022 to April 12, 2022

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION OFFERED FOR ATTENDANCE

HOSTS: Mrs. Elaine Commissiong and Rev. Astor Carlyle
GUEST PRESENTERS: Rev. Norbert Stephens, Rev. J. Oliver Daley and Rev. Tara Tyme-Campbell

Register to Join: In the Sanctuary or On: 



The United Church in Jamaica and Cayman Islands
 North Eastern Regional Mission Council

LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2022

30TH APR.
 8:45 A.M.



Kingsgate United Church

Are you within the age group of 13 and 25 years?
 Are you passionate about youth ministry?

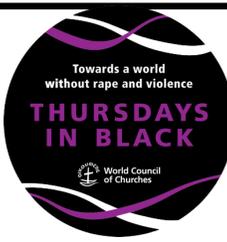
We invite you to a special Leadership Training for youths within the region

For more information, please contact
 The North Eastern Regional Mission Council Office at (876) 906-1394



Rev. Tara Tyme
April 18

End Violence Against Women and Children



Share your *Thursdays in Black* photos on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and tag us @ucjci
#WCC, #UCJCI
#evgw, #ThursdaysinBlack,



Mrs. Janet McConnell
April 20



Listen to a UCJCI Divine Service every Sunday on 101 FM *Love 101 F.M* at 3:30 p.m.
 "THE familySTAT"

**The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
 Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian**

Moderator: Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

General Secretary: Rev. Norbert Stephens

Regional Deputy General Secretaries

- ◇ Cayman Regional Mission Council- Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield
- ◇ North-Eastern Regional Mission Council - Mrs. Rose Wedderburn
- ◇ Southern Regional Mission Council- Mrs. Janet McConnell
- ◇ Western Regional Mission Council- Mrs. Mauleen Henry

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