

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Weekly Update

April 6, 2022 || Volume 9 Issue 14

"Obedience, Discipline and Trust" -A testimony of Yashi Williams of Davyton United Church



I received the call to change my life in May 2020 in a way in which I could not ignore! God reached down from heaven and pulled me out of the enemy's camp and set me in His courts. He spoke, I heard and I HAD to respond.

When the Lord said to me that He would have me resign, I heard also it will be when He provided the financial resources to do so. As a result, I started checking my bank account every day, sometimes 3 times per day waiting. So, imagine my surprise when I received the command to resign and I had two hundred and mash dollars in my account... That did not sit well with me at all. However, that word discipline, which I got to understand really meant doing what needs to be done, how it is supposed to be done, EVEN when I do not want to do it.

The day came in the latter part of June for me to resign, and so I did. Even a minister was concerned that Satan was maybe trying to destroy me because I would not have a source of income. So many things started to unravel to the point that I got scared, but the Lord came to me again and reassured me to "be obedient" and do what He commanded.

I was on the verge of having a nervous breakdown! But then! The on time God made a way! I received a call from a woman of God who at this point of my unemployment state was now mv ex-colleague. She said to me, meet me at a particular location, I have something for you. I went to meet the lady, when she came out of the office she had a big ole envelope and she gave it to me and said "God said to give you this." I began laughing and asked her "what should I do with this?" to which she responded, "the Holy Spirit says that you already received instructions." Listen, if people didn't already think I was gone mad, when I opened the envelope and saw the fifty thousand Jamaican dollar (\$50,000) in there and started laughing and screaming, they would have thought it then!

God told me that she was going to give me money, He

told me to pay off my lunch bill, buy gas for the trip to Manchester, toll, get a hair cut and to hold on to the rest to use as He would instruct! He worked EVERYTHING out and it was because I remained obedient to His command, remained disciplined to do what He commanded when I wanted to run to the hills and trusted in Him to make all things come together for good.

I can tell you that without these three things (Obedience, Discipline and Trust) I would not be where I am now and going to where God wants me to be. My family would not have been taken out of and still being taken out of the miry clay if it had not been for these three guiding principles. Of course, these are just the foundation work to the many principles and practices that we had to apply through God's leading that really propelled and solidified His work in us and what I believe can be and will be His work in you as well. As well as. what I have made mention of here is what transpired in a few weeks! The testimonies and the victories I have as a result of these principles are PLENTIFUL!!!

So, be encouraged, God is still working, young people can still serve God wholly and completely. Material things don't define you, God is STILL a provider and God still rewards faithfulness!

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

Romans 8:28-29 NLT

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Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council

Service of De-Linking, Linking and Induction of Minister of the Bodden Town – Savannah Charge

On Sunday, March 27, 2022, at 5:00 pm, members of the Webster Memorial, William Pouchie and Savannah United Churches gathered in Savannah, along with members of Council for a Service of De-Linking, Linking and Induction of Rev. Euthman Wray, Minister of the newly formed Bodden Town-Savannah Charge.





Following the Induction, Rev. Forrester presented Rev. Wray with a Bible. After Rev. Wray's Response and the Benediction, the Service ended at 7:25 pm. with the Recessional Hymn, "The Right Hand of God".



By Mrs. Yolanda Whitaker

Last year, in February 2021, a local team, Fusion Football Sports Club, approached me to pray with them for a little girl who was diagnosed with cancer. Instead of praying with just one team, I went and gathered all the other players and the spectators to come to join us in prayer on the field. Without hesitation, they joined hands in prayer for a little girl we didn't know but wanted to help.

Each Sunday evening and during the week, the youth from the community come out to play football. Before each game, we pause to share a word and pray. I utilize the opportunity to pray with them and encourage them accordingly.

This is the power of Sports & Prayer, meeting the youth right where they're, on the field of play.



Sports & Prayer can help knock walls down and build bridges to join our communities together for Christ and our Churches.

Farewell & Welcome!







Heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Mitchell Bertram Welds Cert. Hon. JP. on the occasion of receiving his Uniformed Services Pioneer Award during the 2022 National heroes Day Celebrations in recognition of exceptional contributions to the development and delivery of Uniformed Services in the Cayman Islands.

Mr. Welds is a member of the John Gray Memorial Church, West Bay.





Rev. Jane Kaluba will be graduating with a Doctor of Ministry from the Union Theological Seminary of the Philippines, on 29th April 2022.

Her area of focus was Ecumenics, Missiology, with a particular focus on Gender and Ecological Justice.

Service of Appreciation



The Lauriston Church School and Women's fellowship surprised Rev. Walter Russell with a service of appreciation because to thank him for the support he provided for them during the pandemic.

Mission for Men Initiative, Sterling United Church



The Mission for Men was a new initiative that I birth base on the fact that the Sterling United Church had a lot of women but few men. The month of March was declared 'Mission for Men' month.

I wrote letter for members to give to male family members, friends and neighbors. They were invited to a special service for men, led by men on March 27, 2022.

Rev. Calvert was the guest preacher. We had approximately 15 males in worship compared to the normal average of 3.

Approximately 65 persons were in attendance. Compare to the average of 20 on a 4th Sunday. The feedback was good. Everyone spoke well of Rev. Calvert's delivery and message. We continue to seek ways to draw the men in.

-Rev. Valerine Reynolds, Sterling United Church, Westmoreland.





A TOTAL OF <u>EIGHT NEW MEMBERS</u> WERE RECEIVED ON SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022

WORKING TOGETHER, GROWING GOD'S KINGDOM ONE CONGREGATION AT A TIME IN THE SOUTH

	At Home Liturgy				
DATE	SCRIPTURE PASSAGES	THEMES	COMMENTS		
April 10, 2022 Palm Sunday	OT: Isaiah 50: 4-9 RR: Psalm 31: 9- 16 NT: St. Luke 19: 28- 40	Resilient: In the face of death	Jesus enters Jerusalem, knowing His end is near.		
<image/>		Happy 84th Rev. Elsa	<section-header></section-header>		



COVID-19 UPDATES Affecting Congregational Life



Cayman Islands

ACTIVE CASES

DEATHS

636

27

NEW CASES

55

*COVID-19 statistics as of April 5, 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 togther.



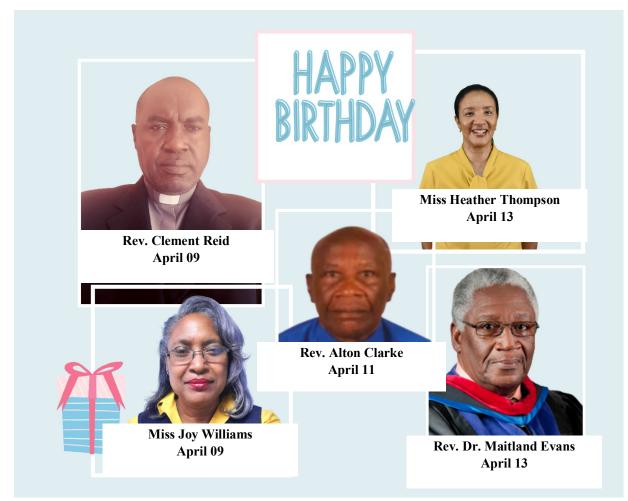
The Government of Jamaica, announced that the Order and measures contained in The Disaster Risk Management Act (DRMA) will be withdrawn effective March 18, 2022.

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.







HAPPY YOUTH MONTH!

Ecclesiastes 11:9-10 — "Young people, enjoy your youth. Be happy while you are still young. Do what you want to do, and follow your heart's desire. But remember that God is going to judge you for whatever you do.

Theme:

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



Prayer Requests

- Rev. Delroy Harris whose niece passed recently
- 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
- Rev. Rohan Kong, his wife Stephanie and their son, Joel Kong, who continues to improve but is still in the hospital
- Patients, families and workers in the health sector in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID-19

Prayer

Dear Lord,

May we live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Amen



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

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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

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Western Regional Mission Council- Mrs. Mauleen Henry

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