



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

March 16, 2022.

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 11

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

Rooted and Equipped to Stand in God's Divine Presence

By Mrs. Sonia Wallace

These days, when world news awakens fear and trepidation for the future, how will you withstand this creeping fear that pervades our every plan? Whether they be plans to travel, study, do business, or provide for your family, what do you hold to as a strong root for stability and assurance when fear and concern occupy your thoughts and emotions?

I invite you to read **Exodus 3:1-15** and other passages as we seek answers to these questions from the Word of God. The answers will come from these main points

1. The Place of Prayer
2. The Plan of God
3. The Posture of Worship.

The Place of Prayer

The Exodus passage tells us about Moses' encounter with God in the mountain called Horeb, also known as Mt. Sinai and referred to in verse 1 as "the mountain of God". The Bible says that the Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a bush that was on fire but was not charred.

In verse 4, we read that as he turned to look at the supernatural sight (foreshadowing Jesus Christ our Savior), God called him by name, "Moses, Moses" from the bush. He had to keep a safe distance and take off his sandals because he stood on Holy Ground. Moses was humbled and in fear of the awesome presence of God, yet God spoke to him face to face.

This holy mountain of God (Mt. Sinai) became the place where Moses stood in the presence of God. In this place, Moses was called by name, saw the manifestation of the foreshadow of Jesus our Mediator, and began a relationship with the Eternal God which would extend beyond his earthly lifetime.

Exodus 19 tells us that this mountain also became the place where God was manifested to the people, coming down in a cloud covering. The mountain shook, and the people trembled at the sight. Following their cleansing, the people stood at the foot of the mountain as Moses ascended to receive God's instructions and the Law.

This is the place to which Moses later returned to intercede for the people who had failed miserably at keeping the law and had made a molten image. This is the place, where Moses and the people admitted their sin and repented. It was the place of God's presence where He alone is worshipped as He alone is God.

The term "holy mountain" is used in Scripture to depict the place where God's presence would meet with God's people. Portions of Isaiah 56:7 referring to foreigners, outcasts and those who are not Israelites (NKJV) reads, "Even them I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer.... For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."

God invites everyone, from every nation and tongue, to become rooted with prayer. You are invited to come to the mountain of God, that is, to the house of prayer. Robert Henderson writing in the devotional to his book the 'Courts of Heaven' states "*When we are promised being brought to the mountain, we are being granted access into a realm of the spirit where the Courts of Heaven are.*" This is the place where we experience the presence of God. It is in this place that Moses was equipped with the word from God and empowered to fulfill God's purpose for his life. I encourage you to be rooted with prayer following the Biblical admonition to pray without ceasing.

The Plan of God

In the presence of God, Moses was given first-hand knowledge of God's plan to rescue the Israelites. God had heard the prayers and cries of the people and had seen their oppression in Egypt. It was a rescue mission and Moses' purpose was to be the deliverer who would lead God's people out of Egypt. Ultimately, God planned to reveal God's will and power to Moses, the people of Israel, Pharaoh, and the people of Egypt as well as the nations around the known world. Moses would tell the people about God, remind them of God's covenant with Abraham, teach them God's precepts and speak God's word to Pharaoh.

As he stood in the presence of God, Moses received a revelation of God's personhood. God declared God's name forever as Yahweh – I AM WHO I AM. Moses was reassured of God's presence with him even when he left the meeting place to fulfill God's call. By continuing to meet with God, Moses' experience of God's presence grew to such intimacy that his heart desired to experience God's glory. This was granted to him by Yahweh's self-revelation, mentioned in **Ex. 34: 6-7** "*The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.....*"

Psalm 103:7 -8 tells us that *“God made His ways known to Moses and His acts to the children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in mercy.”*

The Bible shows the perfected work of God when Moses who was fearful of God appears eternally in glory, speaking with the glorified Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration according to Matthew chapter 17 in the New Testament. My friends, God has a plan for your lives, and it is rooted in who God is, the God who forgives and extends mercy to all, enabling us to share a relationship with God that lasts for eternity.

The Posture of Worship

In our Exodus passage, Moses not only removed his shoes as God instructed, but he also instinctively hid his face, revering the presence of the Holy God, Yahweh. In the splendor of God’s presence, humankind’s reproach comes to light, and in reverence, Moses hid and was in utter fear of God. We are reminded of Adam in the Garden of Eden, who also hid when he sinned by disobeying God. You and I must admit that this posture to hide is also our reality. We all try to hide sin from others and sometimes even from ourselves. The Bible tells us, *“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23)*. God’s word declares that as the children of Israel experienced God’s amazing deliverance yet turned away from God, we too, even when we so often experience God’s mercies, can be tempted to do that which does not please God.

The season of Lent invites us to repentance. It is in the presence of God that Moses had an honest view of himself, his worthlessness, and God’s worthiness. Lent can be a time of soul searching for you too; a time when a new or renewed relationship with God can be ignited for the rest of your life into eternity. May you consider coming to God in repentance and surrender to be rooted in a posture of worship, giving God, the I AM WHO I AM your awe and reverence.

In the New Testament reference to the holy mountain of God in **Hebrews 12**, the awesome, feared presence of God on Mount Sinai under the old Mosaic covenant is compared to the new covenant. The former was a place of shaking, terror, and fear but now we come into the presence of God saved to eternal life by the blood of Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 12:22-23** tells us that we have come to the *“heavenly Jerusalem..., to Jesus, our Mediator of a new covenant”* by whose shed blood we are declared righteous to enter, be His house of prayer, and to ultimately be with Him in the heavenly realms of glory. Verse 28 encourages us to take hold of God’s grace which is free to us all. Hear **Romans 6:23** *“the wage of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* God beckons you today to be rooted in Jesus Christ.

Friends, right where you are, God calls you by name. Make it a place of prayer, confess your sins, accept the gift of God’s grace by inviting Jesus Christ to be in charge of your life. Ask God to direct you to God’s plan, let the Holy Spirit dwell in you, and take over. Ask God to lead you into God’s purpose and provisions. Ask God to make you rooted in God for this life and eternity.

HELP

UKRAINE

Ukraine Crisis Appeal

The people of Ukraine are subject to violence, upheaval, displacement, and the trauma of war. Your urgent support is needed!

In response to the humanitarian crisis created by the war in Ukraine, charitable organizations around the world are collecting contributions to provide humanitarian relief (food, shelter, first aid, and medicine) as well as to assist with reuniting separated families, repairing vital infrastructure, homes, healthcare centres, schools, etc.

The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (CIRMC) of the UCJCI is inviting all Congregations within its bounds to **Help the people of Ukraine** with their donations.

Donations will be collected on March 20, 27, and April 3 during the Sunday morning Worship Services or can be dropped off at the church offices during the week (please call your Church Office or speak with the Minister for instructions).

Once all donations are collected from the Congregations, the CIRMC will make the transfer to the **Cayman Islands Red Cross**.

**Your donation
- no matter how small it may be –
counts!**



Service of Linking
John Gray Memorial &
South Sound United Churches
Sunday, 20 March 2022
5:00 pm
John Gray Memorial Church
Please join us!

**POSTPONED
Til 8 April**

ATTENTION!

The Service of De-Linking, Linking and Induction of Rev. Donovan Myers as the Minister of the John Gray-South Sound Charge has been rescheduled to **Sunday, April 3, 2022**, at 5:00 PM.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 17. (Thursday)

Lay Leaders Certificate Course Training– 6-8:00 pm via Zoom

March 19. (Saturday)

CIRMC 2022 Children & Youth Camps Planning Meeting – 2:00 pm – Council Office

March 20. (Sunday) 3rd Sunday of Lent



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

March 20, 2022
Mrs. Sonia Wallace



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW LOST A LOVED ONE TO SUICIDE?

The APF's Bereavement Support Group provides free, private, and confidential grief support, in a safe place for adults to heal from their loss and to be equipped with the tools for moving forward.

JOIN THE APF'S BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP
24 FEB - 31 MAR | BETHESDA COUNSELLING CENTRE

Location: Bethesda Counselling Centre, Unit 4, 68 Mary St, George Town
Time: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Frequency: Every Thursday for 6 weeks
Dates Active: Thursday, 24 February - Thursday, 31 March
Contact: edu@alexpantonfoundation.ky



About the Facilitator:

April Lewis is a licensed Mental Health Counsellor with over 20 years of experience in therapy and counselling. Ms Lewis holds a Master of Arts degree in Christian Counselling and a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She has worked with the Cayman Islands Government as a Counsellor, for the Employee Assistance Program as Director, and installed one of the first online therapy programmes in the Cayman Islands.

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FISH FRY

MARCH 19, 2022

8am - 2pm

ELMSLIE CHURCH HALL

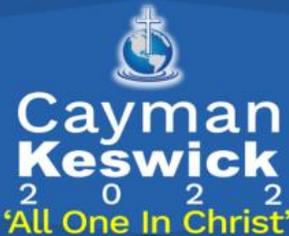
108B Seafarers Way, George Town

\$12 whole fish plate

\$15 filleted fish plate



Tickets available upon request. Walk-ins welcome.
Call 926-2909 or 949-7923 or email elmslie100anniversary@gmail.com to enquire.



All meeting Sunday evenings: 6:00—7:30 p.m.

- Apr 3 @ First Baptist Church
- May 1 @ Cayman Islands Baptist Church
- Jun 5 @ Church of God Chapel GT

SPEAKERS:

- Torrance Bobb (First Assembly of God)
- Jonathan Lamb (Guest Speaker, Keswick Ministries UK)
- Winston Rose (Church of God Chapel BT)
- Steve Brady (First Baptist Church)
- Donovan Myers (John Gray Memorial Church)

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