



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

April 27, 2022

**EASTERTIDE**

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 17

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

## **Resilient: Feed my Lamb**

*By Rev. Godfrey Meghoo*

Please read John 21:1-19

Would you believe that when small children were brought to the Lord, the twelve disciples objected? When Jesus saw this, He rebuked the apostles, saying, "Let the children come to me, do not forbid them, for they too belong to the Kingdom of God!" Somehow, those men felt that children must be seen and not heard. They thought that children should wait until they become adults. They were misguidedly saying that only adults can become believers. It would be like us saying mistakenly that children should wait until they become adults to go to school or get inoculations. But the Lord says today:

For I will receive them,  
And fold them to my bosom;  
I'll be a Shepherd to these lambs:  
O drive them not away.  
For, if their hearts to me they give,  
They shall with me in glory live:  
Suffer little children to come unto me  
(William Hutchings).

I believe that many of us lovingly called our little child 'my little lamb'; and when we had our dinner at home, we made sure that the children ate first. We remember the words, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) We teach them by example to give thanks before having a meal. We carefully plan for their education. We go with them when and if they are going off to college. But more than that, we show them by example what a happy family should be.

William Walsham How wrote about caring for others by caring for kids and by giving:

To comfort and to bless;  
To find a balm for woe;  
To tend the lone and fatherless  
Is angels' work below.  
O hearts are bruised and dead  
And homes are bare and cold;  
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled:  
Are straying from the fold.

It is worthy of note that after the resurrection, the Lord approached Simon Peter (John 21), and asked him, "Do you love me?" Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, I do love You"; in turn, the Lord said to Peter, "Feed my Lambs"; But this was not enough. Jesus asked Peter two more times, "Do you love me?" When Peter answered the second and third times, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You", Jesus said, "Feed my sheep". But we note that of the three commands by Jesus, He said 'Feed my lambs' first.

In addition, we see that Jesus was asking Peter about 'Agape-love', but Peter was answering using the word 'Philia'-love—a word, though important, is not as high-quality as 'Agape'. This is not to lessen the contribution which Peter made to Christendom. Every Christian need time to grow in grace. Peter also reached the point when he was being crucified for his faith. He said he was not worthy to be put to death in the same way Jesus endured, but instead, Peter was crucified upside-down. Oh yes, Peter promised to protect Jesus when the hour of danger came. He said, he would die for Jesus. He drew a sword to defend the Lord when the enemy came to arrest Him. Yet, he also denied Jesus three times to protect his own skin.

The Old Testament figure Job, who suffered much, although he was a god-fearing man, is a good example of a father who cared for his children. He and his wife had ten children — 7 sons and 3 daughters. Often these children would hang out at one of the older son's houses, eating and making merry on a Friday night. Job would not forget to pray for these young people, just in case they had sinned by offending God unintentionally.

Do we care like that for the 'lambs'—the little ones in our care? Remember the words of Jesus, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." (Matthew 18:10) When we contribute to the work of the Red Cross, caring for refugees, including small children clinging to their mothers, we are feeding God's lambs. It is not an easy task to do our duties as parents, teachers, or even substitute parents or grandparents.

When the Lord was sending some men out on a mission, He said, "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves." (Matthew 10:16) In the well-known tale of David and Goliath, the young shepherd boy David was volunteering to face the experienced soldier Goliath. David was advised to change his mind and not have the audacity to try to eliminate that giant of a man. "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth," they told him. But David replied, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a

## Moderator's Message for National Youth Sunday April 24, 2022



bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it, and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it, and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them because he has defied the armies of the living God.” (1 Samuel 17:33-36)

To take care of sheep and lambs was a risky and dangerous job. Some shepherds were only hirelings, doing the job for the money. Other, unworthy shepherds would escape when they saw their lives endangered. But David stood his ground, risk, or no risk.

No wonder Jesus was called ‘the Son of David’. He was also called the ‘Lamb of God’. John the Baptizer, who preceded the start of the ministry of Jesus, saw Jesus coming and said to others, “Look, the Lamb of God!” (John 1:29)

Reference to Jesus as ‘the Lamb of God’ goes back to the Old Testament institution of the Passover Supper. The people of Israel were leaving Egypt after 430 years. God told them to get a one-year-old lamb, one for each family. The lamb had to be a healthy, unblemished one. Each family was told to slaughter the animal and paint their doorposts with some of the blood. By doing so, the angel of death would pass over that home, and they would remain safe. The remainder of the lamb’s meat was to be roasted and eaten the night before they departed from Egypt. This was intended to be celebrated annually, to mark the people’s deliverance and salvation. Just like the lamb was sacrificed, so Jesus, the Lamb of God, was sacrificed to take away the sin of the world. Jesus, the Lamb of God, knew exactly the danger when He offered Himself to die for the sheep and the lambs. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:11) He said and did. Further than that, He was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, from the beginning of time.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its power  
Till all the ransomed Church of God  
Be saved to sin no more.

The Lord is my ‘Shepherd’ means that the Lord, as my pastor, does not only make speeches for me, or to me, but he actually and physically feeds me, protects, and nourishes me. When I am abandoned, forsaken, abused, deserted, and left to the mercy of invaders, unworthy, self-seeking parents, or others, the Lord as my pastor, my Shepherd, prepares “a table before me—in the presence of my enemies.”

Please, pray these words with me:  
Jesus like a shepherd lead us,  
Much we need thy tender care;  
In thy pleasant pastures feed us;  
For our use thy folds prepare:  
Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

May God help you feed the hungry, defend the vulnerable, and care for refugees.

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My young sisters and brothers of the United Church,

I greet you warmly in the Spirit and power of the risen Christ on this Synodical Youth Sunday. We continue to celebrate God’s goodness. Despite the unrelenting presence of COVID 19, life is moving back to some sense of normally. We rejoice in the fact that many of you are able to and have responded to the opportunity of being back out to church, to your youth programme and to school. May God be praised.

On behalf of the wider United Church family, I join the clarion call to you, our youth, to C.L.I.C.K (to commit to lead and inspire with Christ-like knowledge). We have a sense of how you have been impacted over the last two years and so we are calling upon you to re-commit to lead and inspire the youth of our territories with Christ-like knowledge.

There are some worrying happenings within our societies for which we need Christian focused young people to take on in the name of Christ, Jesus. You are most strategically placed to engage your peers with the message of Christ that uplifts, inspires and offers hope, as was the experience of the disciples and other followers of Christ after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Our societies (Cayman and Jamaica) are in need of young people who are C.L.I.C.K.ing (Committed to lead and inspire with Christ-like knowledge) in response to the pull that other young people are experiencing towards such vices like violence, irresponsible sexual behavior, scamming, drugs and gang lifestyle. I am sure many of you are concerned about the recent fights in some schools; the proliferation of guard rings; the number of young people who have lost their lives as a result of going in the wrong direction. We are desperately in need of an alternative to what’s happening if we are to seek for brighter future. We need young people on board to reach their peers and to turn the tide. Will you my younger sisters and brothers sign up for this mission call. God has called others in their youth and the call comes to you today.

Along with God, the future is in your hands  
Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott  
MODERATOR

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# BETH SHALOM MISSION HOUSE

By Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield

In partnership with the Health City Cayman Islands, the Samaritan's Purse and the Children Heart Project have resumed their ministry to the children challenged with heart disease. The COVID-19 pandemic stymied the program for two years but, thankfully as the world learns to cope with the disease, this vital service to the children can continue.



The first six groups for 2022 have started to arrive and are currently at the Health City Cayman Islands hospital. They will be on the island until the end of June. In a few weeks, the children, their Moms, and the interpreters will relocate to the Beth Shalom Mission house to continue their post-surgery recuperation.

Six additional groups will be arriving in September and will stay through to November.

Congregations are encouraged to consider sponsoring a group and information on what it entails can be had from Ms Angela Martins, the CHP Mission House Coordinator. ([angelamartinscayman@gmail.com](mailto:angelamartinscayman@gmail.com))

Please remember the children and their families in your prayers over these months.

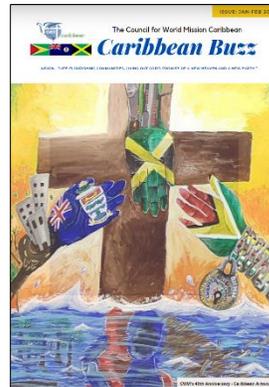
If you are interested in contributing, the following items are needed:

- Queen size mattress and a queen size bed frame
- 2 Front door Mats
- 6 - 8 Dishtowels and dishcloths
- 4 - 6 Double bed sheet sets
- 2 - new Day bed covers
- 2 Bathroom mats
- 1 shower caddy
- 4 Bedside mats
- 6 table placemats adults (easy to clean)
- 4 table placemats for young children (plastic, easy to clean)
- 4 - 6 Bath Towel sets
- 2 Baby bathtubs
- 2 Baby highchairs
- 2 Dustpans

Please contact Ms Angela Martins if you wish to contribute items.

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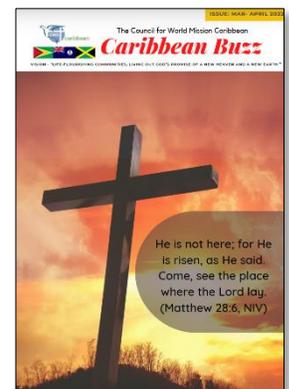
## Introducing "Caribbean Buzz"



"Caribbean Buzz" is a bi-monthly newsletter of the CWM Caribbean Region launched in January 2022, sharing the voices from CWM Member Churches as they reflect on current regional and global issues.

The January-February issue focused on gender justice. In addition to a reflection on the theme by Rev. Dr Janet Wootton from Congregational Federation (CF), who addressed how women can "rise to life" amid Gender Based Violence there was also a mission story on Guyana Congregational Union (GCU)'s newly dedicated Quamina House Complex, and more.

In this second, March-April issue, among other things, we find Easter prayers on "Rising to Life" by Mrs. Jewell Sinclair Torrington, the Guyana Congregational Union (GCU), Miss Anissea Bremmer, United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI), and Rev. Nigel Lindsay, a Partner-in-Mission (PIM) from Congregational Federation (CF). We can also gain a glimpse of how the CWM COVID-19 Mission Initiative Grant has benefitted Guyana Congregational Union church members Mr and Mrs Collin and Trivanna Morgan in their poultry business.



To read Caribbean Buzz please visit or use the following link: [CWM Caribbean Region's second issue of "Caribbean Buzz" for 2022 - Council for World Mission \(cwmission.org\)](https://www.cwmission.org)

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 28 (Thursday)  
**Lay Leadership Certificate Course Session** – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm via Zoom
- April 30 (Saturday)  
**Camp Planning Committee Meeting** – 10:00 am – Council Office
- May 1. (Sunday) 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter



on Radio Cayman 89.9  
every Sunday at 7:45 am

**May 1, 2022**  
Rev. Godfrey Meghoo

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