



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

June 2, 2022

PENTECOST

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 22

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

Tribute to Mr. Stanley Quinland



The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council expresses condolences to the family of the late Mr. Stanley Quinland, who passed away on Thursday, May 26, 2022. Mr. Quinland was a member of the Council and a Synod delegate, representing the East End United Church. We recall his deep commitment to the ministry of the Church, his support for the Ministers who served in the East End community, and his insistence on how worship and congregational life should be. He will be sorely missed not only by the East End Congregation but also by the Cayman Island Regional Mission Council and the wider United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

Resilient: Pentecost Power!

*By Rev. Rohan Forrester
(Chair of CIRMC)*

One of the greatest stories of resilience in the Bible relates to the response of Jesus' disciples after the resurrection. In the days between the crucifixion, resurrection, and Pentecost, we see Jesus' disciples moved from being completely demoralized and discouraged to being in a celebratory and expectancy mood. Earlier, before Jesus ascended to heaven, Jesus had told the apostles to stay in Jerusalem to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5). Before this time, Jesus had spent three years with the disciples, preparing them for this moment:

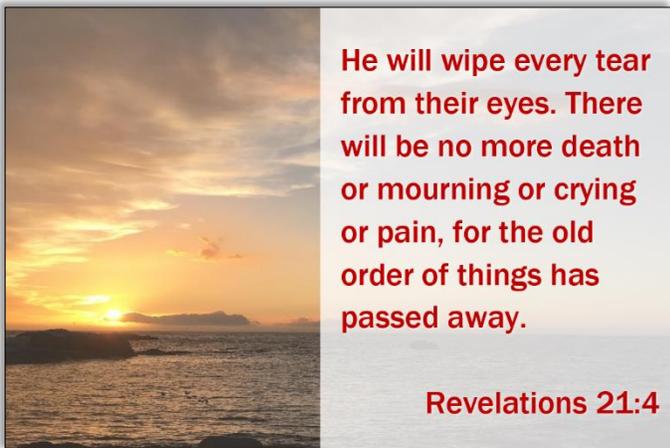
- they witnessed His death; they encountered the resurrected Christ,
- they've gone to the mountain where He told them to go, and now they're waiting for what is going to happen next.
- they are baffled, but excited to be in a state of expectancy, wondering, what will happen next?

So, after Jesus ascended to heaven the disciples along with Jesus' mother and brothers, and some women all gathered in the upper room of a house in Jerusalem. While waiting, the apostles chose Matthias to replace Judas. It is at this juncture, that the disciples who had been in Jerusalem for about 10 days before the Day of Pentecost, finally saw the promise fulfilled.

The Promise of Pentecost – The Holy Spirit

It was the Day of Pentecost, a day filled with large gatherings in Jerusalem. The Day of Pentecost marks fifty days since Easter which brings the Easter season to an end. The word Pentecost is taken from the Greek word, 'pentekoste.' Pentecost was the fiftieth day after Passover, an agricultural festival called the Feast of Weeks when the wheat harvest was celebrated with a one-day celebration. For the Jewish people of the Old Testament, neither the Passover nor Pentecost were just agricultural festivals. These festivals celebrated the identity and forming of Israel with the stories of the Exodus and the Passover. Pentecost.

There were thousands of Jews gathered in Jerusalem from all over the known world. In 'The Acts of The Apostles' We can imagine how the disciples gathered, perhaps in fear, having seen the resurrected Jesus, and having been told to wait in Jerusalem. The disciples, were still in shock, still grieving (in some way), but hopeful and together. Suddenly a loud, rushing,



He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Revelations 21:4

violent wind fills the room, and the Holy Spirit descends upon them like tongues of fire...seems hard to believe! It seems like a crazy scene – people start hearing words in their own language and are amazed, some thought the disciples had been drinking.

Jesus had described the Spirit as wind before (John 3:8) and the sound of mighty rushing wind from heaven now marked the arrival of the Holy Spirit on this day. The writer of Acts describes what looked like tongues of fire dividing and resting on each of the apostles. The Holy Spirit gave them the ability to instantly speak in other languages and dialects.

All this noise and activity drew a crowd of people. These people were amazed because they could hear the apostles speak in their own language. Some were asking what it meant. Others made fun of them and thought they were drunk.

Pentecost is about God giving to God's people the way of life by which they must now carry on, to be empowered to be active Christians. How appropriate then for God to send the Holy Spirit on these disciples. Pentecost reminds us that the risen Jesus is for everybody. It is at this point that we see a complete transformation in these men – as we also see in virtually every other witness of the resurrected Jesus. They are first thrilled at their new understanding of the Holy Spirit in light of Jesus' teaching as well as their newfound power and boldness.

The truth of Pentecost is that the same power that transformed the early disciples is also available to transform and change us today. The coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost gave birth to a resilient identity of who we are as followers of Christ. Despite the feeling of uncertainty, doubt, and inadequacy, the disciples bounce back to experience intimacy with Jesus Christ in the following ways:

The Posture of Pentecost – WORK

At Pentecost, you and I are called away from our roles as spectators into the role of central characters in God's work of redemption and salvation. As a result of Pentecost, we do not watch what somebody else is doing for God but are being equipped by the power of the Holy Spirit so we can become actively involved in the work of salvation and redemption. That is what Pentecost is all about; it is the day Jesus officially transfers to His disciples the responsibility of spreading the message of salvation. The truth is, we are called to connect with the world we live in (the community) without separating ourselves from the world around us.

Think about any event in your life when you began by watching what somebody else was doing, then suddenly all that changes—the responsibility to work was passed to you. It is one thing to watch while somebody else does all the work. It is another matter to do the job yourself. However, that is what God called those disciples to do on the Day of Pentecost.

Pentecost should remind every Christian of the role and work of the Holy Spirit, so we can do the work of discipleship. We cannot preach to bring about conversion unless we have received and depend on the Holy Spirit. We cannot pray, sing, serve or live faithfully as Christians unless and until we have been empowered and enlightened by the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who fueled the fire that started the movement of the

Early Church and continues to fuel the fire that keeps the movement going.

The Power of Pentecost – WITNESS

Think of the disciples before Pentecost. They certainly believed in Jesus before Pentecost, but they give no evidence of power to live out His truths. Instead, they were fearful, hiding behind locked doors. At Pentecost, all of that changed. The disciples became bold and forceful, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to go into the streets and share the gospel of Christ.

On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came in 'power' to empower the disciples to continue to bear witness to Christ. The word translated 'power' is in the Greek 'Dunamis'. Dunamis is a word that refers to "strength, power, or ability." Dunamis is not just any power; the word refers to miraculous power or marvelous works. Dunamis can also refer to "moral power and excellence of soul." Dunamis is the root word of our English words dynamite, dynamo, and dynamic.

On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples realized that Christ empowers us by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses to the truth that Jesus Christ saves. We are therefore empowered to speak in His power in boldness, that Jesus Christ is the Only Way, the Only Truth, the Only Life, the Only way of salvation.

On the Day of Pentecost, we remember Jesus' last words before His ascension as recorded in Acts 1:8. Jesus said: "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere, in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8). So, on the day of Pentecost, the disciples were filled with Dunamis power. Today, we are empowered by the same Holy Spirit to be Dunamis disciples, dynamite disciples, and dynamic disciples.

We cannot truly and faithfully live the Christian life in our own power, but in Christ's. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, our Counsellor, our Helper, our Encourager, our Advocate, in Greek the Paraclete, or paráklētos, the one who consoles or comforts, the one who encourages, the one who uplifts; the one who refreshes, the one who intercedes on our behalf as our advocate with God the Father. The Holy Spirit also gives each of us gifts, skills, and abilities that we must use for God's glory. The Holy Spirit produces fruit in each of our lives as we witness in word and action.

So, as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the birth of the church and the coming of the Holy Spirit; we celebrate the resilient nature of the Church that is no longer timid people, hiding away, instead, filled with the power and boldness of the Holy Spirit outside and into the street and 3,000 people were saved that day. Could that happen today? Yes, it can! God has not changed. His power has not diminished. The Holy Spirit still operates in power in our lives. The truth of the Gospel still changes and transforms lives today and Christ uses ordinary people like you and me to share the truth of who Jesus is with others.

The Practice of Pentecost – WORSHIP

With the birth of the Church, four practices stand out:

1. It was a learning church. There were 3,120 people, who devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching. They took the didache (teaching) seriously. Today we do not have the disciples, but we do have their teachings as well as the prophetic teachings of the Old Testament, which the early church had, and the teachings as recorded and preserved for us by the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit gave birth to a biblical church, committed to the Word of God.

The Holy Spirit is teaching the church right now to do new things, to learn new technology, to appreciate the hard work of many we have taken for granted, to hear the cry of the poor and speak for justice, to pay attention to the environment, to listen to the hearts of people we have been too busy to engage.

2. It was a caring church. They were involved in the practice of fellowship. They came together in intimate groupings. They saw everything they had was God's, given to them to use. They shared with each other, as common, all that they had. Some sold their possessions and goods. Not all did because it tells us later that they met in each other's homes.

The church is not a self-made organization. That is why the sin of Ananias and Sapphira was the sin of hypocrisy and lying which came out of covetousness. Therefore, you and I have to decide how we deal with what God has given to us in a way that serves the greater good of the kingdom of God. We're called to be concerned about the poor, both within the church and outside of the church. We're called to have a sense of global concern, aware that one-fifth to one-sixth of the world lives below the poverty level and since Covid-19, this has changed significantly.

3. It was a worshipping church. These early believers met together regularly to break bread and pray together. Their worship was formal in the Temple. And their worship was informal, meeting in their individual homes. Their worship was both joyful and dignified, celebrative, and reverent.

4. It was an evangelizing church. The teaching that nourished the believers was balanced by a continuing emphasis on the kerugma that called others to repentance and faith. "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). Evangelism is central to our work. You and I are called to share our faith individually and corporately.

Christ calls us to be a Spirit-led people, a Spirit-led Church that unreservedly spread the gospel through different methods of evangelism, such as lifestyle, friendship, Internet, Home Group, and Street evangelism. Unless the Holy Spirit saturates our entire life, we remain powerless and hard-pressed by the challenges of life. Let us, therefore, reflect the change illustrated by the famous English 18th Century Poet William Blake who wrote of Pentecost:

"Unless the eye catch fire,
The God will not be seen.
Unless the ear catch fire,
The God will not be heard.
Unless the tongue catch fire,
The God will not be named.

Unless the heart catch fire,
The God will not be loved.
Unless the mind catch fire,
The God will not be known.'

Let us pray: "Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me, empowering me and us to be and do all you dream of us being and doing!"

Child Month Celebration in East End and Gun Bay

By Mrs. Itza Bodden (Youth Worker)

The East End and Gun Bay Congregation celebrated Child Month with special Services held on May 29, 2022. In Gun Bay, the Youth Group actively participated in the service by singing, praying, reading, and presenting a Solo. Many of our youth stood up at the end of the sermon indicating that they were ready to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Our Minister, the leaders, and the rest of the Congregation are committed to assisting them in their journey of faith.



We also had some Spanish-speaking visitors among us who were greeted in Spanish and had the sermon translated for them. After the service, we continued our fellowship while enjoying the refreshments provided by the members of the Congregation.

In East End, the service was led by our Minister, Rev. Rohan Forrester, and Elder Ms. Melody McLean. I was grateful for the honor given to me to bring the message to both Congregations.



Car Wash & Cake Sale

By Ms. Camile Watt (Youth Minister)

On Saturday, May 28, 2022, the Savannah United Church Youth Discipleship Group, in collaboration with the Royal Cayman Island Community Policing Department, hosted a Car Wash and Cake Sale in aid of the North Sound Estate Community Park Revitalization Project. The Youth Discipleship Group is committed to making young disciples for Christ and becoming the positive change we wish to see in our community.



Special thanks to the hardworking Police Officers from the Royal Cayman Island Community Policing Department, who are dedicated to making our community safe while being great role models for our children and families.



ALL ARE INVITED
Cost: FREE

The United Church Women's Fellowship
Cayman Council
Presents:

Retreat 2022

Venue: Elmslie Memorial United Church - George Town
June 11, 2022
9:00am - 1:00pm

Theme: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS
Topics:

- Empowering Youths - Focusing on Mental Health
- Cultivating Spiritual Growth - Focusing on the Soul
- Wellness A - Focusing on Women's Health
- Wellness B - Focusing on Stress

Ministers:
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble - Bloomfield; Rev. Rohan Forrester; Rev. L. Christopher Mason

Guest Speakers:
Dr. Alexandra Bodden; Dr. Julie Goodman; Dr. Rhonda Reeves

 **Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council** \$125 CI

SUMMER DAY CAMPS 2022

CHILDREN'S (AGES 8-12)
JULY 10-15

TEENS' (AGES 13-17)
JULY 17-22

Theme: A NEW SEASON

WORSHIP THE LORD
Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council
Sundays at 7:45am on Radio Cayman

on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

June 5, 2022
Rev. Rohan Forrester

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*Cayman
Church Sports
Outreach*
C.C.S.O

FCA Cayman Sports Symposium



Are you a COACH who is motivated to take your athletes to another level? Are you a PASTOR, a Youth leader, Ministry leader, longing to see eternal change in your communities?

This event is for you! See you there!

COME
see and learn

EVERY Coach and Athlete
EVERY Family
EVERY Community

GO
reach EVERY one



Date: June 25

Time: 4pm. - 6pm.

Cost: FREE

Location: First Assembly of God
195 Old Crewe Road

George Town, Grand Cayman

Contact: Yolanda Whitaker
ywhitaker@360globalsport.com
345-917-4832



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