



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE



August 31, 2022

SEASON OF PENTECOST

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 35

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

Responding with Complete Surrender

By Rev. Otto Menko

Please read Luke 14:25-33

There are many ways our Christian faith can get derailed, go wrong, taking us on a path of a fruitless, self-absorbed existence and consequently discrediting the message of the Gospel.

The statistics of late clearly indicate the decline of the Church globally and church membership in general, and this has become the trend and not just an anomaly due to the recent pandemic. But what is behind this worrisome development? There are some who point to the failure of the Church (and there are many for sure), while others blame Christians and their wishy-washy, lukewarm faith and life or the hostility - and at the same time - attraction of the postmodern world we live in. The truth is most likely a combination of all these.

There are efforts of all sorts worldwide by Christian leaders and institutions to address this issue and chart a way out of this problem, and only time will tell if the 'solutions' indeed take us back on track or not. In the meantime, there is something we all can do to become part of the solution and not part of the problem.

In Luke 14:25-33, Jesus addressed the multitude of His followers with some rather challenging and radical words that must have come as a shock. Looking beyond the literal meaning of those words, we can sense Jesus' frustration and intention as He condensed the essence of true discipleship as 'all or nothing.'

On the cross of Golgotha, our Lord gave His **ALL** to redeem and reconnect us with God and make us beneficiaries of all the blessings that relationship offers. In response, we are called to give our **ALL**. Giving **ALL** is a fundamental characteristic of a covenantal relationship. Marriage serves as an example to this. In marriage it is expected that (traditionally) husband and wife, holding back nothing, give themselves completely to the other. This 'giving oneself completely' ensures not only the blossoming and maturing of their relationship but is also a guarantor of weathering the inevitable 'hiccups', troubles, and challenges along the road.

The 'giving **ALL**' indicates the cost of discipleship. If we don't give **ALL**, we cannot consider ourselves disciples. This is a radical concept, but this is Jesus' position on the matter!

So how do we give our **ALL**? We do so in instalments, in the daily living and walking in faith, in the way we engage people and situations, in the way we fellowship and serve as members of a community of faith.

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is not something we can do while holding back a part of ourselves and/or what we have, even though there are many who attempt this. Jesus wants 'wholehearted' followers, for He can work out His image and purpose through those only who give their **ALL**. In this respect He is a demanding Saviour and Lord, but it is completely for our own good. There is no other way to mature, grow, become Christ-like, and live a 'God-filled' fulfilled life.

Are we prepared for this? Are we willing to renew our 'vow' and say 'yes' to Jesus, holding nothing back, giving our **ALL**? Jesus rarely calls anyone to literally give up all what they have (although there are examples to this in Church history). Giving our **ALL** is expressed through our attitude, intention, willingness, and readiness to respond to Him in the small details of our daily lives. When we give our **ALL**, we are on the right track, doing what God intended for us and moving in the right direction as individuals and as the Church.

WILLIAM POUCHIE MEMORIAL VBS

*By Everton Garth Webster
(Youth Minister, North-East Charge)*

The William Pouchie Memorial Church (North Side) VBS was held from **Wednesday August 3rd** through **Sunday August 7th**, with the theme **Rocky Railway**. The VBS provided the children with the opportunity to discover that through life's ups and downs Jesus' power pulls them through. Children participated in Bible-learning activities, sang catchy songs, played games, and engaged in Bible adventures. They also listened to testimonies from children their age from other parts of the world.





South Sound United Church Mission Update – August 2022

By Ms. Sarah Ramkelawan

PART 2 – OVERSEAS MISSION

Wycliffe Bible Translators - Cayman

A Caymanian missionary couple (Jim and Karla Smith) live in Timor Leste (East Timor) working in bible translation, literacy, and Christian education.



They live with their daughter, Katherine, and twin grandchildren, Jamie, and Joanna. The two official languages in East Timor are Tetun and Portuguese with less than 1% of the population speaking Portuguese. Tetun is taught in schools, but most families speak their own language in their respective communities. Jim provides leadership in the local church

supporting the pastor, works with the ongoing training of pre-school teachers, and oversees the grandchildren's online schooling. Karla works with the Ministry of Education to develop various literacy programs.

According to the Smiths, "We are thankful the Lord has kept us going, even as our years add up. We are already at or close to what is considered "retirement" age by many, but the Lord has not yet released us from the work He has given us, and we are honored to continue to be part of building His Kingdom through our work."



The South Sound United Church also supports with regular contributions the work at the **Mount Olivet Boys Home** and **Pringle Home** in Jamaica.



As the new academic year begins let us remember in our prayers the schools, the students and all those involved in education.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 4 (Sunday) 13th Sunday after Pentecost



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

September 4, 2022
Rev. Otto Menko

Published by the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
292 Prospect Point Road
P.O. Box 1700 Grand Cayman KY1-1109 CAYMAN ISLANDS
Tel: 1 345 947-1963 Email: rdgs@ciucjci.com or cirmcinfo@gmail.com
Website: unitedchurch.org.ky