

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

FAMILY NEWS

Elmslie Memorial Charge

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Editorial: Summer's Here But What About The Kids?

Most of the schools close for the summer holidays this weekend. For the kids - or most of them - there is the prospect of two months of glorious freedom. For the parents - again, many of them - there is the challenge of what to do with them during this period, especially those mums and dads who have to go out to work. Many choose the summer to take their vacations, and there is also a great variety of activities available on the island.

Most of the churches have a week of VBS, and the United Church offers two summer camps in mid-July as well as VBS at the beginning of August which goes a little way to providing activities for the children and young people of the island. In addition, Elmslie has a music camp.

Many of us are familiar with the words of Jesus - from the King James Version: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." What Jesus is essentially saying is that I am interested in children as much as in adults. He was keen to welcome children because he wanted them to be part of his family - the Kingdom of God.

We should have that desire, too. The ministry to our children and young people is, marginally, the most important in the church. That is why it needs all the support and, yes, the prayers it can get from members of the church. We need to be praying regularly not only for the young people themselves but for those who work with them and teach them, often at great personal sacrifice. Summer camps and VBS are particularly important times. What is often seen at these is the fruit of faithful labour by Sunday school teachers and youth leaders during the year. The seed that they have been sowing in the hearts of our young

Anthony & Ellen are Certified



Anthony Bodden and Ellen McField graduated from the Certificate Class of CTLT on 25th June. Seen here with Mike Bowerman, one of their course tutors.

Continued on Page 3

Missions Weekend - Nations United in Christ

The annual Elmslie Charge Missions Weekend made its return the weekend of June 9th-11th following a hiatus as a result of the Covid pandemic. The church was blessed to have two speakers from Operation Mobilization (“OM”). **Mr. Paul Wheatley** is the Caribbean Executive Director of OM. Paul is from England but currently lives in the US and was accompanied by his son **Joshua**. **Mrs. Keitra Vilma**, accompanied by her husband **Jude**, is from the Bahamas and is the OM Regional Director for the Northern Caribbean.

The weekend kicked off with a service at 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening. Keitra shared her testimony about leaving banking to go into full time missions. Paul spoke on the theme, *Missions in Our Backyard*, looking at the book of Ruth and at Acts 17:22-31. The missions emphasis continued at the youth meeting immediately following, with a rich cultural experience focused on Saudi Arabia and India.



Saturday morning started with breakfast, followed by two workshops. The first on *Missions* was led by Keitra, while the second seminar on *Everyday Evangelism* was led by Paul. The sessions were excellent and well attended,



including invited guests from various nations and other churches on the island.

Paul spoke at the Sunday morning service while Keitra shared with the children as well as showing a video of the OM Ministry.

The closing service was a grand finale as we worshipped with our invited guests from Zimbabwe, India, the Philippines, Nicaragua, Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba and other nationalities that are a part of our congregation and community. We were challenged as Paul spoke on *Ordinary Believers Involved in God's Plan* for the Nations, using as his text, Acts 9:1-19. At this service we were touched by a powerful videoed testimony by **Nyoman Sumaryana**, one of our supported missionary who is working in his home island of Bali, Indonesia. Fellowship continued in the courtyard as we



Baby News



Isaac Michael Clark was welcomed into the world on Friday, 2nd June 2023, at 6:59pm, weighing 8 pounds. He is the grandson of Elmslie's **Ella Kaye Lockwood**.



enjoyed music and food from members of the various nations, many in their cultural dress. A feast of Cayman style dishes was prepared by Elmslie's ladies - even though the conch stew was prepared by a Texan!

There was an undeniable Christian unity as the different nations worshipped and shared together, many expressing their appreciation for the blessing, inspiration and challenge they received over the weekend.

The Global Mission Committee wishes to express its special thanks and appreciation to the planning team and all those who made this weekend a great success. To God be the Glory!

Betty Ann Mobley

Special July Birthdays
Happy Birthday to
Samuel Webb - 16 on the 4th
Adrian Mackay - 30 on the 18th
Cameron Brown - 16 on the 23rd
Patsy Seymour - 92 on the 24th

Myrtle Thomas celebrated her 86th birthday and Rev. Yvette offered a special prayer for her.



Summer's Here - Editorial (Cont'd from Pg. 1)

people often comes to fruition at these times. It is not unusual for a number to make their decision to follow Jesus during camp or VBS.

Please give all the support you can to this end. For many, it may not be possible in practical ways but everyone can pray. Who knows which children will choose to become Christians this summer? How can we know which of them will grow up to actively serve the Lord, and maybe become leaders in the church or society? Only God knows for sure, and so he invites us to be co-workers with him in this most important ministry.

Youth and Children's Summer Ministry How you can support our young people:

1. The Ann Rocket James Music Camp

Our Music and Worship Director is once again organising a music camp for those seven years and older during the first week of July. Starting on Tuesday, July 4th, and continuing until Saturday, the camp will be from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. weekdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday. It will be held in the church hall. All young people are invited to attend - even if you haven't played a musical instrument before. There is no charge.

2. United Church Summer Camps

The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council will host its annual Summer Day Camp starting with the children's camp for ages 8-12 from Wednesday, July 12th to Sunday, July 18th. The teens' camp for ages 13-17 will be from Wednesday, July 19th to Sunday July 23rd.

The theme for this year's camp is KETCH DI FYAH. The cost is KY\$125 per child. Camps will be held as usual at the Prospect Youth Centre, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.

Registration forms are available at the church doors or on-line.

Please support our two summer camps. You can do this in a number of ways:

- Encourage children you know – your own or those of friends – to attend
- Consider sponsoring a child
- Offer your help. To see how you might do so, contact **Youth Minister Roy** at 928-0085
- Visit the camp at some point
- Pray for the camp and campers, perhaps for specific ones. Pray especially that many will commit their lives to Christ.

Vacation Bible School Soon Come!

Elmslie Memorial's Vacation Bible School begins on Monday, July 31st, from 5:30 to 8:30 each evening until Friday. It is for ages 4-17. The theme: FOOD TRUCK PARTY...ON A ROLL WITH GOD.

Please support VBS in any way you can. First, encourage your children, or those others you know, to attend. Ask as to ways you might help. Visit from time to time so as to show your support. Contributions towards resources and food would also be welcome.

Most important of all, pray for the week of VBS. Pray especially that there will be children and young people who will give their lives to Christ. At the end of the day, that is the primary reason for holding the event.

Jathena Excels in Track



Congratulations to **Jathena McLaughlin** who won two medals at the BAYTAF (Bay Area Youth Track and Field) meet in Tampa, Florida the weekend of 27th - 28th May.

Home Groups and Adult Bible Class

Small groups will be “on vacation” through the months of July and August, unless individual ones wish to meet. The Sunday morning Adult Bible Class will not meet during July but plans to resume in August. Please keep your ears and eyes open for more information on these.

CPHS Student Request Letters Needed

Those that will be needing letters for your child/children for the member discount at Cayman Prep and High School, please send your request to the church office as soon as possible. Those who can benefit are as follows:

- * Parents who are members in good standing of United Church congregations. Adherents do not qualify.

- * Students who are themselves members of the Congregation.

Members in good standing are those that have not been placed on the inactive list. A person becomes inactive if they have missed communion for 12 consecutive months.

July Wedding Anniversary

Happy Anniversary to **Keriann & Graydon Ebanks** who will celebrate five years of marriage on 28th July!

Haiti Sponsorship Reminder

Sponsor a child in Haiti for school at a cost of CI\$200 (US\$240) for each child. You can pay this by placing the money in the regular Sunday offering but in an envelope clearly marked “Haiti Sponsorship” [envelopes are at the doors in church], by letting **Diana** or **Janet** in the Elmslie Church office have it, by sending it on-line to the Elmslie mission account or by mailing it to the office at Box 494, KYI-1106. All donations must be in no later than the end of July as the money covers the academic year which starts in September. Donations received will be sent in August. Payment can be made online. Mission Accounts are: CI 3416615....US 3331512, First Caribbean, checking.

Aileen Macdonald



Mrs. Aileen Macdonald, probably the oldest member of Elmslie at the time, passed away on May 30th at the age of 101. Originally from Canada, she and her husband **Jim**, along with their family, arrived in Cayman in 1960. Jim was one of the founder members of the law firm now known as Maples and Calder. Her service of thanksgiving was held on June 10th, attended by family who live here and in Canada, as well as a contingent from the Pink Ladies with whom she served for many years.

We offer our condolences to her many friends and family.

Family Fun Day - 24th June 2023

