

FAMILY NEWS

Elmslie Memorial Charge

Volume 217, June 2023



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Website:

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Service Times:

Sundays
Elmslie Memorial United
10:30am

Robert Young United
583 Crewe Road
8:45am

What Makes Us Human?

The psalmist David asks a question in Psalm 8: "What is man?" Of course, in today's world, that wording would be politically incorrect and versions like the NIV express it: "What is mankind?" - and in the next line calls them "human beings."

The context for his question is the majesty of God seen throughout the earth and in the vastness of the universe. Humans are so infinitesimally small by comparison but - and this is the point David is seeking to make - so much greater than all other creatures. "You made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour." With regard to all other creatures, humans have not only been made different and greater but have been given responsibility as "rulers over" them. We are the 'crown' of God's creation.

This, of course, fits with the statement made in Genesis 1. "God created mankind in his own image. In the image of God he created them." It is the fact that we are made in God's image that makes us different and of special significance - that makes us humans and not merely animals.

So, what is this distinctive? The answer could be lengthy but let me briefly suggest four factors - and there are others - that are distinctive of humans as opposed to other creatures.

1. We are spiritual beings with a soul or, to put it another way, humans are intrinsically 'religious'. Even those who deny the fact, who claim to have no beliefs, actually have a sense that there is something more to life. There is innate within us a sense of eternity which causes us to ask questions like, "Where did I come from?" "Why am I here?" "Where am I going?" Animals don't ask these kinds of questions! Your dog or cat is not interested in discovering the meaning to life.

2. We alone can have a relationship with God. This is the natural consequence of being spiritual beings. In point of fact, all humans are worshipping

beings, and if they do not worship the true God, they will find other gods or other idols, such as pleasure, wealth, power or sex - things - whether they admit to this or not. These rarely satisfy ultimately and therefore we can identify with St. Augustine who famously said that "our hearts are restless until we find our rest in God." Only in him can people find true satisfaction and meaning to life.

3. Further to this is an innate sense of eternity - the inborn instinct that this life is not the end. Lamentations 3:11 states that "(God) has... set eternity in the human heart." The sense of 'something more' after we die might be expressed in as diverse a way as the Christian belief of going to Heaven, the spirit world of animists or the Hindu belief in reincarnation.

Human beings instinctively treat the dead with respect and they do all in their power to prevent death, even that of someone who has, for example, been a mass murderer. Most people, therefore, especially Christians, recoil at the thought of euthanasia and have serious problems with abortion, believing the unborn baby to be a human person. Few people regard the 'putting down' of an animal in the same way.

4. This leads to, perhaps, the clearest distinctive between humans and animals. What we do have in common are instincts; what makes us different is the ability to override them. We have a moral dimension. We have been given freedom to make choices. Every human being is born with a conscience and this enables them to early recognize right from wrong. It is a God-given ability. As a result, humans are able to make moral choices - to choose right and wrong - and are accountable for their behaviour. Animals are not.

The Bible is clear that while the moral image of God was not destroyed, it was marred by the Fall when Adam sinned. Sin formed part of our spiritual DNA - what we call original sin.

Cont'd. on Pg. 4

Called to Serve

The 43rd Synod of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands was held in Grand Cayman 23rd - 30th April 2023. Members of the Elmslie Church family were called upon to serve, and they gave of their time, talent and resources in the following areas:

PARTICIPATED IN WORSHIP SERVICES

Members of the Choir, Usher Team and Musicians

Reader - Samuel Webb, **Bible Bearer** - Aaron Allen, **Dancers** - Lynn Allen and Lisa O'Neil

CIRMC - SYNOD PLANNING COMMITTEE

Rev. L. Christopher Mason, Antonio Sanchez, Roy McGregor and Ann Marie Mason

BEAUTIFICATION

Painting & refurbishing- Thomas 'Tally' Myles & team, Lloyd McField and Anibal Archbold
Sanctuary - Floral arrangements - Alex O'Neil, **Plants** - Evelyn Rocket

PROTOCOL MATTERS - Linda Rankine-Baker

MEALS FOR DELEGATES / FOOD ITEMS FOR SYNOD

Terri Merren & family, Mavis Morris & family, Anola Smith and Maria Burton

HOSTS FOR DELEGATES - Betty Ann Mobley, Alex O'Neil, Joan McField, Mavis Morris and Leonay Williams

REFRESHMENT HOSTS - Susy McField, Carol Braggs and Alex O'Neil

DRINKS - Brian Barnes, Ann Marie Webb, Rodney Webb, Gabriella Webb and Joan McField

MODERATOR'S RECEPTION - Linda McField Bodden, Susan Whittaker, Jennelle McLaughlin, Diana Bodden, Tony Bodden and Tony McField

MEDICAL - Dr. Elizabeth McLaughlin

PHOTOGRAPHY - Terri Merren

TRANSPORTATION - Roy McGregor

MUSIC - Antonio Sanchez

TECHNOLOGY - Antonio Sanchez, Austin Ferguson, Eric Vassell and Emmanuel Macias

SERVERS AND SUPPORT - Harriet Vassell, Francella Myles, Lorna Reid, Barbara Bodden, Ellen McField, Mary Barnes, Noria Eccleston, Chrysannae Mason, Zoe Myles-Guardado, Rolphie Braggs, Nickerson Godfrey, Arnet Martin and Amari Watler

We use this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all who participated in making the Synod a success. To God be the glory.

Time Capsule Placed



On 19th April 2023, **Rev. Chris Mason** placed and sealed a time capsule into the newly built plinth commemorating the 100th anniversary of the building of the Elmslie sanctuary.



ELMSLIE MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
presents a

**MISSIONS
WEEKEND** | **JUNE
9 - 11
2023**

"NATIONS UNITED FOR CHRIST"

*Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations".
Matthew 28:19*

GUEST SPEAKERS

Mr. Paul Wheatley, OM Caribbean Executive Director
Mrs. Keitra Vilma, Regional Director Northern Caribbean

MAIN EVENTS

All events will be held at the Elmslie Memorial United Church

FRI Opening Worship Service @ 7pm - "Missions in our Backyard"
Youth Group @ 8:30pm

Breakfast & Workshop @ 8:30am - 11:30am
• Session 1 - Missions
• Session 2 - Everyday Evangelism

SUN Worship Service @ 10:30am
Worship & Fellowship @ 6:00pm - "A Heart for the Nations"

SAT

Registration is required for the Breakfast on Saturday, June 10th

Please scan the QR code to register online or
Contact the Elmslie Church Office at (345) 949-7923

Happy 88th Birthday to Uriah Clarke



Mr. Uriah Clarke, pictured on his birthday with his daughter, **Dahlia** (left) and wife, **Jacqueline** (right), following the service on Sunday morning, 28th May.

Nyoman's Outreach to His Community

Nyoman Sumaryana is a Christian pastor living on the island of Bali in Indonesia, a predominately Hindu society. In order to reach out to his

neighbourhood with the gospel, he and his wife have, for several years, offered English classes to children who are also taught the Christian faith at the same time. This also attracts the parents, a number of whom have become Christians.

He has also built two 'houses of prayer', with a third one currently underway. These allow the Christians of the

village to have a community centre as well as serving as a church because their Hindu neighbours have effectively ostracized them for being Christians. They hold social and children's activities, and marriages and wakes will also be held in them as their Hindu neighbours won't allow Christians to hold these in the community centre.

A further way of reaching his community is by digging wells to provide clean and drinkable water to the villages as this is very difficult to obtain otherwise and the river is dirty. This service includes building

water tanks. In one photo (top left), he is seen breaking up the temple gods at his father-in-law's house following the latter's conversion to Christ in order to build a tank there. His oldest son **Ricco** (pictured above) is at seminary in Jakarta and has recently started his practical preaching in several churches in Java.

Elmslie has been reaching out for many years with its prayers and financial resources. Right now, the cost for the wells and water tanks has added up to a little over US\$2500. Please continue to pray for his very strategic ministry and, perhaps, consider making a donation to help with the expenses incurred by this outreach to his community. Funds can be directed to the church office or mission committee, clearly marked as to their intended purpose.

Mount Olivet Boys' Home

A new board of management was appointed by the Synod of the United Church for the Mt. Olivet Boys' Home effective 1st May 2023, to serve for the Synodical period 2023-2025. Longstanding member, **Ms. Sophia Morgan, JP**, was appointed the new Board Chairman, succeeding **Mr. Conway Chambers** who now serves in the capacity of Vice Chairman. The change in chairmanship was due to the constitutional tenureship of Mr. Chambers. Ms. Morgan previously served as Finance Committee Chairperson.

The Home under the Directorship of **Mrs. Kimberley Elliott-Williamson** currently has thirty-three (33) residents. The daily operation of the home continues to experience financial challenges due to the harsh economic environment and the dwindling income from subvention, contributions and donations. Notwithstanding, the spiritual, psychological and physical welfare of the boys remain the top priorities. As a consequence, the first order of business of the new board is to convene a retreat on Saturday, 10th June 2023 to formulate short and mid-term strategies and action plans to improve the overall operations of the home.

Sophia Morgan, JP, Chairman of the Board

Walford Visits Elmslie



Walford Thompson paid a brief visit to Cayman on Sunday, 20th May, and took the opportunity to greet the church, thanking them for their support and updating them on his church's efforts in meeting the needs of those who were affected by the volcanic eruption in St. Vincent two years ago.



Dr. Mark Minott, at Elmslie's organ. Dr. Mark travelled to Cayman specifically for John Macmillan's service, having worked with him in the office as music director after which he left Cayman 10 years ago. He now lives in London but is teaching at Hull University.

Rev. Mason Recognised for 30 Years of Service



We congratulate **Rev. Chris Mason** (pictured above with the **Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott**) who, at the 43rd Synod held in April, was recognised and presented with a plaque for 30 years of ordained service with the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.



Rev. Anna-Kay Henry-McGregor, delivering the message at Elmslie on Sunday, 30th April. Rev. McGregor is the wife of Elmslie's Youth Minister, Roy McGregor.

What Makes Us Human? (Cont'd. from Pg. 1)

Animals are not moral creatures and cannot 'sin'. They act purely by instinct and, yes, in some animals, these instincts can be trained. But it is still instinct.

There is much else which could be said. However, this is sufficient for us to recognise the 'godlikeness' in every human being. It reminds us that every human being, as a result, has value and significance in the sight of God. This is equally true of those whose lives, to use Paul's words in Romans I, are 'godless' and 'wicked.' We need to remember this fact from two perspectives: one, we must treat everyone with dignity and respect, regardless of how we feel about them, regardless of how much we disagree with their views or behaviour. When Jesus told us to love our neighbours as ourselves, he did not delineate one neighbour from another. In fact, he told us to love our enemies, too!

Two, we need to recognise our own sense of worth before God. Many Christians have a low self-image. They feel they have no significance and wonder how other people, let alone God, could love them. Yes, sometimes it is others who make us feel this way, for whatever reason. But we have been made in God's image and therefore have significance and worth in his sight, to the extent that he sent Jesus to the cross to die for us so we could spend eternity with him. There is no place for pride but there is equally no call to put ourselves down. We may feel unworthy before God but we are never worthless because our worth is based simply on God's love.

Michael Bowerman


"Elmslie Memorial United Church"

SAVE THE DATE

FAMILY FUNDAY

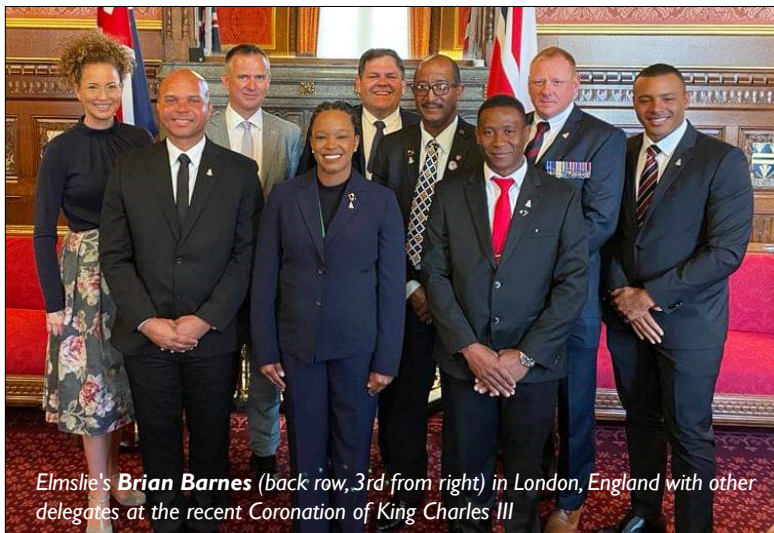
SATURDAY, 24TH JUNE

2023

VENUE - PUBLIC BEACH

MORE DETAILS TO COME!





*Elmslie's **Brian Barnes** (back row, 3rd from right) in London, England with other delegates at the recent Coronation of King Charles III*

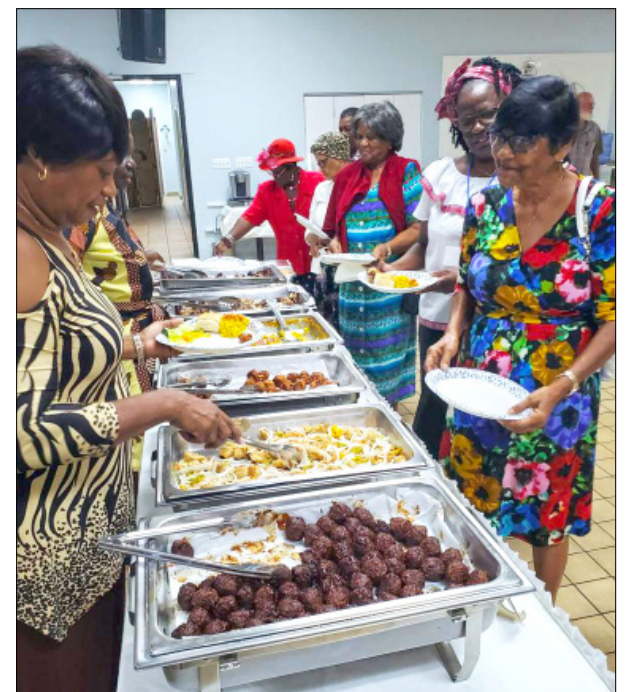


*L-R: **Jennelle McLaughlin, Halle Challenger, Justice Ramoon, Gabriella Webb, Ann Marie Webb and Shana McLaughlin** at a Fish Fry which was held on 6th May to raise needed funds for the Youth Department.*

23rd April - Opening Service of 43rd Synod



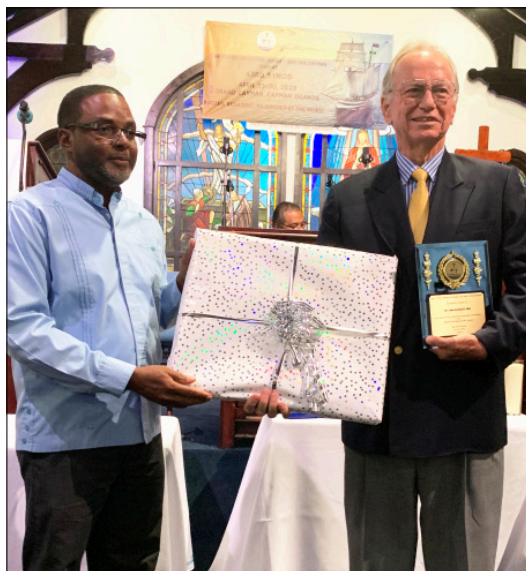
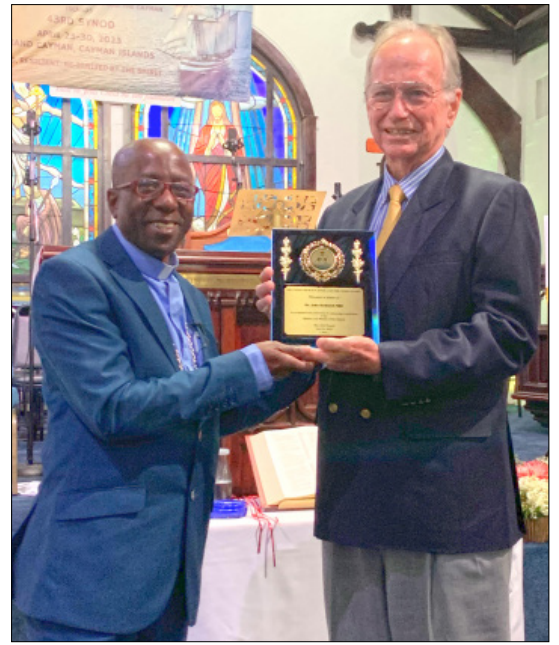
Monday, 24th April - Moderator's Reception



Tuesday, 25th April - Celebration of Life & Witness



Wednesday, 26th April - Public Lecture



43rd Synod 2023 - Group Photos

