



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

THE FAMILY NEWS

George Town Charge

Volume 182, July 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

Due to the national crisis of the COVID-19 virus, the George Town Charge will continue with the suspension of all worship and programme activities that occur on-site until further advised.

After prayerful deliberation, meetings, discussion with medical personnel and Government guidelines, the congregational boards are increasingly convinced that this decision is the most responsible course of action for the health of our congregations and the greater Cayman community. What does this mean for the ministries of the George Town Charge?

The minister, elders, ministry leaders and staff will continue to minister in these uncertain times.

• We will continue to be engaged in the study of and encouragement from God's Word through our small groups virtual gathering and our Wednesday Zoom Bible studies in

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10:30am and 6:30pm

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9:00am



Mrs. Olive Miller

Much has already been said by the church and in the media about this great Christian lady who left us to join the Lord she loved and who has been part of the Cayman scene for almost 75 years.

From the time she became a Christian as a child in her English home in Essex, **Miss Olive** sought to learn more about him and how she could follow him. She once said, "I was taught early two essential principles about the Christian life. One, that everyone has a special gift - not a natural ability - and two, I must do the best to develop that gift for serving God. I early discovered mine was in the area of administration and I was given a lot of opportunities to develop it." Leadership was clearly her other gift. She lived out the Lord's command: "Don't just listen to God's Word; you must do what it says." And in later life, when asked for one piece of advice to share, she stated it in two words: "Trust God!"

With the Lord's guidance, her accomplishments are legendary but she often expressed her amazement that the Lord repeatedly put in her path challenging opportunities to exercise her gifts, such as in teaching at the Cayman High School, establishing Girls' Brigade on the island and becoming a Government Information

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Do Black Lives Matter?

Absolutely!

The protests in America and, indeed, in many other countries, are a necessary and welcome response to historic and continuing injustice and discrimination towards people of colour and other marginalized groups. It is important that everyone is not only aware but that steps be taken to address the inequities evident in many societies.

Much has already been said on the subject. However, for the purpose of this short article, a brief Biblical perspective on the implications of being human might be helpful, and to say why black lives do matter, along with those of every human being.

The foundational principle is found in Genesis 1 where it is stated that “God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (v.27).

What does this imply? Humans are different from all other creatures. Whereas creatures are governed entirely by their instincts, the “image of God” is seen in that we have a freedom to make choices which they do not have. Further, we have the ability to know right from wrong, and to love others with an ‘agape’ love. There is a lot more but sufficient to say that God has placed in every human a soul and the ability to have a relationship with him.

But this goes a step further, something implied in the same chapter in Genesis when God addressed the humans he had made by saying, “... Fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground” (v.28). Later, David the psalmist, in reflecting on God’s amazing creation, asks the question, “What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?” (Psalm 8:4). He then makes the statement: “You have made them a little lower than the angels and *crowned them with glory and honour*” (v.5, my emphasis), and repeats what God said in Genesis regarding the role and responsibility they have as “rulers over the works of (his) hands” (v.6). The key here, though, is in the words: God “*crowned them with glory and honour.*”

What this tells us, if nothing else, is that every human being has inherent worth to God. The children’s song reminds us, “Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in his

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Olive Miller (Cont'd. from Page 1)

Officer. She helped start the Pink Ladies and was instrumental in the building of the Pines – and there are many other initiatives she took by which to serve her Lord in society and through her work in the church, even without an extensive formal education. She often said she was not a trained teacher – but she was a teacher in every sense of the word. Apart from her involvement with the Cayman Prep and High School from its inception in 1949, she taught Sunday



school and, of course, ran the Girls’ Brigade. She was involved in many other areas of church ministry, from serving as an elder, being an invaluable part of the Global Missions Committee to being the Happy Seniors’ representative for Elmslie.

Miss Olive had her fair share of grief and challenges, which she faithfully faced, no matter how difficult, with prayer and the strength God gave her.

More than anything, she was persevering in her love for others. Many are indebted to her and valued her friendship. She was a friend to old and young, the influential and those relatively unknown. She never forgot a name or a person, and everyone she encountered had a story she wanted to hear. That person was very important to Olive at that moment of time.

As was indicated by the General Secretary in his tribute, “Miss Olive has left a strong legacy of service while significantly contributing to nation building and positively influencing lives. In honour of her many and varied contributions, she was the recipient of numerous church, civic and national awards.” There are few who have lived in the Cayman any length of time who didn’t know Olive Miller. It might be truly said that she was one of the best known and most recognizable members of our Cayman community.

The motto of the Cayman Prep and High, the school she helped to found, is taken from Matthew 5:16: “Let Your Light So Shine”. The full verse in the New International Version states, “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Miss Olive’s life reflected that motto. Her light shone brightly as she strove to do all that she could to care for and improve people’s lives. She loved God and she walked with him, and her life reflected this. Her life was, indeed, one ‘full of good works.’ But, more importantly, she sought to let her light shine for the stated purpose in that verse. It was never to draw attention to herself. It was not to promote her personal reputation. Rather, it was so that as people saw her “good deeds” they would give praise to God. She served to honour her heavenly Father. That was her desire and purpose.

We will miss her dearly.

Mount Olivet Boys Home

A recent report covering the first four months of the year was issued by the **Mount Olivet Boys Home**. This below contains some items from it.

The Home presently has 41 boys in residence. Five new boys were registered since the beginning of the year. There are 14 additional youngsters who are in rented apartments, in full time employment or boarded at their respective institutions. Two boys were reunited with their families.

The staff complement remains the same except for **Miss Morisha Stewart** who is working temporarily as an administrative assistant.

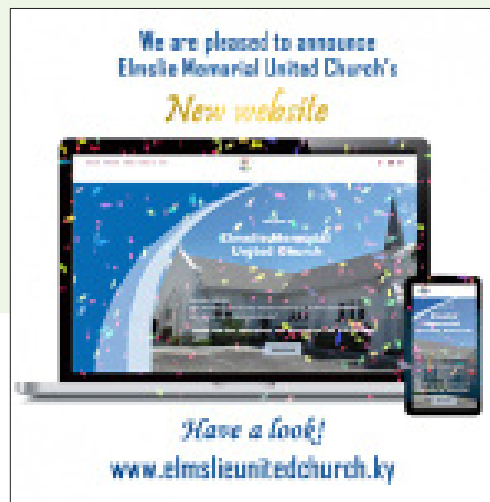
The construction of a new building to accommodate the boys has slowed down, due to the COVID-19 virus. They are now in the process of putting on the roof. However, there are a number of projects which continue to progress. The greenhouse at the home, funded by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, is now being prepared to cultivate another crop of sweet peppers. The Home Tea Plant Project is doing well and they are in the process of reaping peppermints for sale to the factory. The Barber Shop is completed and is now in use. Samaritan's Feet visited the home and provided sandals to all the boys.

The overall welfare of the boys is of paramount importance. Because of the virus, the boys are unable to attend church services. However, organized devotions and praise and worship take place. Two boys are benefiting from counselling services at the Ridgemount United Church on a continuous basis and they are seeing an improvement in their general conduct both at the home and at school.

Unfortunately, the older boys' visits to the Senior Citizens' Home in Mandeville has stopped due to the virus but will continue when it is safe to do so.

As everywhere, the boys are unable to go to school due to the virus. However, work from teachers is sent to the office for them to engage in various subject areas.

Please remember the work and ministry of our boys' home in Jamaica in your prayers.



Haiti Child Sponsorship 2020

For several years, the George Town Charge has been sponsoring children in Haiti. The Haiti Sponsorship Programme was established by missionary **Sam Rice** in the Dariol area of southern Haiti where he was working for many years.

He has stressed that the money received is able to provide not only an education



but, equally as important, one in Christian schools where the children will hear the gospel. These 'private' schools get no help from the government and very little from the parents so your money helps to pay the teachers and keep the schools open. Sam has written, "The schools serve as a base for evangelization... Thus two crucial needs are met at one time. One by one, child by child, we are helping to change the demographics of Haiti over time, and people are coming out of the darkness and into the light of the gospel."

Each sponsor is paired with a child who sends a coloured picture and note of thanks, usually twice a year.

You may be someone who has supported a child in the past. You may be someone who has never previously done so. The Global Missions Committee is asking if you would support a child – or more than one – this year. We are aware of the financial restraints many are experiencing due to COVID-19

but recognize, too, that the situation in Haiti is probably more difficult than ever.

The cost is \$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", 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. We would like all donations in no later than the end of July as the money covers the academic year which starts in September.

E.A.T.

The George Town Charge received an initial anonymous donation which enabled the establishment of an Emergency Assistance Team (E.A.T.) at the beginning of April. More recently, there has been a further donation to the fund. This team consists of **Rev Chris**, Administrator, **Janet Macmillan**, Elders, **Joan McField**, **Anthony Bodden** and **William Walmsley**, Secretary **Cathy Gomez** and facilitator, **Richard Trull**.

The team arranges for the purchase, bagging and distribution of food and coupons to congregants and community members in need on a bi-weekly basis. Encouraging Christian messages are also provided along with opportunities to pray.

Bagging and distribution are presently undertaken by **Joan McField** and **Anthony Bodden** and, up until recently, **Lloyd McField** based on letters of curfew exemption granted by Government, and by our pastor.

The team currently makes distributions to approximately 80 persons. These include some benefactors of our Pantry Ministry which had to be suspended due to the COVID-19 curfew, as well as some of our shut-ins.

If you know of someone in need, please advise Rev. Chris so they can be added on a confidential basis to our list. If

Do Black Lives Matter? (Cont'd. from Pg. 3)

sight." Every life is sacred. This divine value afforded to every person requires that we treat all others, regardless of who they are, with dignity and respect. Black lives matter. So does every life.

There is much that could be said to expand this but let me suggest two or three practical things. Several times we are told in Scripture to love our neighbours as ourselves. A neighbour is anyone put in our path whom we can help. We cannot discriminate as to who that might be. As Christians this love can take many forms: practical help, a listening ear, ensuring justice, speaking up for someone without a voice, praying for a person and any other number of ways. The greatest act of love we as Christians can show, however, is the sharing of the 'bad news, good news' that that 'neighbour' is a sinner under God's judgement, but God offers forgiveness and salvation through the death of his Son.

The truth of the matter is that leaders cannot intrinsically change society. Governments can legislate – and should – but are unable to change the human heart. Only God can. Change must come from within, something that only happens slowly. Throughout history, Christians who have experienced this have been able to change society because "God's love has been poured out into (their) hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to (them)" (Romans 5:5). So, every one of us must remember that black lives do matter; in fact, that every life matters, for everyone is made in the image of God. And we must never forget that God's greatest desire is that everyone is restored into a relationship with him.

Michael Bowerman

you would like to and are able to make a donation to our Emergency Assistance Team fund to benefit those in need, please contact Janet Macmillan who can give you electronic deposit instructions or arrange to receive your cheque.

Please pray that this initiative will honour our Lord and meet both the spiritual and physical needs of those who receive assistance.

Pastor's Desk (Cont'd. from Pg. 1)

- The ministries and teams in both congregations will be reactivated for the ministry and mission of the church to be enabled.
- The minister, office staff and leadership will be available via phone-calls and email, and will continue to work from home.
- The congregational boards will continue to work on caring for our elderly (whose demographic is most susceptible to the virus) and putting together immediate plans of action for all ministry areas for the purpose of remaining connected to our church family in such a time as this.

As your pastor, I want to encourage you to remember that we lean on the living God as God's people have through the ages, as Isaiah attests when God says: "Fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand!" So...

- Keep praying for our community;
- Keep disciplined in hygienic hand-washing practices;
- Keep trusting in God!

Know that I continue in prayer for you – and the leadership is praying earnestly for the protection and healing (as needed) of our community, as we seek the welfare of our country.

Happy Wedding Anniversary to

Nikki & Chris McCoy - 20 years on the 1st
and

Sheena & Mark Thompson - 25 years on the 8th

Special July Birthdays

Happy Birthday to

Xaria Deosaran - 16 on the 18th

Nikki McCoy - 50 on the 14th

