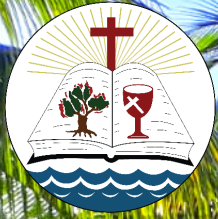


The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands



THE FAMILY NEWS

George Town Charge

Volume 193, June 2021

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www.bethesdacounselling.ky

Service Times:

Sundays
Elmslie Memorial United
10:30am
Prayer Service last Sunday of each
month 6:30pm

South Sound United
44 South Sound Road
9:00am

From the Pastor's Desk

Pentecost is a Greek word meaning '50', so we celebrate Pentecost fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus. Forty days he taught and encouraged his followers, then after his Ascension, they waited another ten days for his gift of the Holy Spirit. In ancient Israel, Pentecost was the celebration of the wheat harvest, fifty days after the slaying of the Passover lamb. Since biblical times, the Jewish celebration called 'Shavuot' also commemorates the day the Ten Commandments were revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai.

The disciples were in Jerusalem celebrating this holiday together and waiting for the power from on high that Jesus had promised. Suddenly the Spirit of God came upon them with the rush of a violent wind and something like tongues of fire which rested on them. What an awesome and perhaps frightening thing to have happened!

The world would never be the same again. In Acts 2, we read that all those present, Parthians, Medes, Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia and elsewhere - what a diverse bunch! - all heard the gospel being proclaimed in their own language. It was a miracle.

The power of the Holy Spirit... Many are afraid to think of the consequences of allowing the Spirit to take control of their lives. They are afraid that they will not be able to do those things they have always enjoyed doing. Some are afraid they will be asked to do things they are afraid to do, like witnessing for Jesus Christ - you know, evangelism. Others might even be afraid of becoming like those Pentecostals, speaking in tongues or rolling in the aisles.

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To Be - Or Not to Be - Vaccinated

By Pastor Alson Ebanks (used with permission)

I write this for two reasons. First I hope it will encourage my fellow Evangelical Christians to remember, as the Psalmist stated, that "our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death" (Psalm 68:20). I will state categorically that every discovery that has saved human lives is from God. Science is not the purview of atheists; science belongs to God, the Creator and sustainer of the universe (and the sustainer of life).

The second reason that I feel compelled to write this is because I am becoming increasingly embarrassed by some of the chatter that I hear in the Evangelical camp — which in essence is just an echo chamber — people choosing to speak and listen to only that which they are already convinced of. If that attitude had prevailed during the days of **William Jenner** and **Louis Pasteur**, where would the science of immunology be today?

At times I hear many of my fellow Christians complaining that people in certain camps ignore science in order to promote their sexual ideology, for example. But this is exactly what I see

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Sam Rice Writes from Pittsburgh, Pa.

I would love to come to visit you in Cayman but as I am a 24/7 caregiver for my mom that seems unlikely at the present.

The seven schools we aid in Haiti with monthly assistance from people such as you in Cayman are doing well. The \$240 per child is much appreciated as we have lost sponsors over the years as attrition does happen.



The radio station in Haiti had me in tears as I listened to the many texts they receive, constantly asking for prayers and thanking God for Radio Semence FM - now about 10 years old. You can listen by downloading the Tunein app and searching for Radio Semence FM.

Two youth retreats were held during the three-day Mardi Gras period and these went very well, with

new commitments on the part of many of the kids.

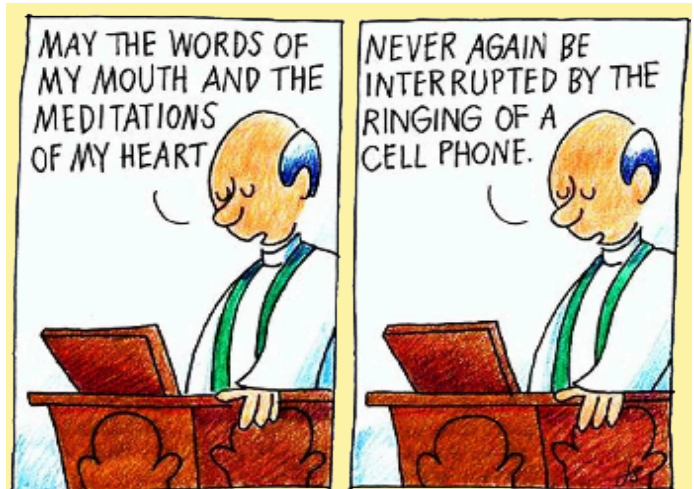
Haiti remains crime ridden and continues with periods of political strife. Farmers are always on the edge of survival due to the uncertain weather conditions. The clinic in Dariol continues to receive patients though not in the numbers as when I was there.

The young men and women I had discipled are doing a wonderful job running the ministries. They have a vision for serving Christ as they serve their people! I am so thankful. **John Denis** from Haiti is now a member of our Gospel Growers Board. He is a wonderfully gifted young man, and has chosen to remain in his country to further the cause of Christ. We are in the process of forming an all Haitian advisory board in Haiti, as well!

They're Back!



On Sunday, 23rd May, Elmslie and South Sound United churches welcomed **Rev. Chris Mason** back to their pulpits after seven long weeks of absence. As many know, Rev. Chris had returned to Jamaica on bereavement leave following the sudden passing of his older brother, **Lt. Colonel Raphael Mason**, only to be detained when Covid hit the household, which resulted in weeks of quarantine. We are happy to have Rev. Chris back along with his wife, **Anne Marie**, and their daughter, **Chrissyanae**, all of whom have been missed. At the end of the Sunday service at Elmslie, Rev. Chris thanked those who stood in for him during his time away - particularly **Roy McGregor, Antonio Sanchez, Mike Bowerman**, as well as others who delivered the Sunday sermons, and the elders who held everything together in his absence. On 20th May, while still in quarantine, Rev. Chris celebrated his birthday. We are thankful for him and wish him many happy returns!



To Be - Or Not to Be (Cont'd. from Pg. 1)

when it comes to the all-too-common attitude among Evangelicals with reference to vaccinations - in particular, the COVID-19 vaccines. I read somewhere recently that in the US the largest group that is resisting COVID-19 vaccination is Evangelicals.

From what I have detected, Cayman and much of the Caribbean have caught the "American evangelical bug", symptoms of which include the belief in some conspiracy theory associated with vaccination, distrust of **Bill Gates**, and the rather naive expectation that there should be no adverse results associated with any world-wide vaccination.

Therefore, on the one hand, local Evangelical and other conservative Christians express their distress that those who wish to promote non-Christian views of human sexuality are ignoring science in preference of their feelings, while on the other hand many of us operate along the same lines when it comes to COVID-19 vaccination.

Will YOU Sponsor a Child to go to School in Haiti?



If you haven't sponsored a child already, it's not too late. There are so many in need. Donations are being collected through July 2021.

KYD200 or USD240 per child (which can be paid as a single sum or in installments.) This supports a child in rural Haiti allowing them to get an education at a Christian school where they can hear the gospel as well as receiving an education.

Place your donation in the offering in a clearly marked envelope. Envelopes are available at the church doors.

against Tetanus. And over the years I myself have received multiple vaccinations for all sorts of pathogens. In reality, each year more than 10 million vaccinations are administered to American infants (those one year old and under). Thankfully, because of vaccination as a medical tool, smallpox - a disease that caused fatalities in 30-40% of cases - has now been declared as eradicated.

But vaccines are not perfect; even if they were, human bodies and immune systems are not. So despite its effectiveness, there were adverse events associated with the smallpox vaccine. According to some sources, an average of 28 persons out of every million who received the smallpox vaccine had life-threatening reactions to it, with a mortality rate of one to two people per million.

This reality of adverse events associated with vaccinations in general must be appreciated in the greater reality that smallpox, polio, and many other vaccines are the single greatest life-saving medical intervention and invention in human history.

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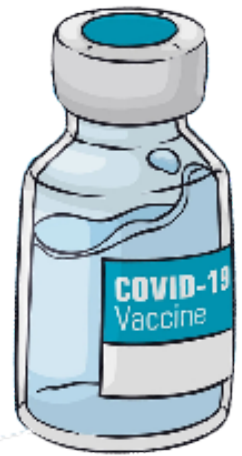
I assume that by now most of us will have read and heard enough about vaccines to know what they are. As a Christian pastor, I believe that since God is in the business of saving lives, and not taking them, that he chose two committed Christian men to bring about the initial gains in vaccination and immunology that we enjoy today. We know from history that the first human vaccines against viruses were based using weaker or "weakened" (attenuated) viruses to generate immunity.

The smallpox vaccine used cowpox, a poxvirus that was similar enough to smallpox to protect against it but usually didn't cause serious illness. This breakthrough was at the hands of Edward Jenner, a committed follower of Christ. Rabies was the first virus attenuated in a lab to create a vaccine for humans. The breakthrough for this can be credited to Luis Pasteur, the celebrated French microbiologist and chemist, honoured as "the father of bacteriology". Pasteur was a devout Christian, whose work set the stage for some of the greatest advances in medical science.

I am not a doctor, so I look to doctors when I need medical advice and action. But I never forgot the name of **William Jenner** from my days in elementary school, where we were taught about his discovery - one that has saved multiplied millions of lives. Some things have changed from Jenner's days. I have read that vaccines are now made using several different processes.

The most common method until today has been to make a vaccine that contained either live viruses that have been weakened or altered so as not to cause illness, or inactivated or killed viruses, as well as inactivated toxins for bacterial diseases. A recent development, and one directly related to the COVID-19 vaccine, are vaccines using mere segments of the disease-causing virus.

I recall that immediately after my daughter was born (I was in the birthing room), the nurse took her aside and administered some sort of vaccination. I believe it was



Cayman Keswick 2021

All One In Christ

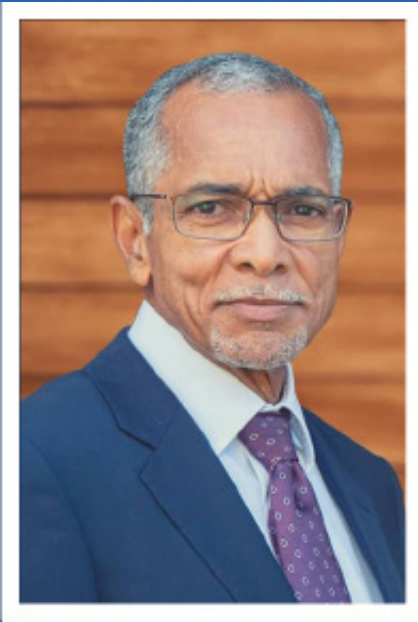
Sunday, 13th June

6:00pm

First Baptist Church

SPEAKER:

Pastor Alson Ebanks



*Childcare provided

*Refreshments afterwards
in the breezeway

Missions around the World

The Global Missions Committee plans to present an informative evening on missions twice a year. The objective is to bring knowledge of how God is moving in the nations and to explore how he is calling us to be a part of it. If you have a heart for missions or would like to know more, come on out on Sunday, 30th May 2021, at 6:00 - 7:30 pm at Elmslie Church Hall. Please note: Some videos might not be suitable for young children.



If you have any questions, you may contact **Betty Ann Mobley** at 516-3679.

Special Wedding Anniversaries



Congratulations to

Joan & Dale Ramoon -

40 years on 17th June

Christy & Leon Whittaker -

5 years on 18th June

To Be - Or Not to Be (Cont'd. from Pg. 3)

Thanks be to God for his great mercy. I declare with the psalmist, "Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death."

And I now encourage my Christian brothers and sisters to celebrate the fact that science is of God, as is medicine, as is vaccination, and in faith trust him to preserve your life when you act unselfishly to be vaccinated. And, by the way, I wouldn't worry about receiving the "mark of the Beast" by way of vaccination any more than I would suggest that someone could receive the "mark of Christ" accidentally.

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

It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit will come upon us mightily so that we will be given power to do God's work in this world in order to make us mighty witnesses for Jesus Christ and so bring healing, peace, and reconciliation wherever we go.

May God's Holy Spirit move in our midst to unify us and help us in our God-given task of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in our communities. All Christians - all followers of Jesus - are called to respect rather than suspect one another. Even though we may not always think alike, may we with the help of God's Holy Spirit together proclaim and embody God's love.

Special June Birthdays

Happy Birthday to

Tinesha McLean - 25 on the 12th

Joan McField - 60 on the 24th