



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

THE FAMILY NEWS

George Town Charge

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From the Pastor's Desk

In our current culture, there is much uncertainty about the future. Fears often trigger other emotions, including despair and anger, and much of it is played out on social media. In truth, there is much to fear in our lives and in our world. The unknown future can seem dark and filled with danger. We wonder if we can handle it. We wonder how we can endure. From our children's health to paying for school, from job security to who runs the country, from prayers unanswered to relationships under strain, we worry about what could happen and what we will do when it does.

David wrote, *"Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident"* (Psalm 27:3). Psalm 27 is a song and a prayer of trusting God in the face of fears.

The ultimate fulfillment of this psalm is found in Christ, the one who conquered our worst fears at the cross. He is our light and salvation. Because of Jesus, we can come into God's presence with confidence and hope. As Paul wrote in Romans, *"If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"* (8:31-32). If God sacrificed His own Son to save us from our sins, how would he not also be with us in the fears we face today?



Update on the Emergency Assistance Team (EAT)

Question: Why should we as, followers of Christ, be prayerfully concerned for and actively contribute to help those in our community who are in need?

These passages from God's Word clearly tell us: *"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth"* (1 John 3:16-18 NIV). *"Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world"* (James 1:27 The Message).

During the early days of the spread of Covid-19 back in March, a member of Elmslie answered God's call to help those in need and so made a substantial gift to help provide for people in our churches and community including, but not exclusive to, our shut-ins and those who had previously been aided by our Pantry Ministry.

An Emergency Assistance Team was appointed to oversee the obtainment and distribution of food and funds for medicines and the team held its first meeting on April 1st to plan and implement an effective strategy to get supplies to those in need as efficiently as possible. The team consists of **Rev. Chris**, elders **Joan McField**, **Anthony Bodden** and **William Walmsley**, administrator **Janet Macmillan**, secretary **Cathy Gomez** and facilitator **Richard Trull**.

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Aileen is Out and About



On Sunday, 23rd August, 2020, Elmslie's much-loved **Aileen Macdonald** was spotted on an outing with her son, **David**, and caregiver, **Darna Allen**.

Home Groups to Restart

Following the Covid lockdown and the need to do mid-week small group Bible studies by Zoom, it is planned to restart **Elmslie** home groups in mid-October.

Rev. Chris has been leading a couple of series by Zoom on Wednesday evenings, firstly *Christianity Explored* and, currently, *Discipleship Explored*, based on the book of Philippians. This will continue to the first week of October. However, starting on Wednesday, 14th October, groups will return to homes or to the places they were meeting before the pandemic began.

This is a great opportunity for some who have not previously been part of a small group to commit to one, and for the rest of us to resolve to start back and become regular attendees, being as there is little opportunity to travel off-island.

The church office will be circulating details of existing groups, and possibly new ones, so please keep your ears and eyes open. However, you can contact **Diana** at 916-4558 or the office at 547-6306 for more information, especially if you would like to join one for the first time.

The plan is to do a series on *The Sermon on the Mount* in Matthew over the next several months. There is so much we can learn about practical Christian living in those three chapters. Initially, there will be studies covering nine Wednesdays – to December 9th. Most groups start at 7.30 pm.

South Sound United Church has been meeting by Zoom on Wednesday evenings, starting at 7 pm. They have a core group of about 12, and they, too, are encouraging others to come along. Currently, they are doing a study on the Psalms, but will be undertaking a new series in mid-October entitled *Fifty-two Weeks with Jesus*, using a book by **James Merritt**. More information can be obtained by contacting **Bud Johnson** at bud@candw.ky or calling 916-3929.

News from the Minotts

Many will remember Dr. Mark and Fay Minott and their children, **Asa** and **Temeni**, who were part of our church at Elmslie for many years when Mark served as Minister of Music. It has been almost eight years since they left the Cayman Islands for England. Since that time, a lot has happened.

The family attends the Stockwell Green United Reformed Church in London. This is the same denomination to which **Rev. Chris Baillie** belongs and pastors. Mark serves as elder, preacher, musician and organizer of events, such as Stockwell Green Alpha 2020. He is also chairman of the Brothers Fellowship of the three churches in the charge. He is currently a pastoral candidate for the United Reformed Church. He continues to teach in secondary schools in London along with having various universities roles across London.

Fayonia serves as a Sunday school teacher and treasurer. She is also a supply teacher in various primary schools in London.

Asa did exceptionally well in her GCSEs and 'A' levels and successfully completed (in July) a Bachelor's Degree with honours from the Manchester Metropolitan University.

Temeni has overcome many of his challenges and continues to improve through prayer, hard work and receiving the medical and educational care the system in the UK affords. His situation was one of the reasons for relocating. He will be going into high school in September 2020.

The Minotts crave your prayers and thank you all for your love and continued support over the years. God is good!

Mark has written a number of books. His latest are called *Common Sense Sermons: Practical Bible-based Knowledge that helps Us to Live a Reasonable and Safe Way – #s1 & 2*. They are available from Amazon and can be downloaded on to a Kindle.



Special October Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to

Thomas & Pearline Myles

who will celebrate 35 years of marriage on 12th October. May God bless you with many more happy years together!

Special October Birthdays

Happy Birthday to

Ian Godet - 55 on the 5th

Heidi McField - 21 on the 8th

Mandy Bernard - 99 on the 12th

Sophie Ellison - 16 on the 17th

Madda Whittaker - 50 on the 22nd



Update on EAT (Cont'd. from Pg. 1)

Planning included selection of suppliers, determination of a balanced nutritional package, development of a confidential list of recipients, obtainment of the required curfew exemption letters from Government to enable regular deliveries and establishment of financial accounts and reports to the elders to provide proper ongoing accountability for expenses incurred.

The team originally met weekly but currently meets, makes deliveries and submits reports to the board fortnightly. William provides ongoing communication with the board. Joan, Anthony and, when possible, **Tony Mc Field** and **Francilla Myles** undertake bagging and delivery of food and funds for medicines. Janet manages the accounting of finances and the list of recipients, which peaked at 76 individuals and families. By God's grace, some have been able to go back to work so the list has recently declined to 68. Cathy prepares minutes of team meetings.

Recognizing the importance of regular spiritual nourishment as well as physical food, especially during the stressful constraints of lockdown, prayers are offered to recipients during deliveries and special scripture verses are prepared and included along with distributions. These also contain contacts for recipients to reach Rev Chris. for pastoral care and several people have sought assistance in this way.

This is one of the messages we have provided: *"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever"* (Psalm 73:26 NIV).

Well known minister and writer, **Max Lucado** once said, "Meet your fears with faith." If we think back over our lives, there have been many times when we worried about something, but our worry did not change anything. We pray today that your faith will overcome any fears or anxieties that you may have. God bless you!

Please pray that the Lord may:

- Spare lives and eradicate Covid 19 from the world
- Enable people in the Cayman Islands and other nations in need to find jobs to support their families
- Give wisdom to our leaders in Government to make decisions to protect lives and rebuild Cayman's economy
- Use these troubled times to remind the world of God's sovereignty and us to spread the Gospel message internationally
- Bless those who are giving funds to enable the EAT to continue to make distributions to meet peoples' needs

Birthday Omission from Last Month

Special belated birthday greetings to **Clarisse Polack** of South Sound United who turned 95 on 16th September.



Men's Saturday Fellowship and Breakfast



Despite the limitations caused by Covid, the Men's Fellowship has been meeting regularly each first Saturday of the month, After missing a month, it first met by Zoom, but following the easing of restrictions, it has once again been meeting in the hall, with the great plus of being able to enjoy one of **Nicky Godfrey's** excellent breakfasts! Typically, Nicky circulates a passage of Scripture a couple of days before and, following breakfast, the group launches into a discussion of the passage which, a little over an hour later, is pulled up by Nicky reminding us that we have to stop as some people have to go to work! Invariably, the discussion is stimulating, practical and helpful. As one member has frequently said, "It's the best Bible study I attend!"

All men are welcome. There is no charge although there is an opportunity to contribute to the cost of the breakfast.

Shana is Off to School



In the listing of overseas students in the September issue of The Family News, we omitted the name of **Shana Linwood-McLaughlin**. Shana has gone to the University of Plymouth in England to further her studies.

Having graduated from Vermont Technical College in May 2017 with a BSc degree in Architectural Engineering Technology, she has been working for the past three years with Design (Cayman) Ltd. She is now pursuing two Masters degrees, a Master of Arts in Architectural Design for one year followed by a Masters of Architecture for a further two.

Please keep Shana in your prayers.

Rev. Alice Blair Leaves Cayman



On the last Sunday of August, the leadership and representatives of the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council joined the members of the East End/Gun Bay Charge to bid farewell to **Rev. Alice Blair** as she prepared to return to her native Jamaica following four years of pastoral ministry in the Cayman Islands. We all wish God's continuing and abundant blessings on Rev. Blair as she embarks on the next phase of her journey in life and ministry.



Condolences

Sympathy to the family of the late **Wilburt (Mannie) Myles** following his passing on September 2nd following a period of illness.

Mannie was part of a large family in George Town and Bodden Town, many of them being members at Elmslie. Of particular note in this regard is his sister **Francilla**, and his brothers, **Clarenton (Son Son)** and **Thomas (Tally)**.

He served the RCIPS for 24 years but recently was diagnosed with cancer. However, during this time of illness, he gave his life to the Lord and in his last months wanted everyone to know. Our prayers are with the family.

