

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

# FAMILY NEWS

Elmslie Memorial Charge

Volume 221, October 2023

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[www.bethesdacounselling.ky](http://www.bethesdacounselling.ky)

## Service Times:

Sundays  
Elmslie Memorial United  
10:30am

Robert Young United  
583 Crewe Road  
8:45am

## Are You Living by Faith?

When I was growing up, I thought Christians were placed in one of two groups: those who lived “by faith” and those who worked for a living. My parents were in the first category as they were “missionaries.” However, later in life, dad had to “go out to work” to earn a living - as a dentist!

I believe I have a better understanding of faith today. The Bible is clear that if we are Christians, there is only *one* way God wants us to live. It is by faith. The writer of the Hebrews says that “*without faith it is impossible to please God*” (11:6), and Paul told the Corinthians, “*We live by faith, not by sight*” (2 Corinthians 5:7).

What does this mean in practical terms? It means that, as Christians, we are to trust God for everything and *in* everything. It has nothing to do with whether we are rich or poor, have a good job or struggle to make ends meet, whether we have resources, be they material or abilities, whether we are travelling along easy paths or facing a difficult journey. It simply means that at all times and in every situation we look to God, trusting him as the One who is not only in charge of our lives but loves us and has only the best in mind for us.

If we are honest, however, we have to admit that we sometimes struggle with our faith. Facing tough times, difficult decisions, serious situations, our trust in God is often inclined to waver.

You would think that Jesus’ disciples, having him alongside them, would have had no problems trusting their Master but on several occasions he chided them with the words: “*You of little faith!*” There are specifically three times, mentioned by Matthew, when they seemed to have harboured doubts, eliciting Jesus’ reprimand.

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## Tally Celebrates 65 Years



On 4th September, **Thomas 'Tally' Myles** celebrated his 65th birthday with his home group. On 15th October, he and **Pearline** will celebrate 38 years of marriage!

Mission Statement: The George Town Charge exists to love God, love others and make disciples.

## The Family News is News for the Family

Some 20 years ago, there was a concern in the church because of a perceived lack of communication. The Board of Elders appointed a committee to address this and several recommendations were made, one of which was to have a newsletter printed and distributed.

A small group was formed and began to produce a monthly newsletter, with **Andy McGaw** heading up its production. In April 2007, the first edition of *The Family News* in its present format was published. One has been printed every month since, with two or three exceptions, and this one will be edition no. 221! In the early days, it was printed free of charge by a local printer but the church office now takes responsibility for this. It is generally published on the Sunday nearest the beginning of the month, with copies emailed the week preceding it and hard copies available in the sanctuary.

The aim has been to keep the church aware of its different activities and ministries, to record any significant past events of the church and to ensure the membership was informed of things that were being planned. It seeks to ensure that members know something about those being appointed as elders or to the staff. It also keeps news of the missionaries the church supports before the membership. *The Family News* lets members know of some of the wider ministries of the United Church and of the church in Cayman at large. As part of a desire to foster fellowship among its members it features individuals or families from time to time. Special birthdays and anniversaries are also listed.

One important feature is an article either by the minister or the editor providing some biblical challenge or encouragement.

Since the new format of 16 years ago, **Mike Bowerman** has done the general editing and **Terri Merren** looks after the layout and, of course, is the chief photographer. There are many others who help in different ways.

*The Family News* is a ministry of the church and, as such, your prayers are appreciated.

Constructive feedback and suggestions are welcome. These can be communicated by contacting Mike or Terri, or by letting the church office know.

While this newsletter is an organ of Elmslie, there are many outside the church who receive it. If you know anyone who would like to receive a copy, or if you yourself would like an emailed one, please let the office know.

**Special October Birthdays**  
**Happy Birthday to**  
**Shana Linwood-McLaughlin - 30 on the 13th**  
**Suzan Merren - on the 17th**  
**Susan Solomon - 55 on the 20th**

**GET Ready FOR Harvest SUNDAY**



**15TH OCTOBER, 10:30AM, AT ELSMSLIE**

## Thank you from the Mission Committee

Many in the church support its missions with their finances. We want to report briefly on two of these, both of which involve children.

Mount Olivet Boys' Home has been on Elmslie's radar for many years and our church has been a major supporter. One early 'pioneer' in this regard was the late **Olive Miller** who came up with the idea of people sending a dollar a day (KY\$365.00 p.a.) toward a feeding programme. This continues to today, and we are pleased to report that US\$12,600.00 has been raised to date. This is in addition to regular support of the home in the amount of KY\$5,625.00 which covers three-quarters of the year. We have also paid for a security system for the home at a cost of US\$6000.00 and a water pump costing US\$1,025.00.

More recently, **Sam Rice** of Gospel Growers encouraged us to support Haitian children to get Christian schooling in the Dariol district of Southern Haiti where he worked for many years. To date, US\$9,257.00 has been raised for the school year that has just started. This will enable 38 children to go to a church run school for a year.

Thank you, everyone, who has reached out in this way. If there are those who would like to support one or both of these significant projects and have not as yet done so, please contact **Diana** in the office. It is not too late!

**Global Mission Committee**

## Financial Update

In recent weeks you will have read a number of requests to the congregation from the finance team asking you to make up any offering missed through the months of July and August. Thanks to everyone who has responded to that request. The finance team asks that as far as possible you keep your offering up to date. This allows us to manage our finances much more efficiently and allows us to pay our liabilities as promptly as possible. In recent months we have had some exceptional expenses and if you are able to give a little extra in the months through to the end of the year that would be very helpful. If you would like to pay any offerings online the relevant details are available from the church office or any member of the finance team. Please continue to pray for our financial position and for the finance team.

## Living by Faith? (Cont'd. from Pg. 1)

One, *They lacked faith for God to supply their daily needs.* In chapter 6, Jesus was telling them that in the same way their heavenly Father feeds the birds and clothes the flowers, he will do the same for them. “*You of little faith, ... do not worry,*” he told them (vv. 30-31).

Do we trust in God to look after all our needs?

Two, *They lacked faith in facing a problem.* Crossing Lake Galilee, a furious storm blew up, so bad that these experienced fishermen called out to the sleeping Jesus to save them from drowning. Even before he calmed the storm, he rebuked them: “*You of little faith, why are you so afraid?*” (8:26).

Do we trust our loving, sovereign God to see us through the storms of life?

Three, *They lacked faith to carry out God's work.* Jesus came down from the Mount of Transfiguration and encountered a man whose son suffered from seizures. The man complained, “*I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him*” (17:16). It is important to remember that Jesus had earlier given his disciples special authority to do just that (10:1) but on this occasion, they had seemingly been unable to heal the boy. After Jesus had done so, the disciples asked him why they had not been able to do the same to which he replied, “*Because you have so little faith*” (17:20). He then went on to state that faith – even a little faith – could move mountains because – and this is implied – if they had faith in God, “*nothing will be impossible for you*” (v. 20).

Do we trust God to perform our Christian work successfully?

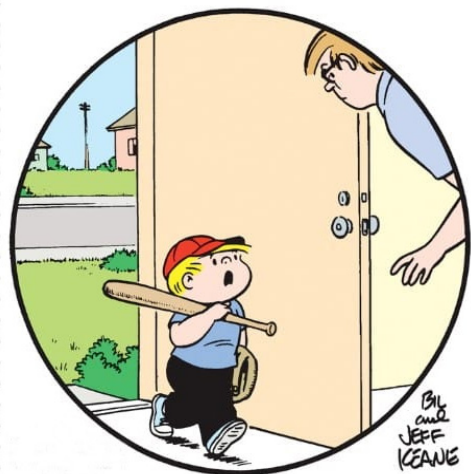
There will be times when all of us are challenged to trust God, when seeds of doubt creep in. There is a particularly encouraging aspect of the conversation Jesus had with the man. After he had described how the seizures affected his boy, he told Jesus, “*But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.*” To which Jesus replied, “*If you can? Everything is possible for one who believes.*” We then read these amazing words from the mouth of the father, “*I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!*” (Mark 9:22-24)

That is a prayer we need to pray often as we face the difficulties and uncertainty of life.

But, one final thought. Exercising faith does not automatically get us what we think we need. God is God; he always knows best. Nor will things necessarily resolve themselves as soon as we pray in faith. There is a wonderful psalm that can teach us much about trusting God - Psalm 37. Verse 7 reminds us that God is not only in charge of every situation, he also oversees their timing. “*Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him,*” says David. There are many times we may need to patiently wait for God to act.

The disciples were aware of their struggle with faith, and on another occasion they asked Jesus, “*Increase our faith.*” That is something we can ask God, too. How can our faith be increased? Jesus ends the conversation with the man and his disciples with the words, “*This kind can come out only by prayer*” (Mark 9:29). That's it. Faith and prayer cannot be separated. If we are not praying about things, we will not gain the faith to deal with them.

**Michael Bowerman**



“Y’know that big window at the church with the color pictures on it?...”

## Pray for our Students Who Study Abroad

**Samuel Webb** - Sunrise Christian Academy, Wichita, Kansas, USA. Completing high school

**Kaci-ann Wilson** - Biomedical Sciences, Nottingham Trent University, UK, 1st Year

**Antoine Rockett-McLaughlin** - Civil Engineering, George Mason University, USA, 1st Year

**Xaria Deosaran** - Business Management, University of Greenwich, UK, 2nd Year

**Shante Reid** - Psychology major/Human Development minor, Howard University, Washington DC, USA, 2nd Year

**Hannah Robinson** - General Engineering, University of Leicester, UK, 3rd Year

**Zephan Deosaran** - Urban Geography, University of Toronto, Canada, 3rd Year

**Jaydon McField** - Completed his 'A' levels and was accepted to Northumbria University, UK, where he plans to study Sports Management. However, he is taking a gap year to accept an offer from Dubai FC where he will stay for one year to play football.

**Amari Watler** - Business Studies with a Double Major in Entrepreneurial and Marketing, Ryerson University, Canada (courses online)

**Kristiann (Kayla) Wilson** - Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, Bath University, UK, 1st Year

**Renadra Smith-Powell** - Sports Therapy, University of Essex, UK, 1st Year

## Pantry Ministry Welcomes the Moderator



**The Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott**, Moderator of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, visited the Pantry Ministry on 12th September and offered encouraging words to those who gathered.

# Back to Church Sunday

On 17th September, Back to Church 'Family' Sunday was held at Elmslie with a nearly full sanctuary. Rev Yvette Noble-Bloomfield delivered an inspiring message on God's Banner of Love with the scripture taken from Genesis, reflecting on the story of Joseph. Following the service, a buffet lunch was held in the church hall. Despite the rain, it was a wonderful time celebrating God and family.

