

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

THE FAMILY NEWS

Elmslie Memorial Charge

Volume 20 September 2022

Built on Jesus Christ the very foundation

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www.bethesdacounselling.ky

Service Times:

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

Robert Young United
583 Crewe Road
8:45am



Feelings: Is Love a Feeling?

I remember as a small boy switching off as soon as I heard a preacher start speaking about love. I had no idea at that age what 'love' was! As I have become older, I have increasingly come to realise that many still have little idea! At least, as to what true love is.

The word love in the English language has many sides to it. It was CS Lewis who pointed out that our one English word covers four Greek ones. There is *eros* which indicates romantic or sexual love, *philia* speaks of brotherly love and friendship, and *storge* of affection or family love. God is the source of love, whatever form it takes. The problem is that sinful human nature so often twists and spoils it. We have misused and exploited it so that it has become something which may hurt and harm. Very often it ends up as simply selfishness - self-love.

The fourth is a word which was rarely found in contemporary literature of Bible days, let alone understood by those societies, but one found throughout the New Testament. It is *agape*. Its best expression is found in 1 Corinthians 13 where the King James Version calls it "charity" - but it is not charity as we usually think it. It is the love that God shows to us and which he commands us to show to others. It is self-giving love.

So, to the title: Is love a feeling? The answer is yes - and no! When we think of *agape* in particular, its basis is not in feelings. It has to do with acts of selflessness.

Last month, I stated that "the foundation of our faith is not our feelings but its unchanging truth, and that our relationship with the Lord is not based on how we are feeling at any one time ..." That is true of *agape*, too. Our love for God is not just something emotional. Nor should our love for others be based on how we feel towards them. Our love for God is a determination to honour him in everything. Our love for others will be seen in our commitment to their well-being. *Cont'd. on Page 4*

Summer Camps and VBS 2022

Two weeks of summer camps were held in July (10th - 15th for children and 17th - 22nd for teens). From Elmslie, 23 children and 12 teens attended, four of whom gave their lives to the Lord. This is especially encouraging since leading our youth to the Lord is essentially what Christian camps is about. Many thanks to all who encouraged, sponsored children and prayed for them and the camp leaders.

VBS 2022, with the theme *Make Waves*, ran from Monday, 8th to Friday, 12th August. The week started out with 71 children and 45 teachers and leaders. The participants certainly made waves with class sessions featuring God's Word, on the court games, and creative expressions through arts and crafts. *(More camp & VBS photos on pages 2 and 3)*



Jathena, showing her artwork at VBS



Summer Camps 2022



On Sunday, 10th July, campers showcased what they learned during the the Ann Rockett-James Music Camp 2022 which was obviously a big success! Well done, campers and leaders!

Quotable Quotes on Grace

“Grace is the defining word of the Christian faith” (Anon).

“Grace: *God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense*” (Anon).

“Why does God love me? The Bible answers that profound question with one incomparable word: grace. God loves because of who he is, not because I have done anything to deserve it” (Philip Yancey).

“The grace of God reveals One who loves us so much to have made Calvary possible but who hates sin so much as to make Calvary necessary” (TS Mooney).

“Grace is free, but it is not cheap... Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ... Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

“Cheap grace justifies the sin, not the sinner. True grace, on the other hand, justifies the sinner, not the sin” (Chuck Swindoll).

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (God in 2 Corinthians 12:9).

Center for Theological Leadership Training
Cayman Islands



**ADMISSIONS
OPEN**
Semester begins
September 2022

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Certificate in Theological leadership
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CPHS Alumni Sisters Making Great Strides



Most will know the daughters of **Clive and Sharon Hinds, Charlotte and Catherine**, who grew up in the South Sound Church as well as our church school, Cayman Prep and High. We wish to recognise these young ladies for their recent accomplishments - Catherine who, with a Masters in Education, teaches 7 & 8 year olds at CPHS and Charlotte who has just finished her Phd in Medical Research. Congratulations to both of you for all you have achieved!

Wedding Vow Renewals & 38 Years of Friendship



On Sunday, 7th August, **Suzanne Dallas** (nee-Martin) gathered with family and her long-time friends, **Lyn Allen** and **Bethany Campbell**, to renew her wedding vows after 18 years of marriage with husband **Stuart**. Pictured above are left to right: **Lyn Allen, Bryan Martin, Cameron Dallas, Stuart and Suzanne, Sophie Dallas, Valerie Martin, Bethany Campbell, Desiree Myles and Johanna Dixon**. **Rev. Chris Mason** performed the vow renewal ceremony.

25 Years for Allemand & Joan



Congratulations to **Allemand & Joan Bain** who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in Jamaica on 26th July. May God continue to bless you today and always.

Vacation Bible School Fun 2022





Special Invitation

Elmslie Memorial United Church
invites you to

REUNION SUNDAY

11th September 2022
at 10:30 am

Special Guest Speaker:
REV. CHRIS BAILLIE

Buffet lunch in the church hall following the service

108B Seafarers Way
George Town
Grand Cayman
www.elmslieunitedchurch.ly

Minister: Rev. L. Christopher Mason
Music & Worship Minister: Antonio Sanchez
Youth Minister: Roy McGregor



Feelings (Cont'd. from Pg. 2)

How do you “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30)? Undoubtedly, feelings are involved, but these are not foundational. Listen to Jesus’ answer: “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). He said similarly a few verses later: “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching” (v. 23). This is the bottom line when it comes to loving God: it is not following our emotions but keeping his commandments. Obeying his teaching. It is an act of will. It has to do with our behaviour, our speech and our attitudes. It is doing God’s will however we feel. So, when we sing in church songs like “I love you, Lord”, we need to remember that we are expressing something more than nice warm feelings towards him.

The reverse must also be made clear: Any action which is not the will of God, is not true love. Disobedience to God is unloving.

And what about the next part of the command: “Love your neighbour as yourself” (v. 31)? First, note that these two instructions come together. You cannot truly love your neighbour in the way Jesus meant it unless you love God first. Second, the ‘loving ourselves’ in this context means we wish the best for ourselves. This is what Jesus is instructing us for others: we must seek their good regardless of how we feel about them. We may positively dislike them! Hence Jesus said we were not only to love our neighbours but to love our enemies, too (Matthew 5:44).

This kind of love often comes with a cost in emotional energy, time, personal comfort and, sometimes, to our reputation. It can be painful. We can be misunderstood and rejected.

And, by the way, don’t forget that your husband or wife is your neighbour, too! So are your kids.

We shouldn’t waste time deciding how we feel about our neighbour, whether we ‘love’ them or not; we are to act as though we did. When we behave as if we love someone, we may surprise ourselves to find that we actually come to love them!

As I indicated last month, I don’t want to be misunderstood! Of course, there are feelings in a loving relationship. But mere emotions cannot and must not be love’s foundation whether it is in human relationships or our love for God.

So, when we come to church, we can worship God even when our feelings are not upbeat and we don’t feel particularly loving towards him. And our worship can and should continue when we leave church and live lives of obedience to him out in the world. It will include loving our neighbours. This is truly loving God.

Michael Bowerman

Baby Blessing at Elmslie



On Sunday, 31st July, **Guy Harold Brook** was blessed by **Rev. Chris Mason** at Elmslie. Pictured with them are the baby's parents, **Lauren & Colin Brook**. **Judy & Henry Ebanks** are the baby's maternal grandparents.

Save the Dates

Anniversary Banquet
Saturday, 29th October 2022, 6:30 pm

Anniversary Service
Sunday, 30th October 2022, 4:00 pm



Celebrating
ELMSLIE MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

100

Years



Special September Birthdays Happy Birthday to

- Isolyn Facey - 85 on the 2nd
- Alexa McLaughlin - 16 on the 7th
- Dazshawn McField - 21 on the 11th
- Tammy Archer - 50 on the 19th
- Alvernie Watson - 97 on the 20th
- Zephan Deosaran - 21 on the 21st
- Helen Merren - 91 on the 27th
- Theoline Wellington - 94 on the 28th
- Ella Lockwood - 75 on the 29th