



# The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

## THE FAMILY NEWS

George Town Charge

Volume 73, April 2011

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

### Minister:

Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle

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### Office Staff:

John Macmillan, Administrator  
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Diana Bodden, Office Assistant

### Service Times

#### Sundays:

Elmslie Memorial United  
48 Harbour Drive, George Town  
10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

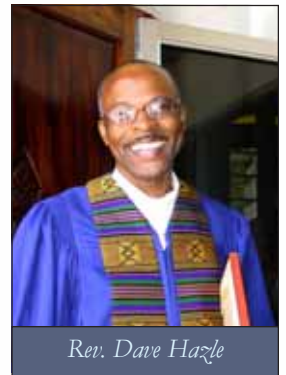
George Hicks Memorial United  
44 South Sound Road  
9:00 a.m.

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### *Beginning of Sorrows*

*"There will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginning of sorrows" [Mark 13:8].*

In January of last year Haiti was hit by a massive earthquake that devastated sections of the island, especially the capital Port-au-Prince. In a recent trip to Haiti, I was able to see how that poor nation continues to struggle to recover and return to a path of progress. Yet despite the hardships and the thousands who are still living in tents with very little hope of being able to rebuild their homes, the Haitians continue to demonstrate a remarkable resilience. Additionally, goodwill continues to pour into the country through the many missionaries and development agencies that continue to come. I had traveled with **Richard Trull, David Whitefield** and **Alan Turner** to visit American missionary **Sam Rice** in the southern part of Haiti. I was truly inspired by the work being done and it was a joy to spend time with Sam and the Haitian friends we met in Dariol. In the midst of disaster, there are glimmers of hope.



Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle

#### *What is God Up to?*

Since the earthquake in Haiti, there have been numerous earthquakes and other natural disasters all over the globe. Probably the worst were the recent events in Japan. Many are wondering, "What is God really up to?" We can't help but reflect on the prophecy of Jesus that Mark records in the passage at the start of this article. Truly, we are closer now than ever before to the Lord's return. As Jesus says, "These are the beginnings of sorrows." God is truly up to something and he is warning his world to **get ready for his return**. At the same time, he is telling his church to **get serious about the lost** at home and abroad. In the midst of the devastation around the world, there is hope. Wherever in the world we live, we must be prepared to respond with compassion to those who suffer the greatest, and support any effort to share the Gospel of Christ with people around the world who don't yet know God through Christ. That is why I feel it is so important to give to overseas missions and to give more than ever to see people won to Christ before it is too late.

However, God's mission does not only happen through our missionary partners like **Joan Bain** and **Pastor Bresile St Germain** who visited with us for our recent mission weekend. The mission is for all of us. Everyone knows friends and family members who would go to a Christ-less eternity if Jesus were to return today. All of us are missionaries called to do works of service that demonstrate God's love for people in our community and to tell others about salvation in Jesus. I believe it is important for our congregations to begin to do more community outreach projects and evangelistic activities and prepare ourselves to nurture and care for new Christians who will come to our congregations. We must give more, spend less on ourselves and be prepared "to reach the lost at any cost."

#### *Changes Coming in the Church's Budgeting*

Last year we saw a drop in our giving to overseas mission. In an effort to give a true picture of what part of our total giving is really committed to this we will be returning to the former practice of having just one budget. In recent years, we have been functioning with two budgets, one that deals with our operating expenses as a congregation - for things like youth ministry, Sunday school, upkeep of the properties and salaries for staff. The other deals with expenses related to overseas missionaries that we support. We feel it is time to return to having one budget that combines all our work and gives us a clearer picture of where our

*Continued on page 3*

## Elmslie Mission Team to Dariol, Haiti – February 2011

by *Richard Trull*

A small team comprising **Rev Dave**, **Alan Turner**, **David Whitefield** and myself visited during five days in Haiti, traveling to the village of Dariol to encourage and enquire of **Sam Rice** and his ministries there so that Elmslie's support may be effectively directed going forward. We firstly wish to say how grateful we are to the 39 people who signed up as our prayer partners. We prayed for each of you twice per day by name and we know that our trip was blessed by your prayers for us, for Sam and for the people of Dariol.

We were met at Port-au-Prince Airport by Sam's assistant, **Jean Denis**, who thankfully speaks English, and his truck driver, **Pradel**, and set out on a six hour journey along the initially crowded and later rough road to Dariol. Port-au-Prince and the surrounding countryside is still, a year after the earthquake, filled with rubble, refuse and thousands of families living in cramped, hot tent communities.

We finally arrived and received a warm welcome from Sam and Dariol's pastor and school principal **Philaine Brunat**. Rev Dave preached a sermon of encouragement at an evening worship service and we retired to our school room dormitory which teams from Elmslie had helped build 13 years ago.

Whilst we were in Dariol, the team attended church services. On Saturday evening, Alan preached and Sunday morning, Rev. Dave preached on God's promise of hope even in dire circumstances for those who persevere in trusting his son, Jesus.

We also held several comprehensive meetings with Sam and saw first-hand evidence of the success of Sam's mission work, including several new churches planted, with local pastors installed, and the healing provided by Sam's medical clinic. During a visit to the interior hill country, we witnessed the ongoing expansion of Sam's Christian station, Radio Semence. Sam's role has clearly expanded over the 29 years he has been in Haiti beyond his medical treatment work to one of visioning, developing, mentoring and administering these Christian ministries.

We returned to Cayman humbled but energised, with a much deeper understanding and renewed confidence in the wonderful, fruitful work which God is doing through Sam's dedication in feeding, educating, employing and sharing the Gospel of Jesus in this remote, very poor but blessed part of Haiti.

We thank you for sending us and we have no hesitation in encouraging each of you in Elmslie to be bold in your support of Haiti by prayer and giving generously to Sam's ministry. You can see more by pasting <http://www.gospelgrowers.org/> in your internet browser. We can honestly say, "Don't miss the chance to 'go and make disciples.' It is a truly rich opportunity given by God to personally serve him in Christ's Great Commission." You will be greatly blessed by it if you do.

### Mission Weekend

Haiti has been very much in the news during the past several months so having a focus on that needy country was particularly appropriate during the recent mission weekend.

Rather than a single speaker or missionary, we had, this year, two families. **Pastor Bresile St. Germain** and his wife **Marie Vita** are both Haitians. They now live in Florida where his primary ministry is among the Haitian churches there, although he preaches and holds workshops in Haiti and other parts of the world where Haitians live.

**Joan Page Bain** is no stranger to Cayman. A member of the United Church from Jamaica, she is 50% supported by Elmslie and the other half by the Cayman Council. She has been living and working as a missionary nurse in Guichard, Haiti for over 20 years. She was here with her husband, **Allemand**, and daughter, **Jirene**.



*Left to right: Joan, Allemand, Jirene, Pastor Bresile and Marie Vita*

with a challenging message from Pastor Bresile in which he asked us the question, "Do you really love Jesus?" The weekend ended with a final combined service on Sunday evening, followed by food and fellowship.

Seeing rather than just hearing about those actively involved in missions is both encouraging and challenging. Many people were stirred by the lives and work of these our missionaries, and are resolved to become more supportive with their prayers and finances.



*Sam Rice standing between the team from Elmslie together with several of his Haitian workers. Richard Trull was behind the camera!*

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It was a packed weekend, starting by the two missionaries addressing the United Church Friday night youth groups. It was particularly gratifying to see eleven young people step forward for first time commitment or recommitment at the invitation. The following morning, Pastor Bresile and Allemand joined the men at the Saturday Men's Breakfast and shared their hearts about the great needs in Haiti.

Having a boat cruise is becoming something of a tradition at mission weekends and about 90 people joined the cruise on Saturday night. Again, both of the missionaries were given the opportunity to challenge us to a new level of commitment.

Sunday was again a full one. Both families were interviewed at the George Hicks and Elmslie morning services, again sharing something of the great needs in Haiti and challenging the congregations to greater support and involvement, including joining the mission trip planned for Easter. Eleven year old Jirene played two hymns on her violin – a real bonus – and each service ended

with a challenging message from Pastor Bresile in which he asked us the question, "Do you really love Jesus?" The weekend ended with a final combined service on Sunday evening, followed by food and fellowship.

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## Relocation of Haitian Children

Following the earthquake in Haiti, many children were forced to move out of Port-au-Prince and return to the country. The government made it mandatory for schools to receive and educate these children, a task which many of the schools could not financially accomplish. However, with funds sent from the United Church in Cayman, 140 children were able to receive education in the Guichard area. **Allemand and Joan Bain** on their recent visit brought letters from some of the relocated children, expressing their gratitude. Written in French or Creole, we had one representing the rest translated. It reads:

*“Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,*

*We salute you in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We write you this letter just to thank you for the year of school that you sponsored us. Yes, we thank you for that, and we wish you a blessed Easter. God bless you.”*



*At Elmslie, left to right: Allemand, Jirene, Joan, Pastor Bresile and Marie Vita*

## Change in the Elmslie Accounting System?

*by Sheena Thompson*

Recently the Finance Team met to review the financial accounting processes for Elmslie and to consider ways in which the current process could be made more effective, efficient and user friendly. The current practice that is being followed is that there are two budgets and sets of accounts being prepared for Elmslie, one for General funds and one for Missions funds.

In an effort to simplify the process of handling and reporting on these two sets of funds, the Finance Team has made a recommendation to the Board of Elders and the congregation that the budgets and the accounting records for the General and Missions funds be combined. This would mean that Elmslie would have one consolidated budget and resulting accounts that includes both General and Missions funds. Producing one budget and set of accounts for the church instead of two has a number of benefits, some of which include the ease of administration and preparation of the budgets for the Finance Team and volunteers, as well as only one set of numbers for the Board of Elders and congregation to consider when reviewing the flow of funds into and out of the accounts of the church.

The current use of offering envelopes for General and Missions giving remains unchanged at present.

Please pray for the continued guidance of the Finance Team.

### Elmslie Offering

February	Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Missions	\$ 5,150.96	\$10,534.96	\$ 9,083.33
General	\$30,430.16	\$64,855.67	\$72,500.00

## Why not sponsor a Haitian child?

For many years, Sam has been coordinating a sponsorship programme for the schoolchildren in the Dariol district. Many of you have been supporting the programme. Wouldn't it be good, however, if as many as **half** of the members of our charge churches supported a child each? Details are provided below:

*The annual cost for the sponsorship programme Sam oversees for Haitian school children is US\$240 p.a. or CI\$201.60 (US\$20 or CI\$16.80 per month). For those who are already part of the programme, or would like to join it, please make your payment to the church office or through the offering plate. You can pay monthly, quarterly or annually. **Please ensure you mark your envelope HAITIAN SPONSORSHIP and ADD YOUR NAME so a record can be kept by the mission treasurer.***

### Cayman Prep and High School Proudly Presents

### Disney's Aladdin

April 7th and 8th @ 7:00 pm  
April 9th @ 3:00pm & 7:00pm

*Tickets Available from the School Office*  
Adults \$15, Students 5-18 \$10, Children Under 5 \$5

### From the Pastor's Desk (continued from Page 1)

priorities are. We feel this will also simplify our accounting. We welcome your comments on this new development and trust that in time we will all see the benefits.

### Are we ready?

Jesus is coming soon and he wants us to be ready. What are you doing to bring others to Christ? Let me suggest three important things you can do. Firstly, sign up to be a part of the Tuesday prayer chain so you can be a part of the army of persons who are taking fifteen minutes to an hour to pray for God to do his work through our congregations. Secondly, take a few minutes to pray regularly for friends you want to see come to Christ. Thirdly, make the effort to invite a non-Christian friend to church, home group, Alpha or some other event at church in which you think they will be interested. As we approach the Easter celebrations later this month, may God help us all to be the missionaries he wants us to be to the world for which Christ died.

### Wedding Congratulations



Congratulations to **Galen Trull** on her marriage to **Neil Brown** on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Synod Soon Come

The bi-annual meeting of the United Church Synod will be held at Knox College in Manchester, Jamaica from April 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. Representing the charge will be **Rev. Dave, John and Janet Macmillan** and **Jamila Mclean** as youth representative.

During the synod, the new General Secretary, **Rev. Norbert Stephens** will be formally installed and the new Moderator, **Rev. Oliver Daley**, inducted.

Synod will introduce the implementation Plan and Programme of Renewal and Transformation, focusing on five areas:

**Evangelism through the Word** - how do we bring hope and healing to those who do not know the fullness of life in Christ?

**Stewardship** - how do we respond in thanks for God's grace by sharing our resources, time and talents to spread the healing and hope of Christ?

**Ministry to Children** - how do we ensure **all** our children enjoy, embrace and are empowered by the hope and healing of Christ?

**Social Outreach** - how do we offer opportunities for healing and hope to those who need reassurance that Christ cares for their earthly needs too?

**Leading a Missional Church** - how do we equip ourselves to make the healing and hope of Christ a reality in the lives of all?

### Upcoming Events for April

- Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup>: 7 p.m. – Start of a three-part Christian Discipleship series on prayer
- Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup>: 8 to 9 a.m. - Joint prayer for renewal & transformation
- Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup>: 9.15 a.m. to noon - Alpha Training
- 21<sup>st</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> - Mission trip to Guichard, Haiti
- Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup>: 7 p.m. – Food, film and fellowship for the whole charge
- Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup>: Tenebrae service
- Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup>: 10 a.m. - Good Friday charge service
- Easter Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup>: Sunrise services and baptism
- Easter Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup>: Easter services
- Monday – Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>: Synod in Jamaica

## News from George Hicks

Last November, ten people from the George Hicks congregation came together to form a small choir. A few of the members had sung in choirs in the past but for some of us it was our first experience of singing in harmony. We selected The Coventry Carol for our first performance at Christmas and sang it a capella which was a great achievement for such a new choir.

The next performance in mid-March was an anthem composed by Schubert, and plans are already in motion for a special piece for Easter Sunday.

**Brad Taylor** has assisted us at most of the choir's practice sessions while both **Mark Minott** and **Cathy Gomez** have also kindly helped out with rehearsals.

We are enthusiastic about expanding our repertoire and hope to continue to praise God through the medium of music.



(Pictured left to right) **Brad Taylor, Jennifer Smith, Bobby Campbell, Penny Williams, Richard Purdom, Iva Good, Bradley Johnson, Janet Crawhaw, Bud Johnson** and **Sheila Purdom** (Missing from the photo is **Juliet DuFeu**.)

### Deaths

We express our sympathy to **Truman Bodden** and his family on the recent death of his niece, **Bonnie Arch**.

### Special April Birthdays

Happy Birthday to

**Don Neal** who turns 70 on 30th April  
and

**Anita Hartwell** who turns 65 on 4th April

### Baby Dedication at Elmslie



**Mason Cameron Simister** (pictured here with his mother, **Lisa Clarke**, and grandparents, **Stanley and Vernel Clarke**) was dedicated during the Sunday morning service at Elmslie on 13th March.

### George Town Charge Elders

#### Elmslie:

Marco Archer	946-1207
Michael Bowerman	949-2232
Nicky Godfrey	949-0357
Gwen Hughes-Coward	947-1603
Janet Macmillan	949-2434
John Macmillan	949-2434
Ellen McField	926-2949
Lorna Reid	947-6616
Richard Trull	945-6067
Sue Trull	945-6067
Alan Turner	946-2258

#### George Hicks:

Clive Hinds	949-9387
Jennifer Smith	949-8025
Phil Thomas	949-6993

### Special April Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to **Cindy and Ian Downing** who will celebrate their 5th wedding anniversary on 4th April.