



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

THE FAMILY NEWS

George Town Charge



Mission Statement

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

Volume 66, September 2010

Mission Focus: Bresile St. Germain

Rev. Bresile St. Germain has been a missionary with Ministries in Action for many years. Having been born in Haiti and grown up there, he became a pastor of the Baptist Churches of South Haiti (MEBSH), eventually assuming leadership. In recent years, he has focused his ministry on the Haitian Diaspora, mainly in Florida. He and his wife, Marie Vita, live in Miami.

He runs evangelistic campaigns, conducts seminars and workshops, and thus encourages and helps the growth of the many small Haitian congregations in the United States. However, he also continues to minister in his own country and other French-speaking territories, and has visited France on several occasions.

Since the January earthquake in Haiti, he has made several trips back there, assisting and ministering to the many needs in his beloved country. Just recently, he held a seminar and preached several nights to 200 pastors in Port-au-Prince. These messages were broadcast throughout Haiti.

Throughout September, he has ministry lined up in Miami, Fort Myers and Pompano Beach, and in October he will be preaching in Boston.

Pastor Bresile has visited and preached in the George Town Charge on several occasions, and has been part of past mission weekends. Please continue to support him with your prayers and finances.



Rev. and Mrs. St. Germain

Some upcoming events in September

- Wednesday, 1st - Meeting for all elders and home group leaders
- Sunday, 5th - Christian Discipleship restarts
- Wednesday, 8th - Home groups start back
- Saturday, 18th - Charge prayer morning
- Tuesday, 21st - New Alpha Course begins
- Friday-Sunday, 24th to 26th - Council worship training workshops
- Sunday, 26th - George Hicks congregational meeting

Early October:

- Wednesday, 6th - Elmslie congregational meeting
- Friday/Saturday, 8th/9th - Charge leaders retreat
- Sunday, 10th - Robert Young congregational meeting

Elmslie Offering

July	Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General	\$20,699.90	\$244,269.91	\$250,833.00

Minister:

Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle

Office & Mailing Address:

48 Harbour Drive, George Town
P.O. Box 494
Grand Cayman KY1-1106

Web Site:

www. <http://cayman.com.ky/org/elmslie>

Council Web Site:

www.unitedchurch.org.ky

Office Hours:

Mondays - Fridays
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Phone: 345-949-7923
Fax: 345-949-1723

E-mail: elmslie@candw.ky
Council E-mail: cicucjci@candw.ky

Office Staff:

John Macmillan, Administrator
Ray McLeod, Youth Director

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.
Robert Young Memorial United
583 Crewe Road
9:00 a.m.

The International Conference of the Girls' Brigade

Captain, **Joan McField** and officers, **Sherry Lee McLaughlin** and **Sophia Marsh**, of the George Town Girls' Brigade recently returned from the International Conference held in Sarawak, Malaysia, at the end of July. In total, 18 travelled from the Cayman Islands and constituted the largest representation out of the 233 people from 25 countries there. The conference consisted of worship times, business meetings and workshops, the latter helping to enhance the local programmes of Girls' Brigade groups. One day was given over to a tour of the region.

The Brigade is divided into five regions and the international conference takes place every four years. In between, each region has its own camp. The Cayman Islands have been invited to host the Caribbean/American Girls' Brigade camp in August next year while the next international conference will be held in Australia in 2014.

"Overall, the conference was very well organized," stated Joan and Sherry Lee, "and those of us who attended from Cayman were pleased with the care given us."

The George Town representatives are keen to thank all those who supported them with their prayers and financially. This made their attendance possible. "We have come back with new ideas to help our girls become better persons as they continue to follow our Brigade motto: 'to Seek, Serve and Follow Christ,'" they said.



Another Good VBS

The church and hall were buzzing the third week of July as nearly a hundred children turned up each evening for Vacation Bible School. The theme this year was, "Heroes' Headquarters." About 15 teachers and helpers ensured that the children were well taught and well fed – as well as supervising the practical activities. Many of the children told their teachers that they had "a really good time" and it was even suggested that it could have gone on a second week!

Special thanks to those who volunteered their time, whether teaching, supervising activities or helping in the kitchen. Others contributed food and one parent expressed his appreciation with a cheque for \$50 to help with the expenses.

Deaths

We offer our sympathy and prayers to the families of the following members who died recently:

Ruth Bodden (Elmslie)

Richard Bodden (Robert Young)

Also to **Clive Hinds** (George Hicks) and his family on the sudden passing of his mother, **Esther**.



ELMSLIE DEBT MINISTRY

"Get Out of Debt"



Heavy Debt Load? – we can help

There are many in Cayman who have debt problems. During the present bad economic times this problem has only increased. I know from personal experience that there are many in our church that also have money worries. There is no agency in Cayman, Christian or otherwise, that offers any help.

The Get Out of Debt Ministry at Elmslie can help those with debt problems. I believe that this ministry is of both practical help and a witness opportunity. The help will **not** be by way of a monetary handout but practical advice on how to solve or mitigate the problem and equally important how to keep debt within manageable limits. This ministry is here to offer help for anyone in George Town or indeed in Cayman.

Often people have allowed debt to build up over time and are way behind with their repayments. The bank has written to them but they ignore the letters, either in ignorance or fear. There is no one to turn to for help and advice and they are too frightened to speak with the bank. Even if they do call the Bank, the response they get is far from helpful. Finally, court action is taken and soon it is too late. The earlier that help is sought the more chance there is of practical solutions. I hope that by Elmslie publicising this ministry within the church we can encourage those with problems to come forward.

Confidentiality will be assured

A dedicated telephone line has been set up in the church office. This will be answered only by those involved in this ministry. If there is no one to answer the telephone then the call will be picked up by voicemail. Only those involved in this ministry will be able to access the voicemail. The telephone will be manned on a regular basis. Confidential appointments will be made either in a private room in the church office or elsewhere if preferred.

There will be no charge for the advice or help. Do not be afraid to call 946 1731.

Richard Coles

From the Pastor's Desk

'GOD REPS' LOVE GOD

During August, we talked a lot about "being prepared." As Christians, God expects us to be prepared to be the best representatives of him that we can be. I guess you could call us 'God Reps'. This begins with truly loving God in such a way that we want nothing more than to please him. But love grows with knowledge and experience, and knowledge and experience of God is a life long journey. Like all journeys, it helps to have a map to guide us and that's what the Bible is. Paul reminded Timothy that "all scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, rebuke, correction and training in righteousness" [2 Timothy 3:16]. As we get more into the Bible we learn about God and the things that please him and by his Spirit at work in us we are able to change our belief and behaviour so that we truly become 'God Reps'.

Some of us remember the times before we became Christians when we had a problem with our anger. We can recall what it was like when we realised that the way we expressed or gave vent to our anger needed to change. But we can also look back at how God's Spirit at work in us gave us power to do what at first seemed so hard, or even impossible, and enabled us to manage our anger. That's what God wants to do with every aspect of our thinking and conduct that does not correctly represent God. If we love God, we should obey him. That is what we are doing when we choose to change. We become aware of those things that need to change as we read and understand more of the scriptures.

We also demonstrate our love for God by communicating with and getting close to him. That's what regular times of prayer can do. Through prayer we can relate in an up-close and personal way to God and really experience him responding to us, giving us direction and power to do what sometimes seems hard. God wants us not just to come to him with our shopping lists but to set our ears to listen to what he might want to say to us. Sometimes he plants a thought, a conviction or a deep desire in our hearts as we silently wait for him to speak to us. Whenever we pray, we should always try to spend some time waiting, listening for God to speak to us. Sometimes as we read the scriptures, we experience God speaking to us. That is why it is so important to set aside time regularly to read the Bible.

PROGRAMMES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The Alpha Course is a great way for us to understand and get closer to God. Many who have done it have found that some of their questions about Jesus and the Bible were answered. Others experienced God in a new way and came to have a clearer understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit. When the course starts again later this month, I hope you will plan to join in this wonderful journey of spiritual growth and discovery. I want you to also invite a friend who is not yet a Christian to meet Christ and great friends through Alpha.

Then there are other ongoing programmes for spiritual growth of which you need to take advantage. If you are not yet a part of a home group, why not join one for weekly fellowship and discussion about some aspect of living the Christian life? There is also our Sunday evening Christian Discipleship (CD) programme that offers a variety of interesting topics designed to help you to grow closer to God and to one another.

SEEK HIM OUT

God wants us to love him with our whole being. Let's pursue that love by prayer, Bible reading and making use of the many opportunities available to get to know God more. As we seek out God, our closeness to him will grow, our lives will be transformed into his image and we each will better understand our purpose in this world. May each of us come to discover exciting things about God as we intentionally seek him out. "You will seek me and find me," says God, "when you seek me with all your heart" [Jeremiah 29:13].

Camps 2010

The Prospect Youth Centre was a hive of activity during July as the United Church's annual teens' and children's camps took place there. According to director, **Noel Wallace**, numbers were up at both, and there was a greater maturity and better behaviour during both weeks, evidenced by fewer incidents compared to previous years.



A worship time in the Bodden Town United Church

The teens' camp had 35 campers and the children's 42, including some visiting from Jamaica. Apart from Noel, the primary leadership was provided by **Cassandra Hibbert**, with **Rev. Tara Tyme** being the camp chaplain.

There was a well-rounded programme, and it included trips away from centre. For example, some of the Bible studies were held in the different churches. Visits were made to notable Caymanians such as **Mrs. Sybil McLaughlin** and **Dr. Edlin and Mrs. Helen Merren**. "They loved going out," Noel stated, "and both sets of campers seemed to really enjoy their weeks." More importantly, there were several who made first time commitments or recommitments. "Some even offered themselves for Christian service," he said.

The organisers are grateful for those who volunteered their time by teaching or helping in other ways. A special word of thanks is extended to those whose sponsorship made attendance possible for some who otherwise could not afford to attend.



Rev. Dave Hazle

News from Synod

Soon after the **Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan** had been reaffirmed for a further five years as the church's General Secretary, it was announced that he had been appointed as General Secretary of the Council for World Mission (CWM), starting in 2011. The church is currently seeking a replacement for him. We congratulate Collin on this significant appointment.

Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield has been appointed a vice-president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. Yvette was the previous minister of the John Gray Memorial Church. Congratulations to Yvette.

SPECIAL SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to

Queenie Bodden - 96 on the 16th

Cherry Ann Hodgson - 50 on the 20th

Hodgson McLaughlin - 50 on the 20th

Terri Merren - 50 on the 30th

Alvernie Watson - 85 on the 20th

Spotlight on our elders: Janet Macmillan

Janet Macmillan has been an elder for just two years but a member at Elmslie since she was a teenager when she first began to teach Sunday school. She is now Sunday School Superintendent but this is not for the first time. Little surprising for, she says, “I can truly give back my love and concern for the children and young people who attend Sunday school. This is my passion. I know this is where God wants me to be and I truly praise him for guiding me and giving me a hunger to help the youth of today.”



Janet Macmillan

She sees her spiritual gifts as relating to the children and young people within the church and community. “We are afforded a lot of opportunities at Elmslie as many young people attend. They need guidance and encouragement. They need their lives changed and strengthened by God as they face peer pressure and poor lifestyle choices.” She therefore sees her ministry as seeking to teach, nurture and help them.

She is very aware of the growing challenge of working with the children and youth of today’s Cayman. “Many are forgetting their Christian heritage and there is an erosion of Christian values,” she says. “We need to teach them about such things as gambling and crime. We must help them in practical ways – for example, in giving them a Christian perspective on how to handle finances.”

Apart from being involved over the years with young people’s work, Janet was a member of the choir for many years and played the piano for both Christian Endeavour and the Women’s Fellowship. She says, “I have learnt a lot already as an elder, and I am still learning. With God’s grace and guidance, I hope I can make a difference in our church and community.”

Janet is married to **John**, the church’s lay pastor and administrator, and they have two married children and “four beautiful grandchildren whom I love dearly.” When not involved with the life and work of the church, she has a senior and very busy administrative position at the Mosquito Research and Control Unit for which she has worked for forty-four years!

Mission Team Has a Hot but Successful Trip to Haiti

“It was worse than I thought it would be ... the poverty, the dire need ... to experience the reality of Haiti was overwhelming.” This was the initial reaction of **Noel Wallace** paying his first visit to Haiti. “On the other hand,” he continued, “although the initial situation looks gloomy there is a bright side. Those we met were so appreciative. Many are fed up with their traditional past ways. Voodoo hasn’t helped them whereas Christian missionaries are bringing practical care and service which they find so encouraging. Many are turning to Christ. There are glimmers of hope.”

Doubtless, many of the other 21 short-term missionaries, composed of adults and teens from Cayman mainly from Elmslie and Savannah United Churches, together with two from the USA, would have had similar thoughts. It was organised primarily by **Betty Ann Mobley** and,



The team holds VBS

the team, working in those tough conditions. Everyone pulled together and worked hard and they were able to dedicate the two homes on their last day.

The young people were also able to hold a vacation Bible school for the children which included performing a skit. There were, as well, opportunities to minister on a one to one basis.

Thomas Myles, who has been on many mission trips to Haiti, commented on the poverty and filth they encountered. “The YWAM centre was like a palace compared to outside. However, despite the tragedy of the earthquake – or, perhaps because of it – the fields are very ready for harvest. People are open to the Word of God,” he said.

Noel felt that by the end of the trip, the members of the team had a better appreciation of the quality of life back home. “We feel we need to extend our love and genuine care for the less fortunate,” he said. “Some even wanted to adopt a child.” Certainly, everyone returned asking themselves how much more they could do.

The team appreciates the practical help given and all the prayers offered during its time in Haiti.

on this occasion, went under the auspices of Youth With A Mission (YWAM) to St. Marc, two hours north of Port-au-Prince, where YWAM has a base. Although unaffected directly by the earthquake, many Haitians who had migrated from the capital were living there.

YWAM had donated about 30 tents for people to live in and, at the same time, teams from various countries were building homes for families. The Cayman team worked with one from Canada and in the week they were able to build two 20 by 25 foot houses, each able to hold two families. “It was **very** hot – hotter than Cayman,” one team member commented.” There was little shade and when we ate our lunch we crawled under a truck to get a little relief from the heat.” **Chuck Mobley** commented on the quality of the young people who made up

Men’s Breakfast Group Raises Funds for Jim and Karla



Nick Godfrey presents a gift of money for a car to **Jim and Karla Smith** from the Men’s Breakfast group.

George Town Charge Elders

Elmslie:

Marco Archer	946-1207
Michael Bowerman	949-2232
Nicky Godfrey	949-0357
Cathy Gomez	916-6581
Sandra Langlois	946-5085
Janet Macmillan	949-2434
John Macmillan	949-2434
Ellen McField	926-2949
Lorna Reid	947-6616
Alan Turner	946-2258
Mark Minott	926-2217
Madda Whittaker	925-5132

George Hicks:

Bud Johnson	945-1644
Clive Hinds	949-9387
Jennifer Smith	949-8025
Bradshaw Taylor	949-6310
Phil Thomas	949-6993

Robert Young:

Janilee Clifford	949-2973
Edgar Dorman	949-2282
Loris Dorman	949-2282
Caroline Hunter	749-5628
McNee McLaughlin	949-2617
Ransford Terry	949-4642