



UCJCI UPDATE

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

THE UNITED CHURCH
IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

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Presbyterian*

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OUR VISION: "Touching
Lives, Nurturing Disciples,
Seeking Transformation
through Christ"

SYNODICAL THEME:
"Renewal and Transfor-
mation: Discipleship for
Life"

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PRAY FOR:



*Miss Lesley Hare,
who has passed on.

*The family of Rev. Mil-
lard Edwards, who
has passed on.

*Rev. Donovan My-
ers, who is not well.

*Rev. Dr. Maitland
Evans, who is recover-
ing from surgery.

TRUSTING GOD

2 Chronicles 20: 1-7

What do you do
and to whom
do you turn
when life throws you one
problem after another?

Worry and fear are two op-
tions chosen by many. How-
ever, God presents us with
an alternative...**trust**. You
see, worry and fear are crip-
pling emotions. Trust and
faith are centers of confi-
dence, conviction and hope.

Jehoshaphat shows us what
faith looks like when life
turns south and sour. Out-
numbered by advancing mili-
tary enemies, Judah faced
certain defeat. **Children
would become orphans.
Wives would become wid-
ows. Young men would
become slaves.** A massive
social and economic melt-
down was on the horizon.

But notice Jehoshaphat's ex-
pressions of **TRUST**:



[1] T-TALKED WITH GOD.

**Trust in God emerges out of
relationship with God.** That is
what Jehoshaphat invested in
when he was faced with his
challenge. **He didn't depend
solely on his military know-
how or his technical skills and
competencies.** His priority act
was to call on God first.

Shouldn't we do the same?

You and I have the assurance
that when we talk with God,
God hears us; and God will
respond. Now God may not
always respond in ways that
calm the storm around us, but
when we talk with God, He
definitely calms the storm with-

in us...reminding us that He
is with us and will continue
to sustain and keep us.

**[2] R-REMEMBERED
WHAT GOD DID IN THE
PAST.** Jehoshaphat's confi-
dence in God's ability to de-

liver Judah from their present
predicament was bolstered by
his recollection of God's ac-
tivities in the past. We have
often mistaken faith for blind
belief in something that is
unreasonable. There is no
such thing as "blind faith".

Faith is the antidote to blind-
ness, not the cause of it.

Trusting God is not an act of
unreasonable belief. God has
proven Himself time and
again to be eminently **trust-
worthy. Faith comprises
the essence of our hope for
the future based on God's
consistency and faithfulness
in the past.**

Jehoshaphat could, and by

CELEBRATIONS!

70:

**Miss. Laurel-Ann
Livingston****November 19****Rev. James Davis****November 21****Rev. Nigel Pusey****November 23****Rev. Stotrell Lowe****November 24****Trust...**

(continued from page 1)

extension you and I can walk through our struggles and face our future with confidence because we have a God whose track-records is

unquestioned, whose character is impeccable, whose love is unparalleled, whose faithfulness is steadfast, and whose presence is unshakable.

Now since this is true, I believe Jehoshaphat would encourage us to:

**[3] U-UNDERSTAND THAT GOD
HOLDS OUR LIVES TOGETH-**

ER. Jehoshaphat's prayer was not offered to remind God about God's work in the past. God doesn't struggle with forgetfulness. Jehoshaphat's prayers were offered to remind himself and the people that their lives were in God's hands. God has a plan in every circumstance and every situ-

ation of our lives no matter how thorny and turbulent. We may never understand how God works. We may not even appreciate the outworking of God's purposes, but based on scriptures and our experiences of God we know that God has a plan for our lives.

God knows us and has promised to hold our lives together. Paul reminds us in Colossians 1: 16-17, that everything holds together in Jesus! No matter how things in your life seem to fall apart there is a loving Jesus who is holding you together!

**[4] S-STAND IN THE SOLIDARITY
OF COMMUNITY.**

Jehoshaphat called the people to leave their homes and assemble to pray together, fast together, to engage God's presence together. He understood the power of community. In these days marked by environmental vulnerability, economic uncertainty, emotional instability and social fragility it behooves those of us who know the LORD to invest heavily in building community bonds of genuine care. It is now more than ever that we must use every opportunity to prove that the power of love that drives community, finds a way to connect whether by text, phone call, zoom meetings, or stopping at someone's gate. Find a way to supply someone's kitchen from your cupboard of your backyard garden. Find a way to encourage someone whose oil of hope is running low. Be that force that draws and keep people

connected to the solidarity of community.

But there is a final expression of TRUST that emerges from this text. Jehoshaphat and Judah expressed: **[5] T-THANKSGIVING.** They celebrated and thanked God as an expression of their confidence in God's love and ability to rescue them. They thanked God before the battle was fought. They gave thanks before the battle was won. What an example for us! Thanksgiving is an expression of what we believe to be true: that God is on our side! It is that principle of our faith that aids in tri-focalism...looking back to recall God's goodness in the past, looking at how God is working God's purposes out in the present...and looking to the future with confidence that our God is the same yesterday, today, and forevermore.

Yes there are difficult days. However lets us TRUST GOD like Jehoshaphat:

Talk to God

Remember God's past acts
Understand that God holds
our lives together

Stand in solidarity of God's
community

Thank God for His Faithfulness.

(Contributed by Rev. Astor Carlyle,
Minister of the Webster Memorial
Charge of United Churches)

LEADERSHIP CORNER

What's the Purpose of Pastors?

(Part 2)

What the Bible Says About Pastors

The Bible assures us that pastors exist to **shepherd God's people** in local churches until Christ returns (1 Peter 5:1-5). The calling of the pastor is inextricably tied to the biblical metaphor of a shepherd tending to his flock of sheep. Alexander Strauch says, "If we want to understand Christian elders and their work, we must understand the biblical imagery of shepherding. As keepers of sheep, New Testament elders are to protect, feed, lead and care for the flock's many practical needs."

Pastors shepherd God's people by protecting them. One of a pastor's foremost responsibilities is to protect his sheep, for just like sheep need the protection of a shepherd, God's people need the protection of pastors. Paul's farewell address makes it clear that this includes protection from false teachers: "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). It also includes protection from their own sinfulness, which is why a pastor is called to a ministry of exhortation—of calling people away from behavior that is dishonoring to God and toward behavior that is pleasing to him (Titus 2:15). It is why pastors eventually confront ongoing, un-

repentant sin and enforce church discipline (Matthew 18:15-20).

Pastors shepherd God's people by feeding them. A shepherd not only protects his sheep from danger, but he also cares for them by feeding them. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want," says David. "He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters" (Psalm 23:1-2).

The shepherd provides for the sustenance of his sheep. Similarly, pastors must feed God's people with the spiritual food and drink they need—the Word of God. The pastor's ministry is a Word-based ministry in which he uses the Word for preaching, teaching and counseling. "He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it" (Titus 1:9).

Pastors shepherd God's people by leading them. Sheep are wandering creatures who are prone to meander out of safety and into all kinds of danger. They need a shepherd who will lead and guide them. In much the same way, Christians need pastors who will provide leadership. This is a specific form of leadership, though, that better equips them to fulfill the ministry to which God has called them. They carry out this leadership by setting an exam-

ple in godly character, knowing that the pastor's standard for character is really the standard for every Christian. "Shepherd the flock of God that is among you...being examples to the flock" (1 Peter 5:2-3).

Pastors shepherd God's people by caring for them. Sheep that are ill or in distress rely upon their shepherd to tend to them. And when God's people are distressed or uncertain, they rely on their pastors to bring comfort, instill wisdom and offer prayer. "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord" (James 5:14). The pastor has a special function in caring for the people in his charge.

Conclusion

God's church needs pastors. It needs pastors who will function not first as priests or CEOs, but as shepherds—shepherds who will protect God's people; feed them spiritual food; lead them by modeling godly character; and care for them in life's temptations, trials and triumphs. Ultimately, pastors exist to "care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).

Source: **Tim Challies** (Church Leaders)



REMEMBERING SIR HOWARD COOKE



Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans, Moderator, Reflects:

Friday, November 13, 2020 marked the 105th anniversary of the birth of our beloved pastor and Governor General of Jamaica. Sir Howard Cooke.

The following prayers were offered at a Floral Tribute held in his honour at the National Heroes Park.

May God bless our every memory of this great man.

Micah chapter 6 v. 8: *He has shown you O man what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God!*

Let us Pray: Eternal God , God of Grace and Love and Hope You are and You alone are God, You O God who straddles all time and space.

Humbly we bow before You, for You alone are high and lifted up.

With thankful hearts we approach You because You are Creator and Provider, Giver of every good gift.

You give life; You sustain Your people in life,

You direct our paths of life, and in living for You, we are blessed.

We bless your name today and always for your gift to us of Your son Howard,

We acknowledge that he chose to live into Your purpose ,

from the church pews to the pulpit,

from the cane fields to King's House ,

and by so doing blessed myriad of lives through

his commitment to generous service,

his commitment to justice and equity,

his respect for his humble roots,

his commitment to loyalty to his nation.

He has blessed a nation by this exemplary life of hope.

Though now at rest in You, the legacy of his life speaks hope into this generation of Your people whom we represent today:

urging us to show respect to every individual, including those considered to be the least among us,

his legacy spurs us to galvanize all efforts towards providing opportunity for all,

his legacy enjoins us to face the challenges of today and tomorrow by the power unleashed in Love.

O God, Bless his memory to our hearts today, and glorify Your Own Name, which is Jesus Christ.

Amen.



UCJCI AD CORNER



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

IGDS

Institute for Gender & Development Studies
Regional Coordinating Office, Mona Jamaica

The Institute for Gender & Development Studies -
Regional Coordinating Office (IGDS-RCO) &
Jamaica Male Advancement Network (JAMAN)

Present

Positive Fatherhood & Paternity Rights: Towards a Model for Development



Moderator: Mr. Dennis Brooks
Producer of 'Jamaican Dadz Podcast'



Panellist: Captain Nickalious Beaumont
Jamaica Defence Force



Panellist: Mr. Michael McAnuff-Jones
Pastor Christian Life Fellowship



Panellist: Dr. Michael Coombs
Public Health Specialist, Founder
and Chair of the National
Association for the Family



Entertainment by:
Michael-David



Panellist: Mr. Jeffrey Moss-Solomon
General Manager
Jamaica Grains & Cereal



Panellist: Dr. Dayton Robinson
Asst. Vice President - Group Human
Resources at Victoria Mutual Group

Zoom Webinar

Thursday,
November 19, 2020
6:30 PM Jamaica
7:30 PM ECT

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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