



# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

*Serving the Lord in*

# Jamaica

Dear Supporters,

January 2017

We welcome the New Year, and wish you, our friends and supporters, the personal and constant presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. We wish for you and yours prosperity from the Lord in each area of your life, as you seek and surrender yourself to His will and purposes.

We had a December-and early January-of varied family activities and relational experiences. December was filled with familial birthdays of 2 daughters, 2 brothers, sisters-in-law and some others. There was also the funeral of a male cousin, and on December 30th the wedding of our first daughter, Arlene.

The latter necessitated our travel to Miami, where Lloyd filled two roles. It was really quite humorous as he walked Arlene up the aisle, handed her off, then assumed the role of minister. After asking the question "who givest this woman to be married to this man?" he stepped aside and responded "her mother and I do!" It was also a privilege to meet with so many of our friends and former church members from two congregations in South Florida.



Elaine and I returned from Ft. Lauderdale in Florida just two days before the awful shooting at that airport. We were also privileged to receive a visit from our supervising Mission, Harvest International Inc. Danny Thomas and his wife drove from Ocala to Ft. Lauderdale to meet us. We were the only missionary couple they had accepted without meeting us personally. It was good to share of God's working through us, and of their standing on our behalf with our supporters to see that we are supported adequately in prayers and financial resources. We thank God for their advocacy on our behalf these nearly four years.

As we face another year of ministry here in Jamaica it is with excitement and much anticipations. We may not be as strong as in former years, nor as energetic, but we have so many opportunities to share with and minister to so many around us.

Praise God with us for:

- Our needs which God meets one way or the other, and that we are both in relatively good health.
- People who seek us out for aid, assistance and advice in the community where we live. Recently my wife was awaiting a taxi at our gate when a private car drove up and the driver invited her in. "But, I don't know you," she said. "I know you, though" the driver responded. "You and your husband pass my house in ... in the evenings when you go on your walk." People often ask Lloyd for Elaine if she is not walking with him. He has to explain why she is absent. This regard for us opens many opportunities to be an influence for good and for God. We deeply cherish this.
- The response of two local churches to meet the need of the family we mentioned last time, who needed help to repair the leaking roof of their home. The roof has been repaired and raised so the water will now flow off.
- The Jamaican Church which has begun the year with a number of prayer initiatives. A series of united daily prayer services in major towns and villages will end February 3rd with an whole night of prayer at a Camp and Conference centre near to us.
- On Thursday the 19th the 37th National Prayer Breakfast was held, attracting leaders from Government, Business, the Legal, Security and Church communities. It was held at a time when the Church is under negative national pressures due

to the moral failure of a minister of one of our major denominations. But God spoke with clarity and candor through a well crafted sermon from a respected Baptist pastor. Praise God!

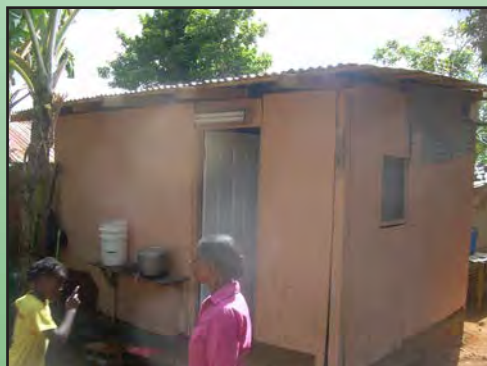
Pray with us

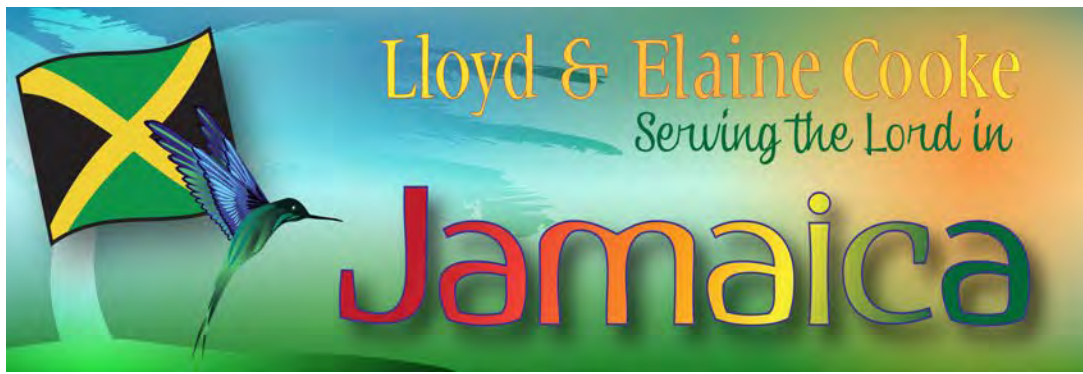
- That the Church's influence for good in Jamaica would remain positive.
- That our health will remain good this year. Elaine has had intermittent high-blood pressure, low pulse and occasional irregular heart beats. Various tests show nothing serious, yet. She is working on certain natural remedies for the high blood-pressure, and trusting that more drastic remedies won't be necessary in the future.
- For Lloyd's teaching responsibilities at Regent College this semester. He will be teaching Evangelism.
- That God would raise up persons for the second Children's Ministry Certificate Course to study how to reach and minister to children, particularly those outside the churches.
- That Lloyd will find the right publisher for his recently completed book about a Jamaican family that has produced five generations of foreign missionaries.
- For Elaine's many children and youth initiatives in the communities and schools God has opened to her, and for helpers.
- For a cousin of our daughters who expressed to me after the wedding ceremony that, though she was not a religious or church going person, she was deeply impacted by the wedding. She is beginning to examine spiritual things.
- For a young Jamaican couple with Wycliffe Bible Translators who Lloyd brought to his church early this month. They are on furlough but need increased financial monthly support to return to Bible translation in South Asia in February.

Thanks for your cards and gifts received over the Christmas season just past. Please continue to uphold us in your prayers as we continue to serve our Lord Jesus Christ through the coming year. While we have no more guarantees than you do, we know that we have a wonderful God Who has promised His presence and provision for our every need for every day and year that He allows us to serve Him here in Jamaica. He is faithful!

In His service!

*Lloyd and Elaine Cooke*





Elaine and I are both north of 70 years old: still young by today's expectations. But we find that much of our ministry activities these days have to do with children, in one form or another. Jamaica has recently seen a spate of sexual and criminal attacks on children, and on women. So, both secular and church groups are focussed on and responding to these attacks. The Church and all of us in ministry need to become more aware of the urgency of reaching our children for Christ while they are still young and receptive.

Our home and yard seems to attract children. But really, it is because of Elaine's heightened awareness of them and their spiritual needs. She has recently requested of her Methodist Circuit minister to release her of preaching duties so that she may concentrate on a plan to start community children classes, and to train local workers from the churches to take these over.

Elaine gathers neighbour children on weekends for reading, spelling and maths assistance. She shares the gospel with them and instructs them in Bible knowledge, as most of them do not attend any church. On Sunday afternoons she has Sunday School with them on our verandah. Discussions are also ongoing with various schools for ministry opportunities. She has invitations for school assemblies, but also seeks to establish in-school Bible Clubs. A local pastor is helping to establish a Scout troop in one of these schools. With the help of Child Evangelism Fellowship she wants to train some of the christian teachers to become Children workers to lead these Bible Clubs.

Many community children are unable to attend school all five days a week, because of transportations and lunch costs. We try to help some of these. Elaine has arranged for her church to assist about a dozen or more late teen students of the government's Foundation for Life-Long Learning. They come weekly for a session of instruction in social, educational and other life skills. She and other ladies of her church also help some of these with financial support. A few have shown response to spiritual matters.

Another effort to influence our children through the schools is the Wait-and -Win abstinence program. Schools are still open to this intervention, but it is difficult to find helpers to share with the classes of children she has to address. Please pray for all of these activities to win our Jamaican children, and so help to change their future paths.

**Praise Notes: We give praise to God for the many great mercies and blessings He gives.**

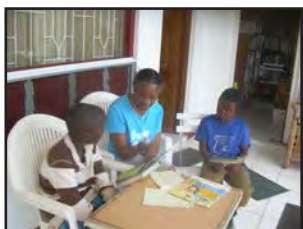
- For continuing good health that Elaine and I experience. All areas of any concern are presently under control, Thank God.
- For faithful prayer and financial supporters like you who sacrifice to keep us in this place of service to Jesus and the gospel;
- For the 16 students enrolled in Lloyd's Children's Ministries Certificate Course at the College. The students come from nine (9) different denominations, and meet for three hours each Thursday evening.
- That our children and their spouses are walking with the Lord, and that our two grandchildren are doing well in school and in sporting activities.

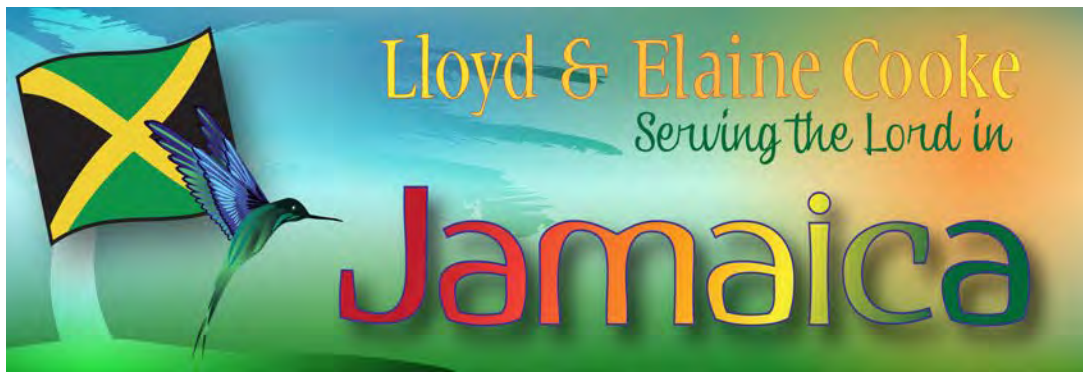
**Prayer Points. Help us pray for the following situations and ministry efforts:**

- Elaine's recently did an electrocardiogram monitoring due to a problem of occasional palpitations and irregular fluctuating heartbeats. She thinks it may have been triggered by a particular high blood pressure medication she was on. She feels great most of the time, and is keeping off most medications, choosing to focus on various natural remedies;
- For helpers who will be able to aid Elaine in the Child Evangelism and Wait-and-Win abstinence programs she is involved in in the schools;
- For the special Lenten Meditation meetings in the various local churches, led by the Mandeville Ministers Association, that they would impact many for good;
- Plans by Elaine to start neighborhood children's Bible Clubs, and to train others to eventually take them over.

Harvest Time: Elaine comments that "It's harvest time in many of our Methodist churches, and the rainbow of colours seen in the fruits, vegetables and ground provisions bring joy to our hearts. But the greater joy we experienced at two of our churches was the harvest of souls. Our afternoon Sunday School on our verandah/porch continues to the delight of the children attending.

Thanks for your constant friendship, prayers and financial support. Continue to uphold us before our Heavenly Father. Your reward in heaven will be great.





## FAMILY MATTERS

These past couple weeks have been consumed with family matters having to do with illness and death.

A younger brother of Lloyd's, the middle one of five brothers, departed this life. He had been ailing with a debilitating disease which slowly made him immobile. In recent months various other afflictions appeared, related to his immobility, which resulted in the failing of vital organs. Lloyd visited with him on Saturday the 20th of May, and found him tired from the previous day's outing to the doctor, but in reasonably good spirits. But he took a turn for the worse the following day, and was hospitalized. He passed away in hospital on Tuesday the 23rd., Jamaica's Labour Day.

Lloyd was particularly close with this brother, and they had good spiritual rapport together. Lloyd had led him to Christ as a pre-teen, and he was showing signs of great spiritual possibilities. But Lloyd's departure from the family home, and difficulties of a religious sort with his father, created a disconnect for years. During this time his brother became active in Jamaican party politics and organizational activities which affected his spiritual development. However, in recent years a new closeness developed; and various spiritual discussions brought him and his brother closer. We are believing the Lord about his eternal destination.

The funeral activities created opportunities for bringing the remaining six siblings, his widow, children, grandchildren and many other cousins, nieces, nephews and friends together. The funeral itself was one of good remembrances and memorializing. The interring of the urn, along with the planting of a tree and plaque in his memory, at the former family home two days later was particularly moving. We leave him in the good hands of our God who gave him to us, and to his generation.

These events gave all an opportunity to contemplate our brief mortality, and consider eternal consequences of how we live. Our prayers are that many did just that, and we will continue to seek to "make our calling and election sure."

Help us thank the Lord in the middle of these circumstances for:

- Family togetherness, that the closeness and harmony will continue and increase
- For the Lord's provision of the funds necessary to cover funeral and other related expenses related to the funeral
- For physical health and help received to endure the much travel and stresses of the times

We seek for prayer and God's help for

- An upcoming conference Lloyd will be attending in Trinidad and Tobago in late July
- Elaine's efforts to start community children's Bible Clubs around the area in which we reside
- For various summer church activities, and Vacation Bible Schools in the coming months
- For the graduating students from, the College where Lloyd teaches, as they enter into their various areas of ministry: secular and spiritual

Thanks to you for your prayers and continuing financial support for our ministry here. Your blessings and rewards from the Lord will be great.



*Lloyd's brother Ruel who passed away*



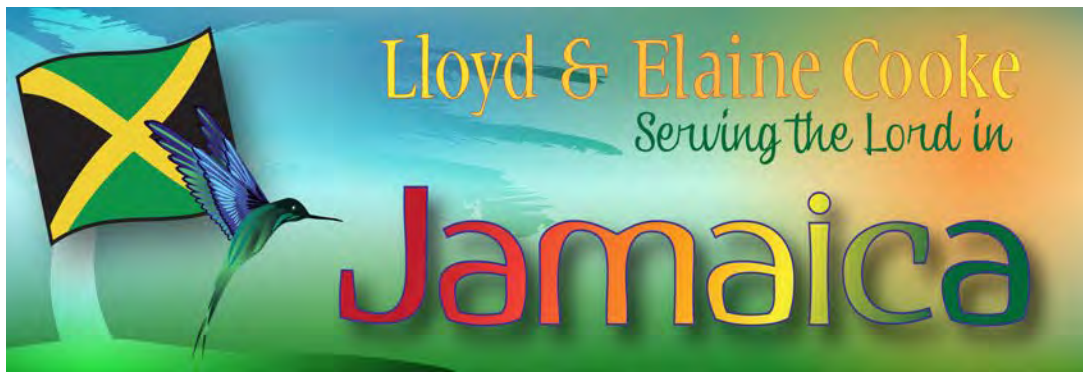
*The Cooke Siblings*



*Lloyd with his brother Ruel*



*Ruels sons next to his grave*

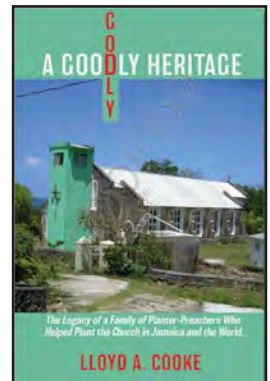


Lloyd is busy once again teaching at Regent College of the Caribbean. This semester he is pouring his soul into twenty students, teaching on Missions. Our prayer is that some of these will hear the call of God to Cross-Cultural missionary service. Pray with him towards this end! Lloyd often hears from past students of his who are now out in Christian ministry. Some call seeking counsel and advice for various things. One call came last week from a graduate who is now teaching at a denominational Bible Institute, where he is teaching Personal Evangelism. This was a very gratifying call, as it indicated that we can still influence the next generation of Christian leaders in a positive way.

As the new school year begins, Elaine is continuing her work to start a number of Community Bible Clubs in collaboration with local churches; in a few weeks' time she will also renew her "Wait-and-Win" program in the schools, addressing sexual purity through putting faith in Christ. Elaine's new outreach is one to get spiritual and financial assistance for students at a Jamaica Government school for remedial education of post-High School students. She has contacted the local Ministerial Association to partner with the school to meet some of the student's needs. Pray for the Association's meeting on the 18th for a good outcome to her initiative. Thank God for the freedoms we still have to share the gospel in our Jamaican school system.



We can now announce that - in a few weeks time - Lloyd's newest Missions book should be available from Xulon Press, and the usual book stores. The title is *A Goodly Heritage: The Legacy of a Family of Planter-Preachers Who Helped Plant the Church in Jamaica and the World*. It is now available as an eBook at Amazon.com-Kindle; Barnes & Noble - Nook; and Apple iBook. This new book "chronicles the story of an extended family of former plantation owners who left Jamaica as missionaries, and planted the seed of the gospel, and raised up churches, schools, radio stations, Bible and other training institutions in Brazil, China, the Congo, Ecuador, and Peru. Its primary focus is on the fourth generation of this family, when five cousins served simultaneously in four different countries planting the gospel-seed deeply in the soil of those countries. This legacy continues today."



We regret to announce the passing, after a long illness, of our good and faithful automobile, after four years' service. Our silver Mitsubishi Colt was thirteen years old and, despite our best efforts and much expense to keep it going, finally expired a few weeks ago. We request your prayers for God's provision to replace it. Thanks for your sympathies, prayers and help. In lieu of flowers you may send contributions to our mission who will send it on to us.

## New Vehicle For The Cookes

**I am giving a special gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the Cookes purchase a new vehicle.**

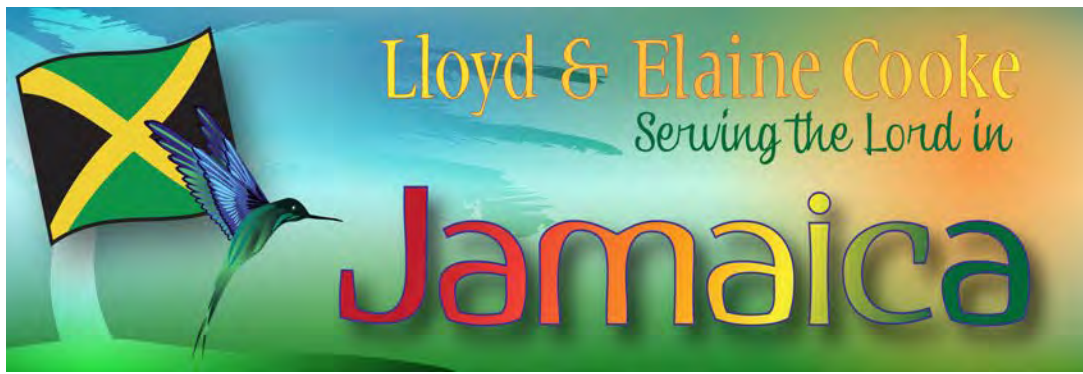
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**Mail completed form and donations to Harvest International · P.O. Box 6690 · Ocala, FL 34478  
or donate online at [www.HarvestInternational.org](http://www.HarvestInternational.org) \*Notate "Cokes Vehicle"**



The first week of December brought to an end Lloyd's Missions classes at the College. One of the high points each week, has been the assigned research as to the state of the Gospel in certain countries of the world. After a sample of the assignments are taken and discussed, a time of prayer for the country in focus follows. This has been tremendously engaging and rewarding, as deep spiritual insights have been reflected in their prayers. They have expressed how meaningful this time has become to them.

It was Lloyd's privilege to have two Jamaican missionaries on furlough from Liberia address his final class last Tuesday. This was followed by their presentation to the entire school body during chapel service. Another lecturer remarked to Lloyd that "we should have a visiting missionary in chapel each semester." This missionary Doctor and her administrative assistant were involved in the Ebola outbreak a couple years ago, and have been helping both Christian and government hospitals improve their service delivery to provide "compassionate Christian care." They also help Pastors improve their ability to help the needy in the villages. God is using them greatly, as they find a variety of ways to share Christ. They deserve our prayer support.

Elaine's visits to schools to share the sexual abstinence message, as well as challenging students to seek the Lord's help in their lives, has been bearing good fruit. In three recent visits to a particular Junior High school she recorded 68 kids making professions of faith, while many have rededicated themselves to the Lord.

She has also had some satisfying times with the young men from the government remedial literacy program who visit her church weekly. Groups of twelve or of fifteen have been receiving positive challenge to improve themselves in life-skills. Some evidence a spiritual work being done in their lives. Last time they were addressed by a Fireman about learning to "control the personal fires within", and to seek the Holy Spirit's fire instead. Many were clearly moved. Continue to pray for them.

Lloyd has also had opportunities recently to share the missionary challenge with local churches. A few Sundays ago he visited an adjoining parish to preach at a Missionary Conference, at the church of one of his students. He was able also to present his recently published book on an extended family with six generations of missionaries who had served in various countries. He will be having a couple of book launches soon in Mandeville and in the capital, Kingston. Pray that these go well.

We look forward to a visit to the States in February, as we respond to an invitation to be in Ocala for February 22nd. This is for a Mission Banquet to be hosted by our mission, Harvest International. This will also enable us to spend a few days with our daughter and her family in Raleigh, North Carolina, before returning to Jamaica. We thank God for His provision of funds to cover our travel costs.

We trust that our long wait for a new transportation will soon be realized. Lloyd has been doing much walking, over the past nearly four months since our car died on us. The import of a reconditioned five year old car from Japan was delayed for a couple weeks. It is now due in about a week's time. Our hope is that Christmas will see us able to move about, and do our work more easily.

The contributions of our family, friends, and supporting churches have been overwhelming. This has allowed us to purchase this car without having to take a bank loan, though we did begin to investigate this, and nearly signed a loan agreement. Praise God this has not been found necessary. We are filled with gratitude to the many of you who have made this possible.

We continue to rejoice in the faithful support in prayer and gifts of our supporters. As we enter the Christmas and New Year seasons, it is our prayer that you will each be blessed yourself and in your family relationships. May each one of us dedicate ourselves afresh to serve our Lord Jesus to the fulness of our abilities and His enabling.





# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

*Serving the Lord in*

# Jamaica

May 2017

## Harvest Time

Dear Friends,

It is harvest time in Jamaica. No, it is not yet the fall season of the year. Since Jamaica is in the tropics, we do not have distinctive seasons, nor changes in the leaves of our trees and other such beautiful preparations for winter. Nevertheless, the European/North American missionaries brought to these islands their Church traditions. Thus, our older denominations still observe the practice of Church harvests.

The Mandeville Methodist circuit, with which Elaine serves, changed their harvest celebrations from the traditional Fall/Autumn months to February & March. We were able to contribute from our half an acre of land bananas and star apples, and a vegetable called 'cho-cho' from our garden to some of the churches. However, we have been seeing another type of harvest, that of souls, ripening around us.

Lloyd's Evangelism course at the College has ended, except for final exams and term papers with their marking to come. One class period during early April the class went out into the town-center and market area to hand out literature and do one-on-one evangelizing. For most students this was their first practical soul-winning experience. Their excited faces and eager feedback afterwards and in the next class, revealed many lessons learned and joyful moments of discovery of God's working in the hearts of those they spoke with. May the lessons learned continue to inspire them in their future ministries. Do remember them in your prayers, as they face final exams and then, for some, graduation.

The Children's Ministry Course at the College is nearing completion for its second year cohort. Sixteen students from thirteen different churches and eight denominations are preparing to become engaged in church, school and outdoor Bible Clubs to win children for Christ. Please intercede for them that their zeal may be translated into effective efforts that will win many young hearts to our Savior. A great harvest field awaits these much-needed workers.

Elaine's desire to raise up Methodist Children's Clubs and Community clubs is beginning to bear fruit, but she needs many more volunteer harvesters. One new plant has had two sessions so far, with a tripling of the first day's attendance. The excitement and interest in the things of God was palpable among them. Pray for continued growth; and for the assistant that she will soon be able to take over full leadership of this club.

The coming summer months will be filled with Vacation Bible Schools for Elaine. Help her pray for many unchurched children to show up so they may become a part of the Lord's harvest, while their hearts are still tender to the things of God.

Summer is also a time for conferences. Lloyd plans to attend a Caribbean denominational conference in Trinidad in late July. This will be followed the next week by the local Keswick convention here in Mandeville, with which we are usually involved. Please help us pray for the supply of funds for registration fees, travel and accommodation, as well as

for value to the churches in the Caribbean. Lloyd is also expecting to have his most recent missions book available to take some with him to Trinidad. Editing and printing costs are quite demanding. Help him pray for the funds to see this project through; and that the Lord may use this new book to challenge Caribbean people to continued missionary efforts.

This is a time of great ingathering of souls into the Kingdom of God, particularly in Africa, Asia and the Middle Eastern Muslim nations. However, many believers are also suffering great persecution for their faith. Let us remember to uphold fellow Christians by our prayers in those parts of the world. May the Lord supply the reapers to enter into the harvest of these nations.

*“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth laborers into his harvest.” Matt. 9:37-38*

Yours faithfully serving the Lord of the Harvest in Jamaica!

*Lloyd & Elaine Cooke*







# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

*Serving the Lord in*

# Jamaica

June 2017

Dear Supporters,

## FAMILY MATTERS

These past couple weeks have been consumed with family matters having to do with illness and death.



**Lloyd's brother Ruel**

Ruel, a younger brother of Lloyd's, the middle one of five brothers, departed this life. He had been ailing with a debilitating disease which slowly made him immobile. In recent months various other afflictions appeared, related to his immobility, which resulted in the failing of vital organs. Lloyd visited with him on Saturday the 20th of May, and found him tired from the previous day's outing to the doctor, but in reasonably good spirits. But he took a turn for the worse the following day, and was hospitalized. He passed away in hospital on Tuesday the 23rd., Jamaica's Labour Day.

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**Lloyd with his brother Ruel**



**The Cooke Siblings**

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These events gave all an opportunity to contemplate our brief mortality, and consider eternal consequences of how we live. Our prayers are that many did just that, and we will continue to seek to “make our calling and election sure.”



Bishop preaching at the funeral



The Funeral



Planting of the urn



Ruels sons by his urn, tree and marker

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Yours in service to our Lord in Jamaica,

*Lloyd & Elaine Cooke*

A Ministry of Harvest International, Inc.

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# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

*Serving the Lord in*

# Jamaica

August 2017

## Spiritual Highs, Emotional Lows and Financial Struggles

Dear Family & Friends,

For us here in Jamaica, the summer has been characterized by spiritual highs, with emotional lows and some financial struggles. But you will need help deciphering my riddle.

**First:** Our spiritual involvements have been varied, but mostly times of great excitement this summer. After graduation exercises at Regent College Lloyd jetted off to Trinidad and Tobago mid-July (with 24 other Jamaicans) for a week-long Caribbean denominational conference. This also enabled him to visit in at another such conference where delegates from some Eastern-Caribbean islands included a few Past Students of his Alma Mater, who now serve in leadership positions in those islands. It was a pleasant unexpected surprise.

At his denominational conference Lloyd enjoyed the country reports; soul-stirring devotional times each morning; and plenary messages from speakers which revealed the depth and breadth of leadership quality from our Caribbean countries; and the level of Youth involvement which speak well of the future for growth in our churches. Maybe the highpoint of the conference was a presentation from a Trinidadian young lady missionary to Senegal and the Guinea in West Africa, Leah Joslyn. She serves among Muslim women with the mission 'Ethnos 360' (formerly known as 'New Tribes Mission'.) A totally spontaneous reaction saw an audience collection of over US\$1000.00 to assist her computer purchase project which will help the women to learn new skills. She deserves our prayers.



The various workshops were of great interest and value to us; and the opportunities to meet old friends and make new ones was a highlight. Many valuable one-on-one discussions took place which should result to the benefit of all countries and many churches. We returned hopeful of new growth spurts in some of our territories.

Elaine led a week of Vacation Bible School at a nearby Methodist Church while Lloyd was away, and she assisted in another a few weeks later. She is also working with a family to help them get government financial support to get and keep their children in school, when they reopen in a few weeks time. She is often frustrated by many parents lack of interest in the education of their children.

Lloyd returned on July 22nd in time to attend and profit from the annual Keswick convention in Mandeville. Morning Bible studies, and evening public meetings focussing on improving the spiritual lives of believers were fairly well attended. Lloyd assisted in different ways to facilitate these meetings.

For Elaine and me there was no opportunity for taking a vacation. But as we grow near the end of our days, this is of less importance to us. We will have all of eternity to rest.

**Second:** Emotional Lows: Spiritual highs are often followed, or accompanied by emotional lows. While our country, Jamaica, celebrated its 183rd anniversary of the Abolition of slavery, and (five days later) its 55th Independence celebrations in early August. It did so in the midst of a continuing murder spree that neither the police or the government seems able to stem. As a former Minister of Security observed a few years ago, the country needs “Divine Intervention.”

The celebratory events of early August were soon followed by near ‘national emotional depression’ because of the woefully low number of World Athletics Championship medals the country was able to garner in London. Our ‘Legend,’ Usain Bolt had his fairy-tale retirement parade ‘rained on’; and a series of injuries on the tract to our athletes at crucial times, caused us to miss out on our expected haul of Gold and Silver medals. Many Jamaicans would say with the British commentator, that we seem to have been jinxed. Don’t worry about us: we will soon come out of our collective depression. However, we were able to rejoice with our Caribbean friends in Trinidad and Tobago in their country capturing the gold in the men’s 4x400 relay on the final evening. This gave us some amount of comfort in our misery. Congrats to Trinidad and Tobago!

**Third:** Health, Transportation and Financial Concerns. The last couple of months has done severe damage to our financial resources. Outlays to the book publisher to assist in preparing Lloyd’s book for publication; Vision test and glasses for Elaine; visits to and tests associated with visits to a cardiologist for Elaine recently; plus current car repair costs have all drained our bank reserves.

Her recent issues of low heart and pulse rate, together with occasional heart palpitations, necessitated EKGs, Echocardiograms, and a 24 hour Holter monitor. The results were encouraging, but the cardiologist wanted to rule out heart disease so she had to do a Dopamine stress and Echo test. We await the result of this last test, though the comments of the technicians were encouraging to us. In this midst of all of these our thirteen year old car has been indicating need for transmission repair. We finally decided to get it looked at. Other complications have arisen, and as costs escalate it has made us question whether we should consider replacing this car. But we are trusting the Lord to enable us to do so soon. We seek your prayers for these situations.

You have done so much for us, and we deeply appreciate this. We cannot ask you to do more. But do pray that the Lord would raise up for us some new supporting friends. Our Lord is well able, and will meet our every legitimate need to His glory. We thank you all for your interest, prayers and faithful support for us over these many years. May He meet your every need, as you follow and serve Him until he calls us home.

In Christ’s loving service in Jamaica,

*Lloyd & Elaine Cooke*

A Ministry of Harvest International, Inc.

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# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

*Serving the Lord in*

# Jamaica

September 2017

## Jamaica Untouched by Hurricanes

Greetings to our Family & Friends,

In case any of you are concerned about us here in Jamaica, relative to the recent storms, be at peace. We escaped any direct effect this time. A few rain-bands attributable to hurricane Irene was all that we received, Praise the Lord! Nevertheless, our hearts are grieved for all those who suffered, and we wish that we were a few decades younger so we could be involved in the relief efforts. This we had done after a number of hurricanes in Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Central America and Miami during the 1980's to late 1990's. May those affected experience the help and grace of our God as they seek to repair their lives.



Lloyd is busy once again teaching at Regent College of the Caribbean. This semester he is pouring his soul into twenty students, teaching on Missions. Our prayer is that some of these will hear the call of God to Cross-Cultural missionary service. Pray with him towards this end! Lloyd often hears from past students of his who are now out in Christian ministry. Some call seeking counsel and advice for various things. One call came last week from a graduate who is now teaching at a denominational Bible Institute, where he is teaching Personal Evangelism. This was a very gratifying call, as it indicated that we can still influence the next generation of Christian leaders in a positive way.

As the new school year begins, Elaine is continuing her work to start a number of Community Bible Clubs in collaboration with local churches; in a few weeks' time she will also renew her "Wait-and-Win" program in the schools, addressing sexual purity through putting faith in Christ. Elaine's new outreach is one to get spiritual and financial assistance for students at a Jamaica Government school for remedial education of post-High School students. She has contacted the local Ministerial Association to partner with the school to meet some of the student's needs. Pray for the Association's meeting on the 18th for a good outcome to her initiative. Thank God for the freedoms we still have to share the gospel in our Jamaican school system.



**Death:** We regret to announce the passing, after a long illness, of our good and faithful automobile, after four years' service. Our silver Mitsubishi Colt was thirteen years old and, despite our best efforts and much expense to keep it going, finally expired a few weeks ago. We request your prayers for God's provision to replace it. Thanks for your sympathies, prayers and help. In lieu of flowers you may send contributions to our mission who will send it on to us.

## New Vehicle For The Cookes

I am giving a special gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the Cookes purchase a new vehicle.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

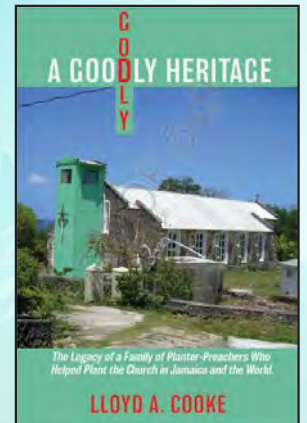
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Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form and donations to Harvest International · P.O. Box 6690 · Ocala, FL 34478  
or donate online at [www.HarvestInternational.org](http://www.HarvestInternational.org) \*Notate "Cookes Vehicle"

**New Arrival:** We can now announce that - in a few weeks time - Lloyd's newest Missions book should be available from Xulon Press, and the usual book stores. The title is A Goodly Heritage: The Legacy of a Family of Planter-Preachers Who Helped Plant the Church in Jamaica and the World. It is now available as an eBook at Amazon.com-Kindle; Barnes & Noble - Nook; and Apple iBook. This new book "chronicles the story of an extended family of former plantation owners who left Jamaica as missionaries, and planted the seed of the gospel, and raised up churches, schools, radio stations, Bible and other training institutions in Brazil, China, the Congo, Ecuador, and Peru. Its primary focus is on the fourth generation of this family, when five cousins served simultaneously in four different countries planting the gospel-seed deeply in the soil of those countries. This legacy continues today."



Thanks for your faithful serving with us as we share the Lord with all we can, and by every means possible. Your partnership is crucial to our ability to continue serving the Lord here in Jamaica and the Caribbean. We thank you for your service to Christ and to us!

Blessings in the Lord!

In Christ's loving service in Jamaica,

*Lloyd & Elaine Cooke*

A Ministry of Harvest International, Inc.

P.O. Box 6690 • Ocala, FL 34478 • 3 52-622-1818 • [lcookemia@gmail.com](mailto:lcookemia@gmail.com) • [www.harvestinternational.org](http://www.harvestinternational.org)



# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

Serving the Lord in

# Jamaica

November 2017

Family & Friends,

Greetings and best wishes to you all and your family, as we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. We have so much to be thankful to God for. Let us maintain a thankful heart always and in every situation, for God is always with us, and He is superintending all our circumstances for our good. To Him be glory, always and in every place!

Elaine and I too have much to be thankful for, in a variety of special ways:

**Health:** Last time we shared how Elaine had gotten good news, after a couple of medical tests relative to cardiac issues. Last month it was Lloyd's time. He had been feeling a strange weariness while walking, and also at times during the nights. This caused him to seek a consultation with the local Heart Institute. A heart scan and a stress test were recommended. These were costly tests, but they relieved our concerns, as they showed that, while a small area of the heart was not getting its full amount of blood, there was no need for any intervention. A prescription was written, but Lloyd considers himself blessed by the results. We are praising the Lord for His great goodness!

**Car need:** God has been working to supply our car need that we mentioned last time, as a result of the "death" of our faithful thirteen year old car. An attempt to borrow funds from Lloyd's sibling was shelved, as the Lord provided a substantial amount as a gift from a family member; and a friend in ministry sourced a gift from a Jamaican believer in South Florida. These two gifts represent about 60% of what is needed to acquire a five year old Japanese reconditioned import. We are trusting God to complete what He has begun within the next couple weeks. We believe this amount will be met soon. Help us pray and praise the Lord for this matter. We have begun praising Him already!

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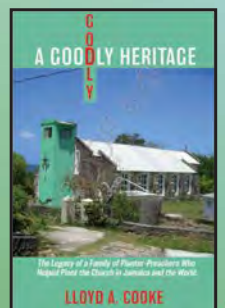
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form and donations to Harvest International · P.O. Box 6690 · Ocala, FL 34478  
or donate online at [www.HarvestInternational.org](http://www.HarvestInternational.org) \*Notate "Cookes Vehicle"

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**School Ministries:** Lloyd's College class of twenty five students in Missions in History & Theology is both a thrill and a challenge to him. The students' interest is often exciting and humbling. We pray that they would become catalysts for World Evangelization in their future ministries. They face final papers and exams in five weeks. Praise God for these budding servants of God. Lloyd often gets calls for Missions speaking at local churches. He has one such coming up at month's end. Pray for him.



Elaine's efforts to reach Youth and Children for Christ continues. Her abstinence program in schools ("Wait & Win") is dependent on the willingness of schools to make time for her and her helpers to come in to address the children. She has been seeing some hesitation recently to make time for her. Pray for the good-will of the Principals and Guidance Counselors in these interventions to influence the moral and spiritual health of our nation. This need is very great in Jamaica at this time, as it is elsewhere. Thank God that there is still real openness within Jamaica's educational system for Christian witness to the children.

**February trip to Ocala for Mission Banquet:** We have been asked if we can be in Ocala, Florida, for a banquet with our mission agency. The main speaker will be a popular Jamaican minister, and former Youth for Christ International Director. It will also afford us the opportunity to visit our daughter Gail and her family, who now reside in the Raleigh-Durham area of North Carolina, after the banquet. We thank God for this opportunity, and ask you to pray for safety and blessings in travel at that time.

We are eternally thankful for your faithful prayers and support of us, both in thought and in your sacrificial gifts, which keep us serving the Lord here in Jamaica. We would be ineffective without this partnership with us. As our friends in the US look forward to Thanksgiving Day in a few weeks, we want to wish you all a time of blessing as you enjoy it with your families. May you have a truly thankful heart, and remember the Lord's goodness toward you, even in the ordinary and mundane things of life.

Sincerely thankful to you and to the Lord,

*Lloyd & Elaine Cooke*



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# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

*Serving the Lord in*

# Jamaica

December 2017

## Darkness, Light & Hope

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them the light has shined....For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, And the government shall be upon His shoulders... to order it and to establish it with judgement and justice...” (Isa. 9: 2, 7)*

As it was in the Israel at the time of Christ's first coming, so it is today when all signs shout that His Second Coming cannot be far away. It was a time of darkness and fear in Israel as her enemies were at her borders, ready to overwhelm and destroy her and her people...it is so even today....All abroad there was despair and fear...but the Lord through His prophet isaiah, proclaimed HOPE. Hope was based on God's provision of His Son, who would take control and govern. This is the only hope for our world at this time: “Hope Thou in God...”

**Darkness:** Jamaica's national condition is presently one of 'darkness,' and seeming hopelessness. As I write there is news that nine people were shot dead at a funeral. There seems to be no end to the murders. A few days ago news broke that the Police, with the aid of US Customs, confiscated a shipment of 199 guns, (with other gun parts and much ammunition), was seized among Christmas shipments to Jamaica. Nothing the government does seems to stem the tide of murders and other crimes. But our HOPE is in our Lord to change hearts.

The same sense of hopelessness grips the nations of our world. Political leaders are seemingly at their wits ends. The Middle East, North Korea, and Israel are all trouble spots that could 'blow their top' at any time, plunging the world into chaotic times. But we comfort ourselves with the knowledge that our God is Ruler over the nations, and that “the heart of Kings are in His hands.”

**Light:** The Apostle John said that, to dispel earth's darkness, God sent forth His Light into the world. “The light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out” (Jn. 1:5) (Contemporary English Version) We continue to hope in such assurances from our God. We can believe God that the predictions of doom and gloom, in the light of President Trump's declaration that Jerusalem is Israel's capital, will not materialize. But instead, that it may cause the combattants in the region to accept the realities as they are, and come to the peace table. But whatever happens, God is the One orchestrating events and outcomes.

**Delights:** The first week of December brought to an end Lloyd's Missions classes at the College. One of the high points each week, has been the assigned research as to the state of the Gospel in certain countries of the world. After a sample of the assignments are taken and discussed, a time of prayer for the country in focus follows. This has been tremendously engaging and rewarding, as deep spiritual insights have been reflected in their prayers. They have expressed how meaningful this time has become to them.

It was Lloyd's privilege to have two Jamaican missionaries on furlough from Liberia address his final class last Tuesday. This was followed by their presentation to the entire school body during chapel service. Another lecturer remarked to Lloyd that “we should have a visiting missionary in chapel each semester.” This missionary Doctor and her administrative assistant were involved in the Ebola outbreak a couple years ago, and have been helping both Christian and government hospitals improve their service delivery to provide “compassionate Christian care.” They also help Pastors improve their ability to help the needy in the villages. God is using them greatly, as they find a variety of ways to share Christ. They deserve our prayer support.

Elaine's visits to schools to share the sexual abstinence message, as well as challenging students to seek the Lord's help in their lives, has been bearing good fruit. In three recent visits to a particular Junior High school she recorded 68 kids making

professions of faith, while many have rededicated themselves to the Lord.

She has also had some satisfying times with the young men from the government remedial literacy program who visit her church weekly. Groups of twelve or of fifteen have been receiving positive challenge to improve themselves in life-skills. Some evidence a spiritual work being done in their lives. Last time they were addressed by a Fireman about learning to “control the personal fires within”, and to seek the Holy Spirit’s fire instead. Many were clearly moved. Continue to pray for them.

Lloyd has also had opportunities recently to share the missionary challenge with local churches. A few Sundays ago he visited an adjoining parish to preach at a Missionary Conference, at the church of one of his students. He was able also to present his recently published book on an extended family with six generations of missionaries who had served in various countries. He will be having a couple of book launches soon in Mandeville and in the capital, Kingston. Pray that these go well.

**Hope:** Christmas is preeminently a time of HOPE. The knowledge that God is with us, available to intervene on our behalf, and to meet our every need, is particularly satisfying. Without this assurance we couldn’t face our challenges. But we are enabled to do so!

Our Prime Minister responded to a petition from the local Evangelical Association to call a weekend of prayer and fasting for the country. He even quoted “If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves...etc.” May our people truly seek the face of the Lord for His intervention in the crime situation and other issues in Jamaica today. Hope is still alive!

We look forward to a visit to the States in February, as we respond to an invitation to be in Ocala for February 22nd. This is for a Mission Banquet to be hosted by our mission, Harvest International. This will also enable us to spend a few days with our daughter and her family in Raleigh, North Carolina, before returning to Jamaica. We thank God for His provision of funds to cover our travel costs.

We trust that our long wait for a new transportation will soon be realized. Lloyd has been doing much walking, over the past nearly four months since our car died on us. The import of a reconditioned five year old car from Japan was delayed for a couple weeks. It is now due in about a week’s time. Our hope is that Christmas will see us able to move about, and do our work more easily.

The contributions of our family, friends, and supporting churches have been overwhelming. This has allowed us to purchase this car without having to take a bank loan, though we did begin to investigate this, and nearly signed a loan agreement. Praise God this has not been found necessary. We are filled with gratitude to the many of you who have made this possible.

We continue to rejoice in the faithful support in prayer and gifts of our supporters. As we enter the Christmas and New Year seasons, it is our prayer that you will each be blessed yourself and in your family relationships. May each one of us dedicate ourselves afresh to serve our Lord Jesus to the fulness of our abilities and His enabling.

May you each have a truly happy and God-blessed Christmas!

In the service of our loving Lord,

*Lloyd & Elaine Cooke*



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