



# *Lloyd and Elaine Cooke*

## *Jamaica*



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Teaching at two Bible Colleges in this town, and opportunities to speak at a third in a nearby town, has kept Lloyd busy the last few months. He teaches both Evangelism and World Missions. He considers it a privilege, as well as a challenge to pour into the lives of these future pastors and church leaders of many denominations. These young people will so be in a position to either go into missions directly or, hopefully, to become mobilizers and catalysts for world-evangelization within their churches and denominations. He cherishes the times of interaction with them. Elaine has been no less involved, as she continues her many ministries to children and operates as a Methodist Lay-preacher.

Plans have begun, through the local Ministers Fraternal (of which Lloyd is vice-chair of the Evangelism Committee), to organize a Children's Crusade/Fun Day in early November. Last year they had training sessions for children's workers from local churches. Your prayers are much needed for all that will be involved as they seek to attract unchurched children for Christ. It will take a large cooperative effort of the local churches, national children's ministries, and sympathetic Christian-owned businesses for financial and prayer sponsorship of this effort.

We have been enjoying the fruits that are ripening at this time of year, especially the star-apples. Lloyd couldn't resist climbing the tree behind our house to reach the choicest of these purple fruit. Good thing Elaine wasn't near by to call him down. But his sister-in-law caught these photos of him among the fruit.

Do continue to uphold us in your prayers, as together we seek to advance the kingdom of our Lord in this part of the vineyard.





# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

Serving the Lord in

# Jamaica

February 2014

Friends In Christ,

It is a delight for Elaine and me to greet you for the first time in 2014. We thank our Father for the opportunity to see a New Year in which to continue our service for Him here in Jamaica. We trust that you are enjoying good weather, especially those of you in the frozen northern climes. We here do feel a bit of cooler weather, but nothing like some of you are facing. We sympathize, and say "come on down sometime" and enjoy a time of fellowship with us, whenever you can.

Since the start of the year we have had a number of funerals of family members and faithful servants of our Lord, who have been called home. But we continue to enjoy very good health, in these our increasing years. Recent visits to our doctors reveal that we are in good condition, with only high blood pressure on Elaine's part, and somewhat elevated cholesterol for both of us. Lloyd's blood tests and recent visit to his Cardiologist, Urologist and Nutritionist were all positive.

The first three days of this week saw us involved in helping the Ministers Fraternal put on a Disciple-making Seminar for local believers. Though the attendance was below what we would have hoped, the 17 persons found the time profitable, and have expressed their intention to put in practice the new insights gained, as they seek to win souls for Christ and to disciple them to the point where they can in turn disciple others to become disciple-makers themselves. Lloyd will seek to meet with them frequently in the days to come, and to supervise their progress.

He continues to teach theological students, and has been asked to teach at a second local college: his subjects this new semester are Evangelism at one, and Missions at the other. Do stand with him and his students in your prayers.



## We invite your prayers for us for the following issues and plans:

- Jamaican missionary efforts: as a young lady going to Zambia with Operation Mobilization; and a couple to Nepal with Wycliffe Bible Translators;
- Interest that is developing around my recent book on Jamaican missions, and invitations from churches, ministerial groups and seminaries for dates in the near future;
- Graduates of the recent seminar on disciple-making, as they develop their action plans and put them into practice;
- Students at Regent College of the Caribbean and Bethel Bible College who are taught by Lloyd;
- For Elaine and her children meetings, work with students from the remedial-education school, and her sexual abstinence visits to Primary and to High schools;
- Planning of a Children's Crusade for later in the year with the churches of Mandeville;
- For a change in our weak financial support situation.

Thanks for standing with us, and for your prayer and financial support. We cannot do what we do without you. Keep on holding up our hands before the Lord of heaven!

Yours serving our Lord, until He calls us home,

*Lloyd & Elaine Cooke*



## Lloyd & Elaine Cooke Serving the Lord in Jamaica

We here in the islands, tend not to follow too closely the models of North America and Europe. Elaine and I have no vacation-time planned, although we are less active at this time. Exams are over, and all papers are marked and turned in. That pressure is now over. Regent College had its graduation on July 1st, when 42 young people gained Certificates, Associate degrees, Diplomas and Degrees in Continuing Education, Early Childhood Development, Early Childhood Care and Development, Business Studies, Theology and in Theology with a Minor in Business.

Other ministry activities have continued into the summer: as Elaine has Vacation Bible Schools, and Lloyd involvement with Keswick Convention in July. Keswick has been happening in Mandeville since 1902, as the many churches and denominations come together for a Christian-life conference under the theme "All One in Christ Jesus". This year's renewal of Keswick was particularly blessed of God, especially on the Youth Night, Friday, and the closing Sunday evening.

In the midst of our many activities we do try to keep ourselves spiritually refreshed. The Keswick convention mentioned above was truly such a time, with Bible Studies in the mornings and the public preaching sessions at night. It was good to see the wide cross-section of churches and denominations represented each day, and the good fellowship among them.

Lloyd had the opportunity to attend a week-long denominational conference in the island of St. Kitts, where representatives from various Caribbean countries shared their challenges and victories, and discussed how they could be better witnesses to their faith locally and globally. Plans were initiated for a Continuing Committee to make this a regular 4 year Christian Brethren gathering. (Picture shows most of the Jamaican contingent: Lloyd is on the extreme right in this picture.)



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We are also being refreshed with sport, as Jamaica is once again showing its prowess in Track and Field, as well as in other sports, at the ongoing Commonwealth Games in Scotland. We are enjoying the international limelight as our country won a lot of medals today, sweeping the medals in the women's 400 meters finals.

For Jamaica, this is also a time of drought, particularly the physical type. Most of the island has had no meaningful rain since late last year. The usual rainy season passed without paying us much of a visit. Crops, fruit trees and flowers are all parched, and many bush-fires add to the devastation. The government has instituted conservation measures. While we pray for rain, we hope that no summer storms or hurricanes come with the showers. Your prayers for us are urgently needed for rains, as well as for the spiritual variety.

Elaine and I thank you for your prayer support, and specially for those who sacrifice to send us financial support. We are ever thankful, and pray for your own needs to be fully met by our loving heavenly Father's provision. Thanks for faithfully standing with us.



# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

Serving the Lord in

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April 2014

Greetings for Jamaica!

You may not have heard from us in a little while, but we have been well and busy, as usual. We are in the midst of our annual Lenten services. Our Ministers Fraternal leads this each year as local ministers share their churches and pulpits in order to impact believers and the unsaved with the message of the love of God as revealed in the cross-work of Jesus Christ. These meetings are among the most looked-forward to by local Christians. There is an excellent spirit of unity, and challenging messages. We pray that much benefit will accrue to the people of God.



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Yours serving our Lord, until He calls us home,

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# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

## Serving the Lord in Jamaica

Thanksgiving is not a tradition of ours in Jamaica. But it certainly should be for every believer in Jesus Christ. We want to join with you, as you will do on Thursday, in recounting some things from this year that we have cause for giving thanks.

1. In the midst of the unexpected passing of Elaine's sister in August, we look back and thank God for the special privilege He gave us to house, care for and share with her the things of God during her final six (6) months. We feel the Lord allowed us to help prepare her for her homegoing. So we rejoice that she is now free from earthly cares and sickness, and has received the ultimate healing: happily rejoicing in her Father's home.

2. Weather: we do not have to worry about shoveling snow as many of you are doing: but the temperature is turning cool, and our Christmas flowers have turned colours. The poinsettia now has red leaves, and the hydrangea leaves has turned white. Our tanks are overflowing with rain water as the drought is over, and we are told that the reservoirs are over 90% full. The country is still being asked to conserve water, as we could face another 6 months drought in the New Year, we are told. We thank God for the rains.

3. Health: Our general health has been good, though we are both still feeling lingering effects from the Chickungunya virus in our joints. We thank God we were spared from Ebola, though our country has had to spend much-needed funds on preparations.

4. Health workers in Liberia: But we thank God that Jamaica has contributed to the fight against Ebola in Liberia. A missionary doctor and her Administrative Assistant have been in the forefront of the fight over there, in preparing and assisting in training Liberian health workers. We help to support them, and did much to make their mission known in our churches when they were first going out years ago. Do uphold them in your prayers.

5. Ministry efforts: We count it a privilege to have been able to share at two different Christian Colleges in training young ministers, and others for witness in the world of work. The joy in witnessing their growth in knowledge and maturity has been gratifying. We have also been asked to share in Missionary Conferences and meetings. Lloyd has one coming this weekend, and another the next weekend. Another Jamaican couple left this month for work among the deaf in Haiti. We will be helping them in support and in our prayers. It's a privilege to do so, and to try to help others go into cross-cultural missions.

6. Elaine's School and Children's work continue unabated, as well as being a lay-preacher in the Methodist circuit here. The Saturday morning reading and spiritual enrichment classes gives her special joy. Help us pray for a special Children's evangelism and Fun-day outreach in an inner-city community on December 13th. This is a Ministers Fraternal effort in which both of us are involved at the leadership level.

7. Supply of Our Needs: So many of you have helped to supply our needs this past year, and we try to assist many near to us in a similar way. We thank you for your confidence in us, and your cooperation with God in meeting our financial needs. Some of you have gone over and beyond your ability, and we are not unaware of it, nor is the Lord. May your store never be empty, and your every need be met by our gracious God.

May you and us continue to serve God to the best of our ability this coming year! Yours in Christ's Loving and blessed service!



# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

Serving the Lord in

# Jamaica

May 2014

Friends & Supporters,

May the Lord's presence and provisions ever be your portion!

Lloyd had one of those "Wow, Praise God" moments two Sundays ago in church. Just before his time to preach, a sister was asked to share about an outreach Sunday School she had recently started, in a hillside village above our church. She was among those ladies from our church who attended some sessions last year when the Evangelism Committee of the local Ministers Fraternal offered training in children's work. Lloyd was a main influence in planning this training to win unchurched children to Christ. She responded to the challenge to begin outdoor Sunday afternoon classes in needy communities. With occasional help from others in the church, she began such a class in Top Bellefield, near the church. She has persevered against various frustrations, and now near 25 children attend each week.

Plans are afoot to hold similar training classes to prepare some of our young people in how to bring children to faith in Christ. They will then be available to:

- help with Vacation Bible School in the summer
- augment the few Sunday School teachers who have training in child evangelism
- be led to start other outreach children classes
- be available as counselors during the expected Children's Crusade in early November

Our family had another funeral in April, as Lloyd's older sister lost her husband. The passing of these relatives, and other friends in the last year, remind us of our humanity, and of how short may be our time left here on earth. We therefore need to redouble our efforts to turn people to the Lord, and prepare them for eternity.

Satan also uses these funerals to torment our minds, at times, with fears of our own passing. While our souls are secure in Christ's keeping, these fears are usually about our bodies as we age, fail, and weaken. Nevertheless, we are in generally good health: except for battling high cholesterol and the side-effects of statin drugs to control it. Lloyd has been trying various non-drug alternatives in order to get off these statins. He has convinced his reluctant doctor to do this. Pray for help for him in this matter.

This is end-of-semester time, and Lloyd has set exams and will soon be marking term-papers, projects and exams. It can be quite burdensome, but is a necessary part of his teaching, moulding, and mentoring the next generation of pastors, missionaries and other Christian workers. It is, in the end, a most satisfying engagement. Do please pray for the students at the two different Colleges where he teaches.

Elaine's ministries to children continue to bear fruit. This is also being seen in the increased numbers of children and parents attending at the Porus Methodist church where her efforts are concentrated. But so many others remain unchurched. The unspiritual conditions in the homes, and the lack of proper parenting, complicate her efforts. This is an area of spiritual need in our communities. The ministers fraternal with which Lloyd is involved, as Secretary and PRO, is trying to address these very concerns. At the last as well as at the coming meeting, they will be examining methods and approaches for interventions for the sake of our children and parents.

Evil is ever increasing here, as it is worldwide. Yet, God has placed us where we are to be His instruments to win souls and help prepare them for eternity. We thank God your friendship, prayers and provisions so we may give ourselves to this ministry.

Every blessing on you and yours!

*Lloyd & Elaine Cooke*



# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

Serving the Lord in

# Jamaica

August 2014

Dear Family and Friends,

## Summer

Yes, It's here. For some of you it may be almost over. Elaine and I trust that you are enjoying this time of relaxing "down-time", before gearing up again for 'Back-to-school' and the Fall activities.

We here in the islands, tend not to follow too closely the models of North America and Europe. Elaine and I have no vacation-time planned, although we are less active at this time. Exams are over, and all papers are marked and turned in. That pressure is now over. Regent College had its graduation on July 1st, when 42 young people gained Certificates, Associate degrees, Diplomas and Degrees in Continuing Education, Early Childhood Development, Early Childhood Care and Development, Business Studies, Theology and in Theology with a Minor in Business.

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## Family

Elaine's sister has been with us from New York since late February. She has been undergoing treatment for breast cancer, and been fighting a new flare-up. She is getting better, but the medical and spiritual battles have been challenging. Yet, it has been an opportunity for Elaine and me to minister to her and to her family. Brief visits by her husband, a sister, and two daughters have meant that our house has been busy. We ask you to stand with us in unceasing prayer for her and her family members. We thank God that Elaine and I continue to experience general good health, though Lloyd has the occasional struggle with insomnia, as well as with a high cholesterol condition. He is off the statins, and is treating it by alternative means.

## Refreshing

In the midst of our many activities we do try to keep ourselves spiritually refreshed. The Keswick convention mentioned above was truly such a time, with Bible Studies in the mornings and the public preaching sessions at night. It was good to see the wide cross-section of churches and denominations represented each day, and the good fellowship among them.

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### Drought

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Yours serving our Saviour,

*Lloyd & Elaine Cooke*



# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

*Serving the Lord in*

# Jamaica

September 2014

Dear Family and Friends,

Elaine and I returned from New York a week ago (in time for my Thursday lecture) where we attended the funeral of her sister. Monica passed on August 27th at a hospital here in Kingston, after spending the last six months with us. She seemed to be winning the fight over breast cancer, but lost her appetite over the last 3 weeks. Being unable to get her to take nutrition, Elaine and I put her in hospital for her to be tube-fed. Five days later she passed on of Aspirational Pneumonia, with her husband and daughters at her bedside. We didn't realize it then, but we were given the privilege of helping her prepare to go home to her Heavenly Father. It was a privilege! We seek prayers for her husband and extended family.

Lloyd came back in time to continue his teaching at Regent College where he is teaching Church History this semester. The College had a difficult past year financially, and struggles to continue to offer a transformative education to its students. The Board is exploring various solutions. Please help us in prayer.

During the week of my sister-in-law's passing, we had an unexpected meeting at a restaurant with a second-cousin of Lloyd's. He announced he was about to begin the Discipleship Training course at Youth With A Mission (YWAM). He will then go on a mission trip to West Africa, following which he will join the Jamaican staff. It was a pleasant and satisfying encounter, as he has always seemed to gravitate towards Lloyd spiritually. Rejoice!

Opportunities for missionary meetings still come our way. This upcoming weekend we are principal speakers in a missions conference. Lloyd is asked to preach, and to share from his book about the foreign mission exploits of the denomination. Please uphold us both!

Elaine is presently mentoring two young men in their school work. They come to our home weekly for her help. Pray for their progress, and for her other involvements in schools where she seeks to make a spiritual impact.

Please remember in earnest prayer two Jamaicans serving in Liberia. Dr. Corlis Warmington and her Administrative Assistant, Marian Stewart, serve with the Association of Baptists for World Mission in Gbarnga, Bong County. They are involved in training Community Health and Evangelism workers, and helping at Phoebe Hospital. Pray for their protection, as they face both the Ebola epidemic and food shortage caused by the quarantines. They have had to plant a vegetable garden to supply theirs and others needs.

Thanks for your faithful prayers and practical support. A special thanks to our Texas friends who felt led to send us a specially large gift, just when we were facing costs related to the passing of Elaine's sister. God surely spoke to you both, and you obeyed. Thanks again!

Gladly serving our Saviour in Jamaica,

*Lloyd & Elaine Cooke*



Lloyd & Elaine Cooke  
Serving the Lord in

# Jamaica

December 2014

Dear Family and Friends,

*Merry Christmas!*

As we look forward to the Christmas season which will soon be upon us, and then the approaching New Year, Elaine and I want to wish you all a God-filled season. We want to remind you that Jesus is still the reason for the season, and that "wise men still seek Him".

We wish to share with you that our outreach to children in a crime-scoured area of our city Mandeville last Saturday was a blessed time. Despite inclement weather, various other challenges and a delayed start, we had over fifty children and a good number of parents and older siblings. Over twenty volunteers assisted and we were able to have a special discussion time with the adults, as well as those with the younger ones. Face painting, balloon art, various craft making activities all contributed to sharing the gospel with the children effectively, as we had over twenty five professions of faith. Do pray for the churches and persons who will follow them up.

Another item for praise is that I have been able to convince Regent College to reintroduce a course in Child Evangelism for its students. This is something that Elaine and I have been lobbying for since our return fifteen years ago. A number of us who are trained in this ministry will offer suggestions for a new course involving theory, the making of object lessons and other teaching aids, along with practicum in the schools and churches of the surrounding communities. Pray with us as we plan towards making this a reality in the new year.

There are still exciting prospects for service to the Lord in the coming year. May the Lord give us his grace as we continue to seek such opportunities to bring Him glory.

May you and your family and friends know true Hope, Joy, Peace and Love because of the coming of God into our human situations this joyful season.

Yours in Christ's love,

*Lloyd & Elaine Cooke*

