



Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

Serving the Lord in

Jamaica

January 2018

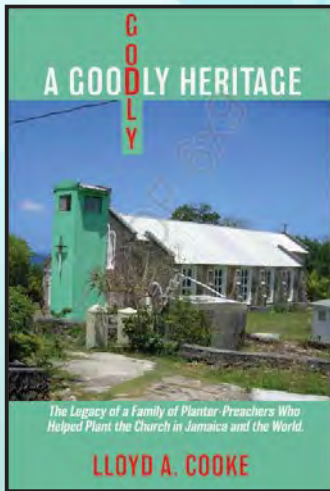
Family and Friends,

Greetings!

“The Old is past; the New has come!”

We give thanks to God for His blessings during the past year, and look forward in faith to His presence with us, and the promise of His provisions and help each day, as we put our trust in Him.

Once again Elaine and I want to register our gratitude to God, and to you, for using you as His instruments of service to us, while we seek to find and follow His will and to do what He directs us in this coming year.



Lloyd is busy planning for the upcoming launch of his book “A GOODLY HERITAGE” on February 8th at the St. Andrew’s Parish Church in the capital, Kingston. Pray that he will be able to recover the publishing costs by good sales. For those of you outside Jamaica the book may be purchased at http://www.xulonpress.com/bookstore/bookdetail.php?PB_ISBN=9781545610411&HC_ISBN= .

He has also begun gathering material to formulate a history of the Christian Brethren of Jamaica. This necessitates much research and reading various old magazines and records. He enjoys doing this, but time for Elaine is impacted. Pray he finds the right balance between the demands of ministry and home and family. He has had to reduce his teaching load at the College, to make room for this research and writing this history. He will again be teaching Evangelism this semester, which begins on January 22nd. A few weeks later the third staging of the Children’s Ministry Course, which Lloyd led in designing, will begin. We do not yet know how many students will register for this. They usually come from a large number of

local churches and denominations. Pray that many will come to learn how to bring children to faith in Christ.

At last the car has reached us. Lloyd was able to pick it up on January 4th in Kingston, after a much delayed wait of over four months. Importing it directly from Japan saved nearly 20% off the cost, and got us a car that is a year younger than we were going to purchase. It has also given time for the Lord to supply the entire cost through family and gifts sent through our mission agency. This allowed us to do get it done without the need of a car loan. We praise Him for that!



God willing, Elaine and I will be in Ocala, Florida, in late February, to attend an annual event at our Mission. This is a banquet on February 22nd which will focus Jamaica, and will be addressed by the outstanding former Director of Jamaica, and Youth for Christ International, Dr. Gerry Gallimore. He retired as pastor of Ft. Lauderdale based Metropolitan Baptist Church some years ago. We have also been asked to attend. This visit will also allow us to visit with our daughter, Gail and her family, who now resides in the Raleigh-Durham area of North Carolina. We thank God for having provided the means to make this visit.

Elaine continues to seek out areas for ministry to Children and Youth around us. The need is particular crucial at this time as there are so many stories in the news of molestation, abuse, and murders of children. Her 'Wait & Win' program of sexual abstinence intervention in schools continues. She has a team with a few new assistants. Do pray for this effective program. On the local level: our home is often visited by children and young people whom she has tried over the years to aid in one way or another. One such young man stopped by recently who had moved away for awhile. His mother recently died so he is back, and stopped by to see her. She has invited him to come to the home once a week for help in improving his reading skills. As many of these young people lack a father in their lives, she called upon me to share Christ with him, as he seemed more sensitive to her witness than before. It was my privilege to lead him to Christ. Do pray that we can help him to grow in Christ.



During the last two weeks the island has been experiencing unseasonal rainfall, due to a trough, and behind it a system which has brought more rains to our northeastern and western parishes. Many landslides have occurred causing road closures and crop damages. Some villages have been cut off, and houses flooded and others destroyed. This had reminded us of the fires and then flooding in some areas of California. But all of this no longer causes people to think of God's activity in our world, and that some of these things may be a warning from the Lord. Some do call upon the Lord, but we wonder how long they think on the Lord for help and salvation. We are living in gross darkness, and few seek the Lord. But, we are believing God to awaken people to spiritual things. Our God is still in control in His world: He needs us to speak out on His behalf and call people to seek Him while opportunities are still open.

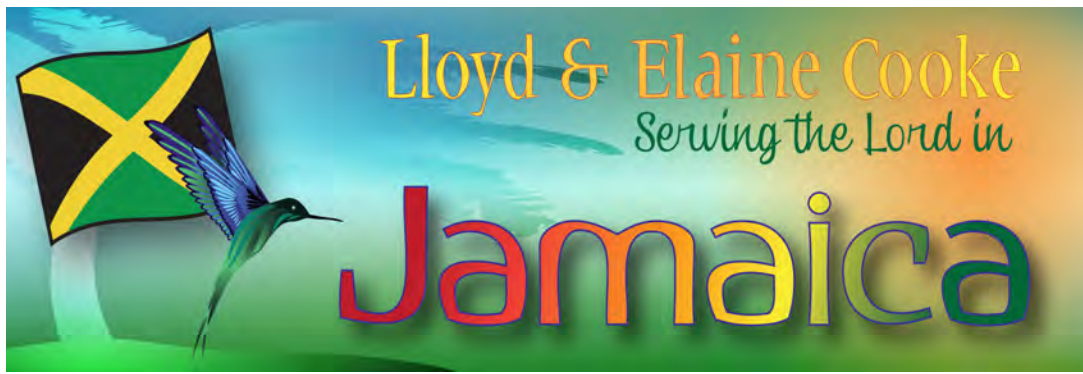
Do pray with us in this regard for our world. Many are turning to Him in various nations. May we all be a part of what God is doing, personally and by our prayers. May we all learn to trust God more in this New Year. "Maranatha! The Lord Cometh!"

Yours, serving our Lord Christ!

Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

A Ministry of Harvest International, Inc.

P.O. Box 6690 • Ocala, FL 34478 • 3 52-622-1818 • lcookemia@gmail.com • www.harvestinternational.org



OUR RECENT VISIT TO THE U.S.

Elaine and I are back home after 10 days in February spent in Florida and North Carolina. The purpose of our visit was two-fold:

- To attend a Mission fundraising banquet in Ocala, Florida on February 22nd.
- We also took the opportunity afterwards to go on up to Raleigh, NC, to visit with our daughter Gail, son-in-law and grandchildren.

Our Ocala visit afforded the opportunity to share about our various areas of ministry in Jamaica. We also got to see, and stay with, a couple who were a part of our church in Miami, during our 21 years there between 1978 - 1999, before our return to Jamaica. We found a number of past friends from Jamaica, who now reside in the mid Florida area. One such couple drove all the way from Atlanta, GA (a 6 hr drive) to be at the banquet. We thank God for the opportunity we had to help God's people to focus on Jamaica and its spiritual needs.

After the Banquet, our trip to Raleigh did not go smoothly. We missed our flight from Orlando, due to the distance, and time to travel, from Ocala to the airport. We were forced to take the Amtrak to Raleigh, traveling overnight (a 13 hr trip by rail) arriving Sunday morning: in time to go to church with our daughter's family. The couple of days with our daughter - and with other family and friends in the area - was a refreshing period. But the temperature was not to our liking, as it was 42 degrees on our second day there. Our grandson and his father were both suffering from colds. Nevertheless, the conditions were better than what followed our departure, as they have since faced three "Nor'easters" with snow, wind and storms from their area up to Maine.



Lloyd & Elaine with Nadine Bland

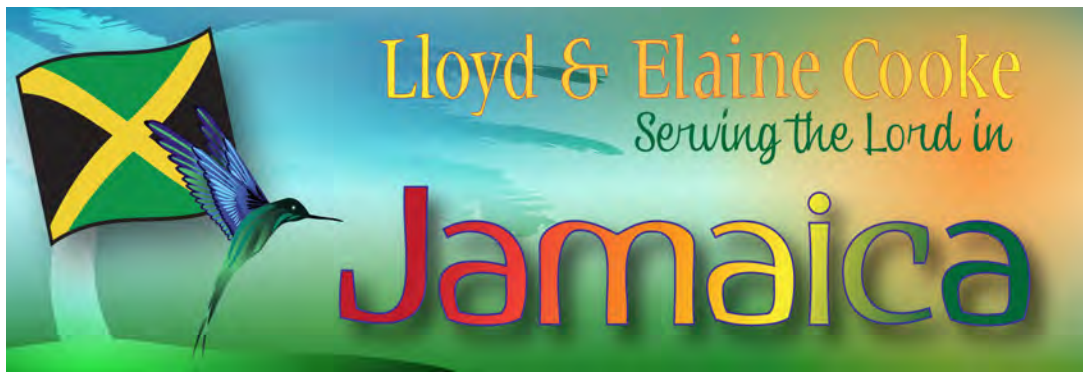
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- A new set of nine students in this, the third year of the Children's Ministry Course, learning how to win children to Christ by every means possible.
- Lloyd overcoming an outbreak of rashes, a few days ago. Elaine thinks it was my eating some 'old' fruit salad I had made many days before. We had to go to the pharmacy for some medication to assist.
- Lenten meditations, on Wednesdays, among the local churches are going well. Pray with us that the remaining weeks to Easter would see many more believers coming out for times of refreshing.
- A downturn in incidents of murder and other crimes in the western areas of Jamaica since the imposition of emergency police measures.

Do join us in prayer for the following prayer requests:

- A possible Medical Missions Team to Jamaica later in the year. This is the burden of a Jamaican doctor resident in Florida, who attended the Banquet in Ocala that we attended. Much planning still need to be done to bring this about.
- Pray for those the Lord will call to give of their time, finances and devotion to go on this trip.
- For a dysfunctional family next-door who constantly seek our help in various ways, that we would be always patient with them, and winsome in our witness.
- For Lloyd's invitation to preach at a traditional Good Friday service at an Episcopalian Church in the eastern region of Jamaica. He is asked to speak on three of the seven words of Jesus from the cross.
- For financial needs to be met, and to see an increase in our support level. Pray for the Lord to add some new monthly supporters for us.
- For our government as they continue wage-negotiations with unionised workers. There is a spirit of acrimony as the government says they are unable to meet increased demands of the workers.

We rejoice in your faithfulness in standing with us by your prayers, as we do our bit for the kingdom of Christ in this area of the 'Harvest'. May the Lord reward you abundantly.



HAPPY: We praise the Lord for whom He is, and for what He has showered us with of His many mercies!

Today we watched president Trump's visit to Singapore to meet with the leader of North Korea; and we dare to believe that God will open up the country, as it was before Communism captured it, a leading Asian Christian country. We remember it was then considered to be "the Jerusalem of Asia". May it become that once again, in answer to our prayers!

We also "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" that it may become a blessing to every nation that blesses it. May its insidious opposer and constant "Accuser", SATAN, be thrown down and his efforts to keep that nation in a state of war, led by its invidious relatives in the surrounding nations, be brought to nought. Let us continue to PRAY that evil will be dethroned, and righteousness rise to prominence soon in the Middle East.

Our hearts are always filled with gratitude to God for His manifold blessings! Especially do we thank Him for you all: our friends, supporters and prayerful partners who encourage us as we do God's work and will here in Jamaica!

HURRICANE SEASON is here: but our Island, Jamaica, has been spared a full hit for the past 11 years. We trust that we will be spared again this year, by the mercies of God. And we wish this also for you and yours, wherever you reside.

HALT? With the summer having brought a halt to academic studies; and with Lloyd having finished lecturing, writing exams, and marking those exams and term papers, you would think us to be now on rest or vacation. Far from it!

- Graduation Exercises are happening all around us. Lloyd was at one last Saturday evening; and he has another coming up on 1st. July at the College where he lectures.
- Research and Writing for Lloyd will not end, as he will intensify his information gathering and people interviews of those connected with the history of the Christian Brethren churches that he is helping to write. Pray for him and the success of this project. He often gets so involved and excited that he doesn't get enough rest. Pray the Lord spares him for the completion and publishing of this, his third book on Jamaican Christian activity. He has a far way yet to go.

HELP. Elaine is still very active with her various Children and Youth ministries. But, while she often travels by taxis and other public transportation, she misses very few opportunities (and creates many) to witness to drivers and fellow travelers of salvation in Christ. Last Sunday, on her way to morning service, a taxi driver called out to her to pray for him at church. She stopped, and asked if he wanted her to do so right now. He was surprised by her response, but said YES. She did as promised, publicly. PRAY that the Spirit of God will continue to trouble his conscience, and lead him to true surrender to Christ.

- Pray that Elaine's schools and institutional visits which continue until closure for the summer; Vacation Bible Schools will begin in her local churches as soon as schools are let out. Schools will close in early July.
- Lloyd will be involved with the local Ministers Association in their Keswick Convention meetings coming up during the last full week of July. These are usually times of great spiritual fellowship and blessings among the churches. Pray that God will be heard and seen to be working in His people's hearts during this week of various meetings and related activities.

HEALTH: Our health continues to be 'good'. There is hardly a weekend that either of us doesn't have a funeral to attend. And we are very aware of our advancing years and greying locks. But our health continues to be good, thank God.

- Lloyd is struggling with keeping his cholesterol low; and his enlarged Prostate within normal ranges. So far he is winning.
- He also takes much fruit and vegetables in his diet, along with additional vitamins and over-the-counter supplements. Elaine thinks that this contributes to his difficulties with insomnia, as he is so hyper that most nights his body does not relax enough to have a good night's sleep. This is his biggest medical difficulty. But sleepless nights are also his most prayer-filled nights, while he walks the floor hoping to fall asleep. Most of you are likely to get prayed for during those times.
- Elaine's heart palpitations, somewhat elevated blood pressure, and low-heart rate problems are occasional discomforts. Both of us had reason within the last year to do a costly cardiac drug stress-tests. Thankfully, both of these stress-tests were positive for us. We praise the Lord for these results. Give God thanks with and for us!

HOME: In early July we will welcome a short visit from our grandchildren, Annika (15), and Tyler (13), Regretfully, we will have to share them with a nephew and his family, in another town.

- Son-in-law: We may also have a visit from our first daughter's husband, also in July, as he checks out a possible business opportunity near to us;
- Elaine may have a visit from a sister, also in July, around the same time of all the above. We look forward to these times for renewing various family relationships.

HOPE: We pray that our trust in the Lord will keep us in FAITH, LOVE and HOPE, whatever our present situations and circumstances may be. Since we know that God is in control, may nothing personal, national or international cause us to be shaken from our HOPE (certain assurance). May "Our God Who Reigns" demonstrate His rulership over all nations, and in your hearts and homes, every day!

May the blessings of the Lord be your constant and eternal portion!





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March 2018

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Us with Nadine Blande from Ocala, FL



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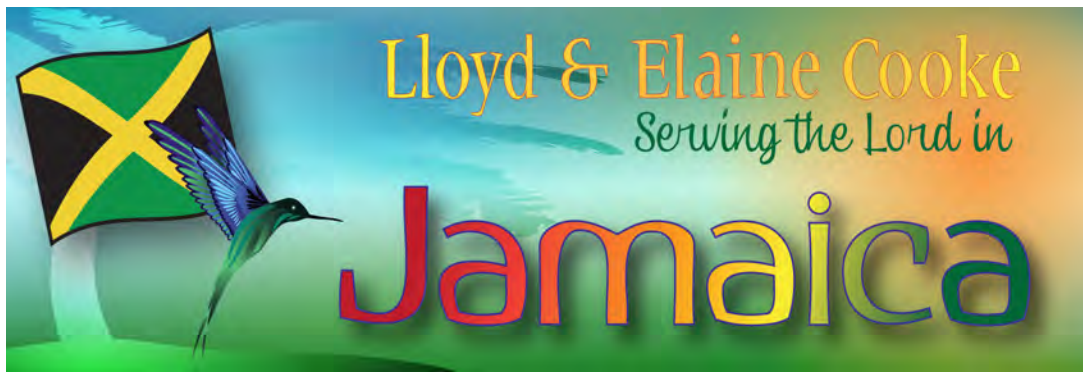
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As we write we are watching the weather reports of hurricane Florence headed for the Carolinas, and our hearts are concerned for our daughter Gail (Tracy), and her family in Raleigh. Our prayers are with all in its path. Jamaica is also under storm watch as we look at the path of possible hurricane Isaac. It's date for possible hit here is Sunday 16th. We pray this will be all over, happily, by the time you read this.

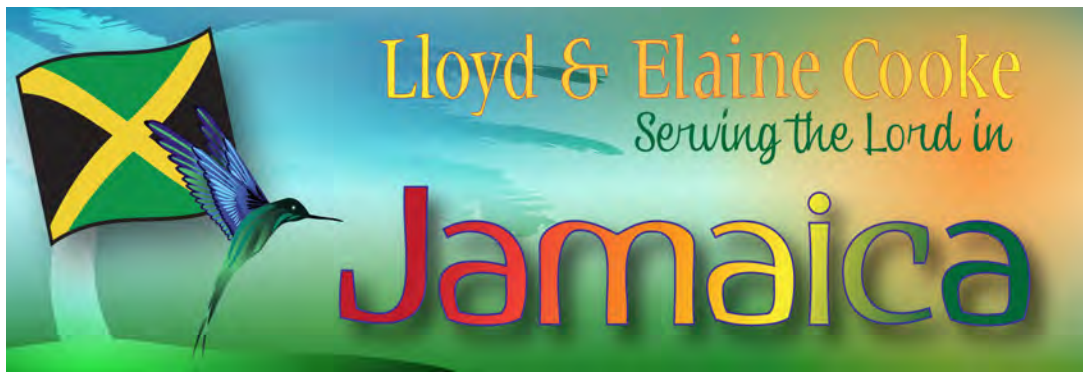
It is also just after the anniversary of 9/11, which we remember all too clearly. We are aware also that the hatred against America that caused 9/11 has not abated, but has picked up more power, (like hurricanes do over water) and is even a greater threat today. But, our God watches over his children who put their trust in Him. It seems that we are certainly in the biblical "last days", and hatred is aimed against Christians and those who ever do not go along with the growing "One-World" movement will face greater threats in the future. Prayer is our only resource. We shall prevail. We are called upon to "Occupy Until I Come"! So let us be busy in the King's work.

A new semester has begun at Regent College of the Caribbean, so Lloyd is busy with his new students as he teaches the History of the Church this semester. Do keep this class in your prayers, as he seeks to instill in them lessons for life, and will help them to be faithful in promoting the salvation of souls, when they enter into the Lord's service after graduation. Lloyd has also gotten involved with the local Committee of the Jamaica Child Evangelism Fellowship as it seeks to revive activities within our Parish (County) to train church members how to lead children to Christ both within and outside the churches.

Elaine continues with her many children and Youth focused ministries, within her church and outside. She is busy conducting devotions in schools. She is grateful to God that we still have that freedom in our Jamaican schools. Along with others they conducted a 'Prayer Walk' in and through a government Tertiary Institution which she has been assisting. This was the request of the staff and teachers. Do pray with her for this institution of "Life-long learning" and for the students coming in this school year.. She is also beginning to make appointments to visit in Primary and High Schools to present her sexual abstinence "Wait & Win" program.

An item of personal information here: Lloyd was informed over the past week-end that he will be conferred with the "Doctor of Divinity, Honoris Causa" at the graduation ceremony on October 19th., by the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology. This will be in consideration of his life's work on the mission field and his historical writings, presented in his two books on Jamaican Missionary activities. You are among the first to know. Do pray the the Lord would be glorified, and many from the Caribbean area would be moved to devote their lives also, to serve the lord in evangelism and cross-cultural missionary work.





As we face Christmas I thought it might be interesting to share how, as Jamaicans, we celebrate Christmas somewhat differently than in North America or Europe. Especially as we are in the semi-tropics, and so have no winter and snow to look forward to.

As children (kids) we eagerly looked forward to Christmas. So we had no TV nor even radio, though our parents were avid newspaper readers. The way we knew Christmas was near was when the weather would get a little colder. This for us was the Christmas Breeze: It would arrive late November or early December, and we would shiver a little. We would watch certain plants begin to change color, or their leaves would turn either white, red or yellow for the season. The ubiquitous sugar cane would begin to flower, that is the mature cane. To us this was a sure sign that Christmas was near.

Church: in church Christmas was the time for special practices to enact Christmas plays and Cantatas. Lloyd remembers his first such play, as a shepherd. His only words were 'me too!'

- Caroling was especially fun. Older children and young adults would go on early morning walks singing carols in the village at the front doors of older residents and shut-ins of the churches. We would be cold, yet had few sweaters for warmth, but the joy of the responses warmed our hearts and made it all worthwhile.
- Christmas Mornings meant early church services. Lloyd's father, as an Episcopalian (Anglican) minister who supervised six churches, would begin his travels and services to three or four different locations at midnight. Another service would begin at 3:00 a.m., one at 5:00 a.m., and the other at 7:00 a.m. He would arrive home exhausted just in time to share breakfast with us at about 9:00 a.m. The night before Mama would be engaged in baking of the heavy, black fruit cakes that are an indispensable part of our Christmas. The children's part was to help in the rubbing of the butter and brown sugar until Mama could feel no grains anymore. We loathed this part of the job. What we also criticized her for was how many tins of cake we would have to take to neighbors or needy persons in the community.
- Christmas Sunday was the time for singing many carols, and for the special choir numbers or cantatas, together with the minister's Christmas message. Christmas Sunday was usually the Sunday following Christmas day or, in some churches, the Sunday nearest to Christmas day. The children would wear their new clothes and all their fineries.

Home Preparations would be many in anticipation of the day.

- Rat-cut coffee was how we children would earn money for toys, as our parents/grand-parents would not be able to afford to give us much pocket money. But as there were many coffee plants in the gardens around the house; and rats would attack the berries and chew away the skin covering them, the adults would leave these on the ground for us to gather, put out to dry, and sell for us to the factory. Our portion of money received would augment the foods and few frills our parents could provide.
- For the girls it may be a new doll, for the boys we would buy Chinese crackers, or larger 'bombs'. Even our father would delight in exploding his 'fire-crackers' on Christmas morning.
- Christmas trees were not yet a common part of our Christmas, but if we could find in the forests a willow tree, or some fir-looking branch, we would cut and take this home to be decorated. Balloons and bright lights (after we had gotten electricity in our villages in the mid '50s), along with ribbons and some cotton for snow would festoon the branch we had brought home.
- Food and Drink was the most important part of Christmas for us kids. Our Aunty Myra would be sure to bring us each a bottle of 'aerated water', it was never called 'soft drinks' yet. We would travel to the home of our grandparents on 'Boxing Day' since our father would be busy in the churches on Christmas day. All our cousins would be there, and we would show and share our toys. The meal would be sure to include rice and peas, (specially 'gungo peas') and Daddy would bring along the specially ordered 'duck bread'. It wouldn't be Christmas dinner without that. Then there would be the 'Sorrel drink' made from the boiled fleshy leaves of the rose-like bush that bore in time for Christmas. Some homes would flavour it with ginger boiled in, and some would add 'spirits' to that consumed by the adults. The children's own would be 'virgin'. And yes, roasted breadfruit would be a part of the meal.
- Junkunoo (John Canoe) dancers were a regular part of Christmas, in the 'olden days'. This was an African dance, left over from our cultural heritage, that was brought to the Caribbean. The actors would dress in frightful costumes. We would be scared of them in their African costumes, yet strangely attracted. These cultural dancers would appear on Boxing Day, the special rest day for servants the day after Christmas. Yes, those memories are precious!

Have a blessed Christmas time with your children and families and friends!





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Jamaica

May 2018

Dear Family and Friends,

We Prayed for America Today: Elaine and I spent an extended period of time in prayer on the National Day of Prayer, Thursday May 3rd. We utilized the itemized suggestions for prayer, under the theme “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3). The itemized suggestions were bullet points under four headings from a Charisma News article titled Why America Seriously Needs to Pray for These 4 Things. The article focused on “Blessings” for the United States; the need for “Unity” in America; prayers for seven areas of “Influence” in America; and requests to God that the day of prayer would become a “catalytic spiritual movement” across America. We found these to be important things to also pray for our country, Jamaica. We trust other persons joined the USA to pray along the same lines for their country, as we all face the same situations of demonic opposition to good spiritual issues.

Shootings, a few days ago left seven (7) persons dead in one of our parishes. Authorities have fingered gang-warfare, related to national scamming of foreigners, as being at the root of the violence. The following day a massive force of police and soldiers descended on the parish, and took 100 individuals into custody, arresting thirteen (13) gangsters. Extreme crime-control measures put in place in a few locations are having good success. Residents often express their support for these measures, and rejoice in the quiet and a lessening of crime activities in many areas. Some guns have been seized, together with hundreds of rounds of ammunition. Many church groups, and one Christian radio station, have been leading prayer and intercession activities. God seems to be answering cries for divine spiritual intervention. Pray with us!



As ‘Winter’ gives way to Spring, new life is bursting forth around us. This is usually Jamaica’s dry season, but instead rainfall has filled the days. And the first of our normal two rainy seasons is about to begin. The Easter season just past saw Lloyd speaking on three of the seven words from the cross on Good Friday. Easter morning he again preached, with much divine blessing.

The season allowed us to reflect on the triumph of life over death. Among our friends and acquaintances we have had to face recent cases of death, and some of age-related illnesses, as many of God’s favorite people have been going home. Each causes us to wonder how many more days will we have to fulfill our service to the Savior. Therefore, we seek to double our activities for the kingdom’s sake.



A great friend and faithful servant of Christ in central Florida, with whom we had fellowship during our February visit, has since lost his wife. He has also been hospitalized for a shoulder operation. This has affected his radio broadcast ministry. Our prayers are that the Lord would give wisdom to our brother, and supply assistance for the radio ministry to continue.

Our various ministries in Jamaica continue to go forward. As we enter the month of May, Lloyd's College students have completed their semester studies, and are preparing for upcoming exams. They were a very lively and responsive group, and benefited much from the evangelistic studies. Discussion times were always warm, and we believe, enlightening. Pray for their future sharing the gospel in whatever areas of ministry the Lord may lead them.



The third year class of students doing the "Children's Ministries" course are now far advanced. We pray they develop and find many ways of outreach to un-churched children. They are greatly needed in our communities. Lloyd and Elaine were involved in developing this course, and are a part of the local committee seeking to foster children's ministries within the parish.

Elaine's many activities on behalf of children and youth seem to be increasing. The Lord seems to show her a stream of ways to try to win children and youth for Christ. These are not only church connected, but many focus on community and governmental entities for spiritual input. She, and those who help her, needs your prayers.

Lloyd has been looking at local denominations and Christian ministries that could possibly use a Short Term Medical Team, led by a Jamaican-American doctor in Florida. Final decisions have not been made, but he seeks God's guidance and provisions for this to become a reality later in the year.

This week Elaine and I were asked to help a visitor meet economic and family needs. People are always coming to our home for aid and guidance in such situations. We were able to help, but first reprimanded him for only seeking God and his people's help when he is at his extremity. We challenged him to seek God first "and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." He took our hard reprimand graciously, and acknowledged his need to seek Christ. We prayed with him to receive God's salvation, and helped him with the means to return to his hometown. We are praying that a deep work of God has been done in his life.

PRAISE: We have so much to praise God for, as he has been so gracious to us. We have few needs, and so many of you who sacrifice to see us provided for. We pray often for you, that your own needs be met abundantly.

We thank God for good health, despite a few niggling aches and pains. Visits to the doctors are few, and what they reveal we have been able to keep in check. We look forward to a visit from our grand-children in the summer; and anticipate good times with them.

May the blessings of the Lord continue to be your portion. "Brethren, Pray for us!"

Yours lovingly in Christ's service,

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Dear Family and Friends,

The summer months have been quite busy for Elaine and me. The visits of three sets of relatives from abroad, and spiritual activities in our churches, plus Lloyd's research and writing activities have not allowed us to take any free time. Nor did we have any funds or plans to do so. But we know that we have been upheld by your prayers for us. Thanks!

Visits and travels first of our grand-kids, happened early in July. We picked up Annika and Tyler in Montego-Bay, and they spent half a week with us and the other half with one of Lloyd's nephew who is a Dentist in Falmouth. Their visit was precious: and we were thrilled with their clear Christian beliefs, when we had a deep spiritual discussion with them. Since leaving us, they attended Camp, and Annika has since requested baptism, and was immersed by her own God-father. Praise God!

A week later came Elaine's nephew and his family from Atlanta, Georgia. The mother had a family reunion in Jamaica, but our visit preceded that. This is a sound christian family. Their two teenagers visited last summer to attend a well-known camp near to us. The third visit was of our Son-in-law on his way back to Abu Dhabi from Cayman Island, where he had spent some months at a professional diving location. We visited a couple of possible locations where he could set up a diving and instructional training business in western Jamaica. We pray this would work out, as it would bring our older daughter back near to us. Pray!

Each of these visits in some way showed up our lack of expertise in modern phone technology. Each challenged or required that we get in step with the times in terms of phone communications. We had to get more into texting, and especially become available by 'What's App'. We are trying!



Ministry Activities were less, and more relaxed, but Lloyd was involved with the leadership of the local Keswick Convention, a Christian conference which brings together the local churches for fellowship, Bible studies and Biblically challenging spiritual messages for believers. It was a time of the obvious presence of the Lord. The evening messages by Dr. Sam Vassell, who pastors a Nazarene church in the Bronx, New York, were heart piercing and brought encouragement to God's people. Attendance and response was much greater than recent years. We praise God for the time of blessings.

Elaine was as usual involved in Vacation Bible School in various churches during July. Much of her time was also spent helping neighbor-children with their academics and other needs. They, and other community visitors, are often seen as a nuisance, but the Lord seems to have placed them in our way for us to show them His love. Our own hearts are not always ready to see their spiritual needs, and to try to meet them. May the Lord soften our hearts. Pray that we may always respond properly!

Elaine's church had a 'Health Fair' in July. This has become an almost expected thing in Jamaica, before the reopening of the school year. It is to help children receive medical examinations necessary for them to return to school. It is also a way to help children with uniforms, books, back-packs and other school supplies. In this way Churches (and some businesses) seek to show the love of God, and to get them opportunities to meet spiritual needs as well. Elaine spent much of the day in the prayer tent, and had opportunities to share Christ with many. Pray for hearts that will respond to the Lord.

Writing Church History has been a large part of Lloyd's summer activities. This included a trip to see and photograph the building of the first Brethren Assembly constructed in Jamaica. Reading old magazines and seeking out any written material which will help him tell the story has taken up much of his time. He has now written over a hundred computer pages of the story. Do pray that the final product will be of much benefit as the 100 years anniversary of the denomination comes up in two years. He still has quite a way to go to fulfill the outline that he is working with. This sometimes gets quite wearying, but he is enjoying the discoveries he is bringing to light, and the insights he is getting.



Upcoming College Semester begins in a couple of weeks. Lloyd will be teaching Christian History to a large class. Students are now registering, and lecturers are beginning to prepare their Course Schedules. Do pray for all who will be part of the learning/teaching process. We desire that the Lord may be greatly glorified as they seek to teach, guide and influence our students to maximize their potential for spiritual service wherever the Lord will lead them. Many will be going into business and other non-church positions, but we trust that all will be effective witnesses for Christ.

Health: Our health issues are few, and the Lord has been gracious towards us in keeping us in good health. But the passing on of many of our relatives and close friends often remind us our limited time left to serve our Lord. The recent passing of one of Lloyd's former classmates both in Bible College and Missions preparation, had affected him greatly. His only physical problem is a struggle with Insomnia in recent years. Some medications for Prostate and other mild ailments may be a part of the cause, but some nights are harder than others. On the day following really difficult nights there are physical and mental problems. He desires prayers for him in this area.

Forward Looking. In all things and times we are looking forward into the future. Someone has said that "the future is as bright as the promises of God." We strongly agree with this sentiment, as the Lord is with us, and his promises keep us looking forward to serving our Lord, until He call us home to His better world. In the meantime we will focus on bringing as many into the Kingdom of God as we can take along with us. We trust you are also looking forward with us. Thanks for all you do for us, and for the Lord's kingdom.

In God's loving care,

Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

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Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

Serving the Lord in

Jamaica

November 2018

Dear Family and Friends,

Thanksgiving is almost here, and we wish we could be with you to enjoy the splendiferous show of colors all around you! While, here in Jamaica, we have no equivalent season and the family gatherings and fellowship times, Elaine joins with me to express our own thanksgivings for you, and more so to the Lord Almighty. He has been abundantly and undeservingly gracious to us. We trust you enjoy great times with Him and with family on Thursday. Leave a leg of the gobbler for us, please.

- Elaine and I are both coming out of a week-long bout with the common cold. She picked it up somewhere and I took it over from her. Thank God we are about rid of it now!
- Lloyd is thankful, and coming down off a 'high' following a recent conferment on him of the degree of Doctor of Divinity, Honoris Causa by the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology. This was in recognition for his Caribbean-wide missionary service in the 1960s and church-planting in Dominica; training Caribbean missionaries in the 1970s; continuing activities in promoting the missionary cause in Jamaica and other countries; as well as for the writing of the two books about Jamaican Missions and missionaries of the past. Give the Lord the glory!
- We thank the Lord and rejoice that He gave Elaine the privilege, and for her getting her church to help her minister weekly to more than a dozen young men and women from the government run Jamaica Foundation for Life-long Living (JFLL) They come to the church after school, and are fed, addressed on a variety of life-issues and spiritual counsel is given to them. A very few have given their lives to Christ, but we rejoice for the opportunity to serve Christ in this way.
- Elaine's Wait-and-Win abstinence ministry in public schools continues. Just today they went to a primary school in a nearby village school and saw many offer to follow Christ's way of life.
- We are both involved with Child-Evangelism Fellowship efforts in this parish to lead 'School Devotions', and eventually see Good News Clubs established in those schools. We seek volunteer Christians to grasp these opportunities to lead these school intervention efforts. Thank God for the still open doors!
- Politically, we thank God for a stable government that has led this country over the past 2 1/2 years. We have stabilized our currency recently, and a continued and unexpectedly low inflation has kept most prices down. Even gas prices have fallen a bit. Thanks be to God!



- Lloyd has been asked to join the parish Executive Committee for the Jamaica Child Evangelism Fellowship, to help push a new effort to get churches and believers set up Good News Clubs in our neighborhoods. Their search for a full-time person to lead this on a parish basis has so far proved unsuccessful. We are believing that God will soon fill that need.
- We are particularly thankful for a week-end spiritual retreat in another parish. Both Elaine and I participated and were specially blessed in many ways. We thank the Lord for His evident presence and clear leadings.
- We especially thank the Lord for the many ones of you who pray for us regularly and send hard-earned funds for meeting our needs, as we make Christ known here in Jamaica. There are many challenges, and regular battles with the Kingdom of darkness, but God is winning many victories. We thank Him for his constant working with and through us!



May the blessings and joys of the Lord be evident upon you all, and upon your families.
Have a great Thanksgiving Day!

In God's loving care,

Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

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