

A spate of homecomings of friends and ministry colleagues keep us reminded that our time here is short and we must needs keep focused on our priorities. Elaine and I are both in good health, and are trying to pass on to others some of what the Lord has taught us about loving and serving Him. Elaine's various children's ministries have hit a bare patch, but she is still actively involved in helping her church members to intervene spiritually and practically in the lives of some young people in a government literacy program. The leaders of that program appreciate her caring and sharing with the students.

Lloyd's classes at both Colleges where he teaches weekly provide him much pleasure, as the students are very eager and seem to drink in the things shared. At times it is difficult to remember which course he is teaching, as there are many similarities and overlaps. At Regent College of the Caribbean he teaches Evangelism, and at Bethel Bible College it is Introduction to Missions. These times give opportunities to pour into them lessons learned and experiences faced. Oh that the Lord would light a fire for souls, both at home and abroad, in each heart!

Lloyd has also had the joy of hosting and sharing with his church the work of some Jamaican missionaries. This he was able to do on both first Sundays in February and in March. The believers at his church have responded well to the presentations. The last of these provided special satisfaction, as the missionary was his own nephew who had gone to India for six weeks with a YWAM short term mission team. May other young people sense a call to give their lives of such service.

The upcoming Easter weekend has presented Lloyd with an opportunity to share at Good Friday services at the church where as a child he was Confirmed in the Anglican Church. Thank God he can share now with them of personal faith in the Saviour's sufferings and death, which were not of much meaning to him at that time. May some come to express true faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

***Thanks for keeping us  
in your hearts and in your prayers!***



# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

*Serving the Lord in*

# Jamaica

February 2015

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The New Year is running away from us, and we are already far into February. We apologize for not communicating with you earlier. But Elaine and I have been kept so busy in various ventures, most related to training and passing on to others the things we have learned from past activities and experiences.

We realize that God has gifted us with much, and that we may not have much time left to be active in ministry, before the Lord calls us home. We have attended so many funerals of friends recently that these things are brought constantly to mind. Most of our involvements have had to do with training and passing on to the young things God has taught us. (2 Tim. 2:2).

Lloyd is now teaching two sets of young Pastors and church leaders-to-be at the two Christian Colleges in town. At one he is teaching "Introduction to Missions"; at the other he is teaching "Evangelism". While there are many areas of overlap, there are also many differences. It is so satisfying to see the students' interest and their enthusiasm to be enlightened and develop in them a passion for souls. Do pray for Lloyd, and for his students.

Developing effective Childrens Ministries has been a focus of ours recently. Elaine and I have been trying ever since we returned to Jamaica, 15 years ago, to get our Alma Mater to reintroduce a course on Children Ministries. At last we have gotten the green light to proceed to develop a new Course Schedule. we are working with others to develop the ideas and lessons. Pray with us for our final meeting at the end of this month to finalize the course. Just this week the Dean, informed me that his denomination's leadership wishes to use this course to prepare Children workers within their churches. We would love to see other denominations follow their lead. The local Ministers Fraternal of which Lloyd is an officer, has also been trying to get the local Pastors and churches to be more involved in similar outreaches, to win our children and youth to the Lord. Please undergird these efforts with your prayers for us.

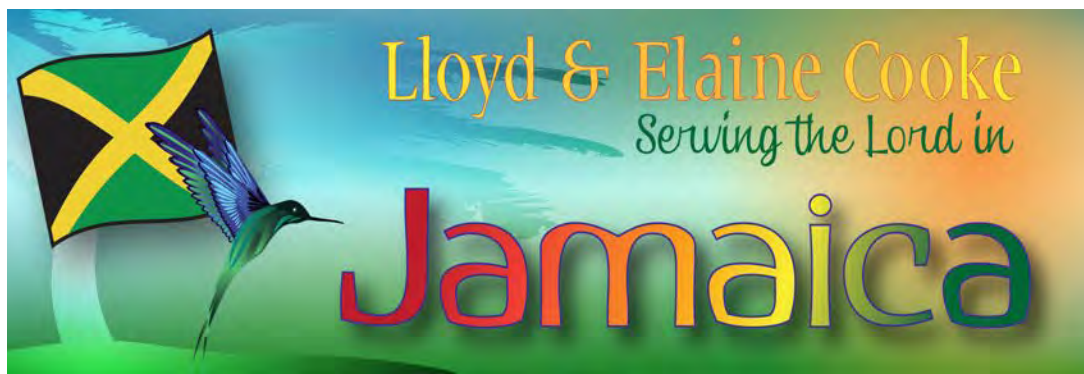
Lloyd has also been meeting with the Pastor and Elders of his local Assembly to develop a plan to "lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes." His intervention has been well received, and a follow-up meeting took place last Saturday when he presented his ideas. Pray that this effort will bear much fruit! Pray also as he conducts two days of training for salvation counselors at a large local church, in a couple weeks.

Elaine has been very active in her various Children's ministries, as well as preaching many Sundays within the Methodist circuit she serves. But her main interest and commitment is to the children in Porus, a nearby town. Most Saturdays she visits for literacy classes. These she imbues with biblical materials and principles. At home she is often deeply immersed in making figures and props with construction paper, and whatever else is available, for her beloved children. Pray for these efforts of hers to bear much fruit in the children's lives.

I think you can see that we are up to our necks in work, but loving it, even though it demands much effort in preparing lessons and marking papers, etc. Your love for us, and your prayers and financial support, has been invaluable to our various activities here. Sometimes we are asked for pictures, but we usually forget about taking pictures as we get involved in these ministries. It is also true that we are not very able in using the modern technological tools, as we should. We will try to do better in this area. Do continue to stand with us and uphold in by your prayers.

Yours, in Christ's joyous service!

*Lloyd & Elaine Cooke*



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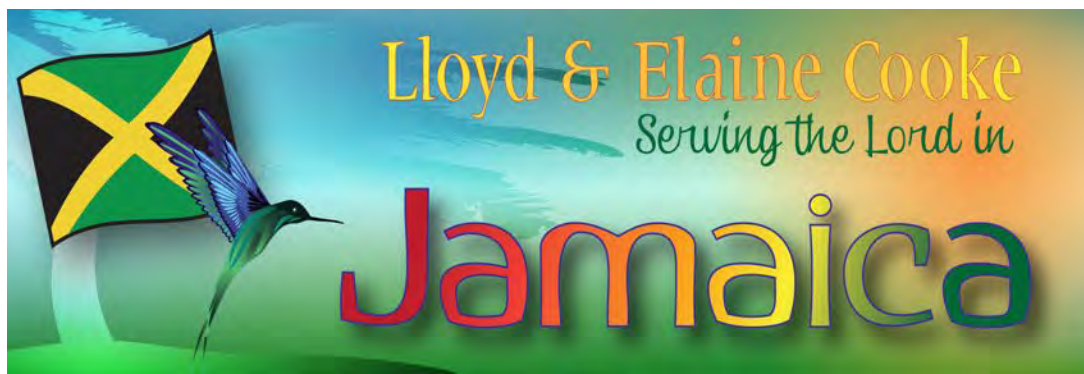
Some close friends, and or relatives of friends, have passed into the Father's presence in recent times. Some funerals we would have loved to be able to attend, but cannot do so, because of distance or lack of funds to do so. These passings, and other events, cause us to consider what legacy we are leaving to those who would follow us. This makes Elaine and Lloyd particularly careful to share with others, especially the young people they teach, things they have learned over many years of serving the Lord. Right now Lloyd is swamped marking end of term exams and term papers from the two Bible Colleges where he lectures. Despite the work, there is much pleasure in watching these young people grow in their faith and witness. Do pray for them. One College had its graduation just last Sunday, and another will have theirs in a month's time.

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Do remember Lloyd, who goes to an International denominational Missions conference in Pomezia, near Rome, Italy, later this month. He is due to also lead a workshop during the conference. Afterwards he will visit with past students and Caribbean missionary colleagues in London and Birmingham, returning to Jamaica on July 2nd. Please uphold him, and Elaine who stays behind, in your prayers. Thanks again for your prayers and personal support as we minister here!



## SHOWERS

Elaine and I are seated at our front door enjoying a heavy shower of rain. She is thrilled whenever rain falls: reminds her of her youth, when she would go and curl up in bed once rain began to fall.

The long drought has afflicted most areas of the island, and has devastated our agricultural areas and crops. Our vegetable producing parish has been especially hit hard. This has caused in some cases a doubling of prices in the market and supermarkets. Our already over-stretched dollar is about to burst, having devalued to a rate of J\$1.00 to US\$118.00. Meaning that the Jamaican dollar can only buy us 1.18 cents US. We thank God that some of this rain has also fallen in the catchment areas around Kingston, but not enough to end the drought. They have had to suffer lock-offs every other day: some had water only every two days. While we thank God for the drops, we wish that the showers may truly fall, and especially in the spiritual realm.

While our government is still resisting foreign political pressures to change our laws to allow legalization of homosexuality and same-sex marriage, many of our North-American and European influenced intelligentsia have rejected Bible-based morality, and see Christians and others who seek to maintain Biblical morality as old-fashioned, and behind-the-times. The recent visit of the President of the USA was partly to add his voice to the others, and to push our government to change our "old-fashioned attitudes." Pray we be strengthened to believe that spiritual showers will continue to fall upon our land, and that the spiritual drought afflicting many countries may not come our way.

Showers have also been falling in our Caribbean region recently, in the form of Hurricane Erica. Though, fortunately, Jamaica was not affected, nevertheless our Caribbean neighbours were. For us it was especially difficult to hear of the damage and loss of life in the Eastern Caribbean island of Dominica, especially since this was the Island that we spent three summer holidays and over two years as pioneer church-planting missionaries in the late 1960s to early 1970s. The most badly affected location, Petite Savanne, is only a few kilometres from (Berrecoa), Grand Bay where we lived and planted a church.

We are in touch with a Dominican brother, whom Lloyd met at the Conference he attended near Rome in June. He shares that though none of the Church-members were killed, many lost relatives. Some bodies are still under the rubble and landslides in the village. The village is cut off from the rest of the country, and is accessible only by sea or by helicopter. The government has taken the decision to evacuate the village until roads and other amenities can be restored. If Lloyd were twenty (20) years younger he would surely be on a plane leading a team heading to Dominica to help in relief work, as he had done many times in the past after hurricanes in Haiti, Montserrat and in the south of Miami after hurricane Andrew in 1992. Do stand with our fellow believers and others in Dominica, and assist practically where you can.

Lloyd is preparing to resume teaching responsibilities at Regent College of the Caribbean. He will be teaching a new Missions course. He has also been asked at short notice to teach another course (O.T. Survey) for three weeks until the lecturer returns from India, where his sick father has delayed his return. Do pray that Lloyd will handle this double responsibility successfully.

Much of this summer Lloyd spent finishing up a new missions book on a Jamaican planter family and their exploits for God, both in Jamaica and in many other countries beyond our shores. He has been doing the research and writing for over a year. The book is about five cousins who were missionaries, simultaneously, during the early to late 1900s in Africa, China, Ecuador and Peru. He completed the book last week and is now preparing it for publication. Pray that he will find the right publisher who will assume the costs and responsibilities of publication and marketing.

Elaine was busy through the summer with Vacation Bible Schools and other children ministries through her church. With schools reopening this week she is ready to contact schools again concerning her medical and spiritual sexual abstinence program. Pray that opportunities would be given her to share in the schools again this year.

We ask you to give thanks with us for all God's mercies, provisions, and blessings showered upon us. For the opportunity Lloyd had to visit Rome and London this summer for a conference in the former place; and for the blessings of the Keswick spiritual life conference here in Mandeville in July that so blessed God's people. Pray that we will have the vision and strength for each day, to allow us to go on serving the Lord and people in all the varied ways He allows us to do. May you all walk with Him as closely and faithfully as you can each day, and may you do His will as he shows you how, for His glory.



# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

*Serving the Lord in*

# Jamaica

Friends and Family,

April 2015

I told my home church Sunday morning that I had spent the weekend among the tombs. That was literally true. I then segwayed into my Easter message on the topic "Come and See; Go and Tell!"

Elaine and I, along with my youngest brother, had been to an Anglican Church in Yallahs, for Good Friday services. I had been requested to speak on two of the seven sayings of Jesus from the cross. I chose the first, "Father Forgive Them for they know not what they do;" and "Father, into Thy hand I commend my spirit!" We then went on to spend the night at Bath Fountain Hotel, Jamaica's premiere mineral spa. next morning we went exploring to find an old Anglican rectory at a place called Airy Mount. We did not find it, after spending some time in the bush climbing through brush and sugar canes on a plantation trying to locate it. We think we may have found the old entry road leading to it. But the underbrush was so thick that my brother and I gave up after about a hundred yards.

We then went on over into the adjoining parish, Portland, to search through two church cemeteries looking for family graves of a Jamaican planter-family that lists seven generation of missionaries from Jamaica. We eventually found the family burial plot, in ruins and under brush and dirt. But saw one granite grave-stone with one of the family names we were looking for. We plan to return in a fortnight to do more explorations for ruins of sugar factories and old plantation great houses, which we were informed by a local as existing a little way further on.

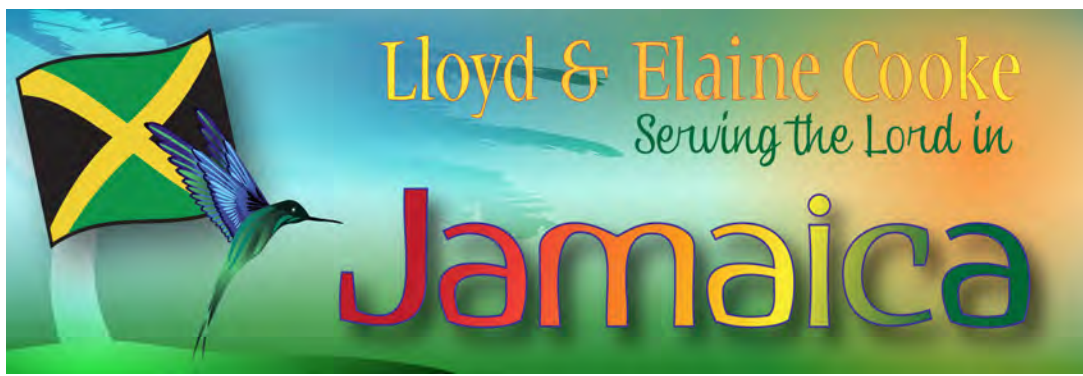
Today Lloyd travelled, with other members from his church, to the annual Easter-weekend Bible conference in Kingston. The speaker was a friend who now pastors in Florida. His two messages on the Holy Spirit's role and enduement to believers for life and witness was the most moving and Spirit-filled I have heard on the subject. But the weekend's travel and activities have left me extremely tired, so I am off to bed right now.

Please keep us in your prayers as well do our Lord's bidding here in Jamaica. Thanks for standing with us in your in your financial support. Many of you have stuck with us for the last fifteen years since we returned to Jamaica. Thanks to you all for your friendship in the Lord and all you do to keep us preaching this message of life out of death that Easter is all about. My sermon on Sunday was entitled "Come and See!" and "Go and Tell!" We believe that this is the message that our Lord Jesus Christ want's us to both share, and live out, until He calls us home. May we both continue to tell this message to all our world, until the Lord comes.

Your serving our Lord in Jamaical!

*Lloyd and Elaine Cooke*





The Poinsettia blooms in our garden are ravishing; the 'snow on the mountain' shrubs light up even the nights. Birds are playing in pools of water from recent rain, and are shaking their feathers in delight. There is a chill in the air that make us feel like we are in the U.S. These are signs that Christmas is in the air. But we do miss the Christmas carols. They seem to have disappeared, even from Christian radio and T.V., and seem to reveal the greater commercialism of the season.

The local Baptist church had its first Christmas family gathering event last Friday. It's Families in Crisis focus sought to show the family-friendliness of Christmas. It was a welcome and much appreciated innovative event. Elaine and I are looking forward to the 'Singphony' on Sunday at the United Church in Mandeville. It is a much treasured and looked-forward to musical treat, with much audience participation.

Our local Ministers Association will be having its annual Christmas Social and dinner on Monday, Dec. 14th at the Catholic Retreat Centre. Lloyd just recently stepped down from the Executive. We welcome all of these events that focus on the spiritual aspects of the season. It has been a good year for Elaine and me, and the Lord has blessed us with good health, and also enabled us to contribute in meaningful ways to the work of the Kingdom of the Lord here in Jamaica.

At the College where Lloyd teaches he has been deeply enjoyed his interactions with the students. Thank God that there are still many committed young people ready to step in to replace us who are near the end of our service in the Gospel. Lloyd has been able to see fulfilled a long desire to have the College reintroduce a Children's Ministries Course. This he will help to teach, beginning in January, with two of the others who helped him design the course. We pray that the Lord may bless this course greatly to the salvation of many children to Christ, both inside and outside of our churches. Pray with us that this may be so.

The highlight of the year for Lloyd was the International Missionary Conference, outside Rome, Italy; and the visit on the way home with colleagues and former students in London and Birmingham, England. His visit to Shakespeare's birthplace was a special highlight.

Elaine's various efforts with the children and youth, in the schools to which she got access, were very fruitful in the large numbers responding to both the abstinence message and gospel messages. But a concern is the lack of adequate follow-up. Pray for this. You have been part and parcel of each of these ministry outreaches, by your faithful partnership with us by your prayers and gifts. We thank God for you, and we wish you and your families the greatest experiences of Love and Joy in the Lord during this Christmas season.







# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

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# Jamaica

Friends and Family,

June 2015

## Preserving the Past; Preparing the Future: Leaving a Legacy

The past two months have been busy but satisfying ones. Much time was spent researching and writing the outstanding story of a Jamaican planter family, seven generations of whom have served the Lord as cross-cultural missionaries, and in many other areas of Christian service. Lloyd's research has taken him to old plantations and graveyards where the family members had lived. Important family information has been unearthed. Jamaica owes the Panton and Clark families a world of gratitude. Lloyd is busy writing his second book on Jamaican missions.

## Passing of Patriarchs

Some close friends, and or relatives of friends, have passed into the Father's presence in recent times. Some funerals we would have loved to be able to attend, but cannot do so, because of distance or lack of funds to do so. These passings, and other events, cause us to consider what legacy we are leaving to those who would follow us. This makes Elaine and Lloyd particularly careful to share with others, especially the young people they teach, things they have learned over many years of serving the Lord. Right now Lloyd is swamped marking end of term exams and term papers from the two Bible Colleges where he lectures. Despite the work, there is much pleasure in watching these young people grow in their faith and witness. Do pray for them. One College had its graduation just last Sunday, and another will have theirs in a month's time.

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## Family Reunion

Recent weeks have been hectic for Elaine in preparing for and hosting family members, and for Lloyd in transporting them to various locations, in connection with the Cooke Family reunion that took place the third and fourth weeks of May. One of Lloyd's brothers and his wife from Canada, stayed with us for over a week; our older daughter, and her fiance from Ireland, also came in for this family gathering and had to be transported to the main tourist attractions around. But it was an incredibly enjoyable and satisfying time. Watching the seven Cooke siblings interact with their children and grandchildren; and seeing how cousins and in-laws in-

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### Conference in Rome, June 21st to 26th

Do remember Lloyd, who goes to an International denominational Missions conference in Pomezia, near Rome, Italy, later this month. He is due to also lead a workshop during the conference. Afterwards he will visit with past students and Caribbean missionary colleagues in London and Birmingham, returning to Jamaica on July 2nd. Please uphold him, and Elaine who stays behind, in your prayers. Thanks again for your prayers and personal support as we minister here!

In the Blessed service of Christ our Lord in Jamaica!

*Lloyd and Elaine Cooke*

A Ministry of Harvest International, Inc.

P.O. Box 6690 · Ocala, FL 34482 · 352-622-1818 · lcookemia@gmail.com · www.harvestinternational.org



# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

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# Jamaica

Friends and Family,

June 2015

Final exams and Term Papers for twenty one (21) students at two Bible Colleges are all marked and turned in, thanks be to God. It took a little over two weeks to do, but now it is finally over.

Now we are preparing for Lloyd's trip to Pomezia, outside Rome, Italy, beginning Sunday June 20th. He leaves Kingston at 6:01 am by American Airlines to Miami, from where he goes on to John F. Kennedy, in New York, from which he leaves at 4:45 p.m. for Rome. After actual travel time of about 8 hours, he will arrive at 7:35 a.m. the next morning. He will be attending an International Brethren Missions Conference. A total of about 700 delegates will come together from over 100 countries for five days to discuss the state of Brethren missions worldwide. A group of about twelve Jamaicans will be attending, but we will be overshadowed by our Trinidadian Brethren who will be sending a contingent of about 25. Others will also be attending from Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada and other Caribbean countries. Do pray for all those who go, that it would be a profitable gathering with benefits to the Caribbean Church when they return. Lloyd will be doing a workshop presentation on Faith Missions Today on the Wednesday afternoon. Do remember him in your prayers.

Elaine will not be attending. Lloyd could not get her to go along. She has little desire to travel such far distances anymore, though she once travelled alone from Jamaica to Zambia, to become a missionary nurse, from 1973 -1976. After the Conference Lloyd will spend five (5) days in England, visiting with missionary friends and former students serving in London and in Birmingham. He returns to Jamaica on July 2nd. Your prayers for safety for both Lloyd and Elaine are requested.

Together, or separated, we are always in God's hands. Our security is of the Lord, as the Scripture reminds us.

Blessings to you all, in the name of the Lord!

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Friends and Family,

July 2015

God is Alive, at Work, and still Rules in the World He Has Created!

This is the reality that grips my heart, since I returned from my trip to Pomezia, Rome, London and Birmingham from June 21st to July 2nd.

### The Journey

All did not start out well, as my luggage did not make it to Rome, but arrived two days later. This may have been caused by gate changes in Miami that were not communicated, causing me to miss the flight to New York, and needing to be rerouted through Philadelphia on to Rome. Nor did my luggage make it to London, from an in-transit stop at Munich, on the way back. This time it was a wait of three days before it arrived. This necessitated spending needed funds for short-time replacement of some clothing, and medication. It was interesting shopping in a foreign language, particularly for pharmaceuticals, but the Lord helped. I even returned with much more clothes than needed, some having been given to me by friends. The long trans-continental flights were interesting, though trying to get sleep while travelling wasn't pleasant.

### The Conference

The half can not be told: it was beyond wonderful to meet over 700 fellow believers from over 100 countries, and to hear what God is doing through His Church in these places filled the soul with joy and much wonder, and often with a sense of disappointment for the little we in the West are doing and seeing of God's hand at work. My roommates included one from Mongolia, and another from Indonesia. What a joy to hear from these brothers, after decades of prayer especially for Mongolia, and now to meet a brother who could share how God is planting and growing His Church there. The Indonesian brother leads of ministry to bring 'Peace' between Moslem and Christian students.



The meetings were a blessing through the worship, the messages, and the reports from various countries. While the worship times were heavenly experiences, the delight was to experience believers praying in their own languages. It was like being at Pentecost: though not understanding one could sense the Spirit of God, and join in the awe of what it will be like when we shall be in God's presence with "some from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation," (Rev. 5:9).

Messages based on St. John 13 - 17, on 'Servant Leadership'; Abiding in Christ; and working in the agency and power of the Holy Spirit. The varied workshops had us sharing about the problems in our churches, solutions, new technology and modern circumstances which affected and/or could facilitate the work of the Church; and the opportunities and possibilities they presented for taking the gospel further and winning more to the Saviour. Some of our Jamaican delegation of 10+3 led and presented in workshops, and even presented one of the main messages of the Conference. I was given the task of introducing the subject matter for one of the workshops on the state of 'Faith Missions Today'.

Each evening session was given over to reports from the fields, under the headings God's Triumph Over Satan's Strongholds, when we heard from Egypt, the Ukraine, Kubani in Kurdistan, Iraq, from Bhutan, North Korea, Nepal, Nigeria and Pakistan; the second night the theme was Doing Good to our Neighbors, when brethren shared what the Church was doing in Indonesia, the jungles of Guyana, in Cuba, Mongolia, French Guiana and in Papua New Guinea. The last night's reports were given under the theme In Troubled Waters. The reports that night were about reaching out to refugees from Syria in Jordan and Lebanon, winning former atheists in Albania, and that of the Italian churches helping refugees into Italy and Europe, coming from persecuted countries in East, and North Africa.



In all these reports there were no complaints, but rather praise for God's help and the privilege of serving, and even suffering, for the sake of the Gospel. Yes, there were cries for help; and questions as to why the western Church was so silent to their needs. But in

all it showed that God was at work, and that even in the sacrifices of his children much was being wrought in lives saved and transformed.

It was remarkable to hear and to observe, through the many display tables, the variety of methods being employed in spreading the gospel, and in helping the churches to grow, even in difficult places. While there were many North American and European Brethren Agencies which work in Africa, Asia and Oceania, there were also many from the 'Younger Churches' in these same areas that are sending out missionaries, and developing a multiplicity of ministries that God is using for the growth of His Church worldwide. In this I particularly rejoiced! I did have an opportunity to show my book *The Story of Jamaican Missions*, and to sell a few.

Not much time was left us for sightseeing, but we did make a foray into Rome on the final afternoon of the Conference. Time only allowed us to visit the Vatican, where we toured St. Peter's Basilica, and the Sistine Chapel. It was awe-inspiring to finally see what one has often spoken and taught about. Some others went on to the Colosseum while our group were not able to do so, as we had wished. It would require weeks to see the main attractions of this great city.



#### Visiting Friends and Colleagues in England



With the conference over, I took the opportunity to make my first, long anticipated, visit to England. Gangadin Hannoë was my fellow student at Bible College and in Missionary training. With his wife Julie, and adult children, they have been in London for twenty-five years working among the Asian Muslim community in London. Attending church with them on Sunday was interesting. I noticed wall plaques honoring missionaries the church had sent out or supported since the 1800s. On a board listing these missionaries I found the name of a colleague missionary I had served with in the 'late 60s in Dominica. Miss Elsie Dexter is now home with her Lord, I was told. But what a joy to be in the church that sent and supported her so she could plant God's Church in the Caribbean!

Time was limited, but my friend took me on a driving tour of Central London on Sunday afternoon. Sites only driven by included London Bridge, the Tower of London, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace. The following day allowed a visit to Windsor Castle, and some shopping for mementoes. Next day I took the Underground and then a train to visit with other friends in Birmingham. The Croppers were students at the Training centre in Jamaica for Caribbean missionary recruits while I was Principal. They served in eastern Nigeria, and have been in Birmingham in church planting for twenty five years. Next day I was taken to Stratford-on-Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare. This was an unexpected thrill, and allowed me to request an actor to do some of my favourite parts from *The Merchant of Venice* and *Julius Caesar*. We were able to walk the short distance to Holy Trinity Church where he was christened, married and is buried.



It was with a joyful heart that I returned home on July 2nd to my wife and the work to which God has called us. But I will ever hold in my memory the highlights of this conference and visit with friends in England. Thanks to those of you who prayed, and continue to keep us in your hearts as we continue our service here. Elaine is involved in Vacation Bible School this week, and next week we will take in the Keswick Convention meetings in our home-town, Mandeville. We hope for a week or more of vacation time in August.

Thanks for standing with us in your prayers and gifts of support. May you ever know the close presence and help of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Happily serving Christ in Jamaica!

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## SHOWERS

Elaine and I are seated at our front door enjoying a heavy shower of rain. She is thrilled whenever rain falls: reminds her of her youth, when she would go and curl up in bed once rain began to fall.

The long drought that has afflicted most areas of the island, and which has devastated our agricultural areas and crops. Our vegetable producing parish has been especially hit hard. This has caused in some cases a doubling of prices in the market and supermarkets. Our already over-stretched dollar is about to burst, having down devalued to a rate of J\$1.00 to US\$118.00. Meaning that the Jamaican dollar can only buy us 1.18 cents US. We thank God that some of this rain has also fallen in the catchment areas around Kingston, but not enough to end the drought. They have had to suffer lock-offs every other day: some had water only every two other days. While we thank God for the drops, we wish that the showers may truly fall, and especially in the spiritual realm.

While our government is still resisting foreign political pressures to change our laws to allow legalization of homosexuality and same-sex marriage, many of our North-American and European influenced intelligentsia have rejected Bible-based morality, and see Christians and others who seek to maintain Biblical morality as old-fashioned, and behind-the-times. The recent visit of the President of the USA was partly to add his voice to the others, and to push our government to change our "old-fashioned attitudes." Pray we be strengthened to believe that spiritual showers will continue to fall upon our land, and that the spiritual drought afflicting many countries may not come our way.

Showers have also been falling in our Caribbean region recently, in the form of Hurricane Erica. Though, fortunately, Jamaica was not affected, nevertheless our Caribbean neighbours were. For us it was especially difficult to hear of the damage and loss of life in the Eastern Caribbean island of Dominica, especially since this was the Island that we spent three summer holidays and over two years as pioneer church-planting missionaries in the late 1960s to early 1970s. The most badly affected location, Petite Savanne, is only a few kilometres from (Berrecoa), Grand Bay where we lived and planted a church.

We are in touch with a Dominican brother, whom Lloyd met at the Conference he attended near Rome in June. He shares that though none of the Church-members were killed, yet many lost relatives. Some bodies are still under the rubble and landslides in the village. The village is cut off from the rest of the country, and is accessible only by sea or by helicopter. The government has taken the decision to evacuate the village until roads and other amenities can be restored. If Lloyd were twenty (20) years younger he would surely be on a plane leading a team heading to Dominica to help in relief work, as he had done many times in the past after hurricanes in Haiti, Montserrat and in the south of Miami after hurricane Andrew in 1992. Do stand with our fellow believers and others in Dominica, and assist practically where you can.

Lloyd is preparing to resume teaching responsibilities at Regent College of the Caribbean. He will be teaching a new Missions course. He has also been asked at short notice to teach another course (O.T. Survey) for three weeks until the lecturer returns from India, where his sick father has delayed his return. Do pray that Lloyd will handle this double responsibility successfully.

Much of this summer Lloyd spent finishing up a new missions book on a Jamaican planter family and their exploits for God, both in Jamaica and in many other countries beyond our shores. He has been doing the research and writing for over a year. The book is about five cousins who were missionaries, simultaneously, during the early to late 1900s in Africa, China, Ecuador and Peru. He completed the book last week and is now preparing it for publication. Pray that he will find the right publisher who will assume the costs and responsibilities of publication and marketing.

Elaine was busy through the summer with Vacation Bible Schools and other children ministries through her church. With schools reopening this week she is ready to contact schools again concerning her medical and spiritual sexual abstinence program. Pray that opportunities would be given her to share in the schools again this year.

We ask you to give thanks with us for all God's mercies, provisions, and blessings showered upon us. For the opportunity Lloyd had to visit Rome and London this summer for a conference in the former place; and for the blessings of the Keswick spiritual life conference here in Mandeville in July that so blessed God's people. Pray that we will have the vision and strength for each day, to allow us to go on serving the Lord and people in all the varied ways He allows us to do. May you all walk with Him as closely and faithfully as you can each day, and may you do His will as He shows you how, for His glory.

Yours in his love and willing service!

*Lloyd and Elaine Cooke*

A Ministry of Harvest International, Inc.

P.O. Box 6690 · Ocala, FL 34482 · 352-622-1818 · lcookemia@gmail.com · www.harvestinternational.org



# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

*Serving the Lord in*

# Jamaica

Friends and partners in ministry,

November 2015

We greet you from Jamaica, where the drought has been broken and everything is green again. The rain falls almost daily here in the hills, and the sun is warm and shines brilliantly. We know that those of you in the northern countries have begun experiencing colder weather as the 'Fall' has set in and winter will soon be on you. But everywhere it is still true that "our God reigns!" We trust that He is allowed to reign in your lives and affairs; and that you have each yielded your lives and affairs to His Lordship. May your hearts thereby be filled with joy, gratitude and thanksgiving at this special season of the year. "God is good all the time! All the time God is good!"

As we share with you by this medium, we wish to focus on the various ministries in which Elaine is immersed, both within her Church and on outside. She serves as a Lay Preacher within the Methodist circuit of Manchester, but is also active on various committees of her Church. Her burden and passion, however, is for the children and youth wherever she finds them. The attached photographs will show some of these ministries.

Porus Church: is her main focus. She visits on most Saturday mornings for a reading class-cum Bible study with the children. Some are improving, others need greater help. Picture

Schools: Her outreach efforts into elementary and High Schools, to encourage sexual abstinence and commitment to Christ, continues. But opportunities have not been as numerous recently, but the occasional invitations still bear fruit in the number of students who yield themselves to Christ. Picture

Jamaica Foundation for Life-long Learning (JFLL) is a government initiative geared towards school-leavers who need remedial help in literacy and numeracy. Most of these young people are also from poor or broken homes. Elaine has established a program where a dozen young men (most of JFLL's students are male) are brought to her church weekly for a meal, spiritual and practical assistance, guidance and instruction from ministers and qualified professionals from the church. Picture

Mentoring: Often, especially if Lloyd has to be away from home over a weekend or is away on a trip, Elaine will bring in a young person to stay with her. The main aim is usually to do some mentoring, and/or to address particular problems they may be facing. Recently she was able to intervene in one young lady's life and help settle a problem she was having with her mother. She got professional counseling from a qualified church member. At a recent evangelistic outreach at her church she surrendered her life to Christ. The household rift is being healed. Thank God that victories are sometimes won. So we rejoice that we see encouraging signs of growth in lives, churches and sometimes in transformed lives.

Lloyd is enjoying his teaching responsibilities at Regent College, and helped to get a new course of studies in Children's Ministries approved. This new course will be introduced during the next semester beginning in January. He also has occasional requests to speak at other churches and Colleges. Both of us are still "bearing fruit in our old age."

We give grateful thanks to God for you who make it possible for us to accomplish these things, because of your prayers and constant financial support of us. May the blessings of God, and the joys of family and friends, enrich your lives during this season of hope, and for the future.

Yours in the joyous service of Christ,

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# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

*Serving the Lord in*

# Jamaica

Family and Friends,

December 2015

The Poinsettia blooms in our garden are ravishing; the 'snow on the mountain' shrubs light up even the nights. Birds are playing in pools of water from recent rain, and are shaking their feathers in delight. There is a chill in the air that make us feel like we are in the U.S. These are signs that Christmas is in the air. But we do miss the Christmas carols. They seem to have disappeared, even from Christian radio and TV, and seem to reveal the greater commercialism of the season.



The local Baptist church had its first Christmas family gathering event last Friday. It's Families in Crisis focus sought to show the family-friendliness of Christmas. It was a welcome and much appreciated innovative event. Elaine and I are looking forward to the 'Singphony' on Sunday at the United Church in Mandeville. It is a much treasured and looked-forward to musical treat, with much audience participation.



Our local Ministers Association will be having its annual Christmas Social and dinner on Monday, Dec. 14th at the Catholic Retreat Centre. Lloyd just recently stepped down from the Executive. We welcome all of these events that focus on the spiritual aspects of the season. It has been a good year for Elaine and me, and the Lord has blessed us with good health, and also enabled us to contribute in meaningful ways to the work of the Kingdom of the Lord here in Jamaica.

At the College where Lloyd teaches he has been deeply enjoyed his interactions with the students. Thank God that there are still many committed young people ready to step in to replace us who are near the end of our service in the Gospel. Lloyd has been able to see fulfilled a long desire to have the College reintroduce a Children's Ministries Course. This he will help to teach, beginning in January, with two of the others who helped him design the course. We pray that the Lord may bless this course greatly to the salvation of many children to Christ, both inside and outside of our churches. Pray with us that this may be so.





The highlight of the year for Lloyd was the International Missionary Conference, outside Rome, Italy; and the visit on the way home with colleagues and former students in London and Birmingham, England. His visit to Shakespeare's birthplace was a special highlight.



Elaine's various efforts with the children and youth, in the schools to which she got access, were very fruitful in the large numbers responding to both the abstinence message and gospel messages. But a concern is the lack of adequate follow-up. Pray for this. You have been part and parcel of each of these ministry outreaches, by your faithful partnership with us by your prayers and gifts. We thank God for you, and we wish you and your families the greatest experiences of Love and Joy in the Lord during this Christmas season.



Yours serving Jesus joyfully,

*Lloyd and Elaine Cooke*



**With our grandchildren**