

January 2016

We trust you had a blessed Christmas, and have begun the New Year with the hope which a firm trust in God provides.

Elaine and I had the pleasure of hosting the Cooke family dinner at our home on Christmas day. Lloyd's siblings, cousins, nephews and some in-laws came together for the occasion. A total of 18 persons shared the evening of fellowship, good food and drink, with reflections on growing up together. Elaine and I were assisted in the kitchen by her two grand-nephews, both of whom we have assisted to become chefs. One of these young men lived with us for over 10 years while attending elementary and high school. We have much cause to rejoice in how both have turned out, given the negative circumstances of their early years. We praise God we had the opportunity to help.











Elaine and I are both back into our normal activities since the beginning of the year, as Lloyd has resumed his teaching duties at two Bible Colleges, and Elaine her various Church committee involvements, and children engagements. Please pray for the many opportunities that come her way to speak in schools, both to students and to parents.



We ask for specific prayers as the new Children's Ministries certificate course that Lloyd and others developed is launched on the evening of Thursday January 28th. Do pray that there will be a large number of persons from the local churches who will prepare themselves to reach outside their churches to win children to faith in Christ.

Political excitement was rampant in the country towards the end of last year. It was commonly expected that there would have been a general election for a new parliament. But this was delayed, and it is highly likely that one will be called sometime early in this year. This is often a time of confrontation, and sometimes of violence, as the two main parties vie for the support of voters. Please pray that we may see more political maturity exhibited whenever the elections are called. As well as that God's will may be accepted with maturity by the populace, whatever the outcome.

We give God thanks for good health and strength, and the enabling that the Lord gives us to continue to serve Him here. Your continued prayers and financial support is crucial, and your reward from the Lord will be sure. Please accept our sincere thanks for your continued partnership with us into the New Year.

Yours, lovingly and faithfully serving Christ in Jamaica

Lloyd and Elaine Cooke



As co-laborers with us in the Kingdom of God, we greet you again from Jamaica where it is perpetually Spring. At this time of the year we are usually facing dry times, with its attendant low water pressure and often lock-offs. However, this year the Lord has been gracious and the showers have not ceased. As a result we had an outburst in recent weeks of flower-ing trees: the yellow Pouii, and a purple shrub in our garden whose name I am ignorant of.

The national election I mentioned last time went off peacefully, and resulted in a change of government. But the results were close, as there was only a one seat difference between the two major parties. The transition has been good, with acknowledgements of the need for cooperation in government. The cabinet of ministers chosen is a good mixture of youth and experience, with two of the members of the upper house (the Senate) being members of Lloyd's denomination. There are many nominal christians, and a few evangelical members on both sides of the parliament. Your prayers are needed that all will seek God's wisdom to govern rightly and righteously.

Elaine returns on the 16th. from her New York visit for the funeral of a niece who died tragically. Lloyd's two weeks of housekeeping will thankfully come to an end. With all of his other responsibilities many things did not get done. He would value your prayers for the following upcoming ministry involvements:

- His continuing teaching responsibilities at the two Bible Colleges in town;
- His supervising of the new Children's Ministry Course, with its 15 eager students;
- Good Friday preaching assignment at an Anglican church, over two hours drive away;
- Missions Conference at Spalding Brethren Assembly: April 3-5th;
- Lloyd's travel to Scotland for the wedding of our first daughter, on April 9th.
- Elaine's outreach, with her church, to needy male students from a remedial school;
- Her children classes and preaching assignments with the Methodist churches.

Let us remember to take every opportunity that comes our way to share the message of God's love with everyone we come in contact with. That opportunity was Lloyd's yesterday, as he witnessed to the landscape man who works for us. He attends church occasionally but is not saved. He said to Lloyd afterwards that "you know, you are the first person who has ever talked with me one-on-one about my soul." Do pray that he will soon ask Christ into his heart.

We praise God for His many mercies and blessings; and we praise Him for prayer and financial supporters like you. We would not be able to do what we do without you. Thanks again! Do keep lifting us up in your hearts and your prayers.





The academic school year 2015-2016 has come to an end. For our theological students their exams are over, and they can enjoy the upcoming summer activities. Lloyd has finally finished marking two sets of exams and end-of- term research papers from his students in Comparative Religions at Regent College of the Caribbean, and Introduction to Missions at Bethel Bible College. He is filled with gratitude for the privilege of helping to mould young lives for future christian ministry. While finishing his markings Lloyd was also under much pressure as he prepared for a weekend seminar in Kingston at an Episcopalian/Anglican church. That went well, and we pray that much benefit would remain with those who participated.

SUMMER As the summer months come upon us it brings the beauty of "June Roses" and the many flamboyant Poinciana trees whose fallen blossoms carpet the ground. Various fruits are also ripening: every variety of mango is available; our local apples (O'Tahiti) bore profusely but are now finished; and the star-apples are now ripening, a couple months late. The continuousness of the rains may have contributed to its late arrival. The summer will also bring a much anticipated visit from our grandchildren. Annika and Tyler come in early July, and will spend some time with aunts and uncles, as well as with their second cousins. May the Lord grant us energy to match theirs! There will also be summer activities such as Vacation Bible Schools and Camps, which Elaine will be involved in, as well as adult spiritual conferences like Keswick Convention the last week of July, which we will both participate in. Pray that these will be signally blessed of God.

HOMEGOINGS There have been a number of significant homegoing celebrations of close friends and associates recently. These have been times of rejoicing and memorializing our friends' years of faithful living for and service to our Saviour. They also remind us to maximize our service opportunities, as we consider the brevity of the time that may be remaining to us. Lloyd will be attending yet another this weekend, for the widow of a much respected former friend, mentor and denominational leader.

GRADUATION Graduation (Commencement) come up on July 3rd. at our Alma Mater, Regent College (formerly Jamaica Bible College). Lloyd has been tasked by the Board to formulate a Citation, along with an Installation protocol for the new President at that time. The new President is a former student of his who graduated 15 years ago. Lloyd seeks your prayers for this assignment.

NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS Jamaica begins a season of national celebrations, as early August brings Emancipation (182nd) and Independence (54th) anniversaries. Later in August there will be extreme anticipation in Jamaica of how our athletes will do at the Rio Olympics in Brazil. The country has come to expect the usual medals in track and field events, with hope for the same in swimming as well. We trust that our people's eyes will also turn to the Lord, and give Him thanks for the many perceived blessings this country has received over the centuries. May we become more faithful in upholding the moral and spiritual standards that have made us an example to the world. Thanks for praying for us; and help us pray for Jamaica!



March 2016

Today is election day in Jamaica. We, along with most Christians and churches, are much in prayer for God's guidance and direction for our country. The gospel of Christ and the church has played an integral part in our country. We commit our nation and its leaders to the Lord, that we may continue to be a people committed to doing His will and fulfilling His purpose in the world. News on the media at this late time suggests that there will be a change of governing parties. Results are still coming in, but it is projected as a win for the opposition party.

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Lloyd & Elaine Cooke Serving the Lord in

Elaine and her family are grieving the tragic loss last week of a niece in New York. Elaine will be going up to New York to be with her younger sister and other family members. She leaves on March 2nd and will return on the 16th. Pray that Elaine will be a source of comfort and spiritual influence during this time to her relatives, and that the Lord will comfort their grieving hearts.

The much anticipated Children's Ministries Course that we have agitated for, and helped to craft, began five weeks ago. Bible College students, some staff members, along with children workers from a large number of church connections have been enthusiastic about the course. Pray for Lloyd and the two ladies who team-teach the course. We believe God will use it to greatly impact the local churches, and challenge them to seek out children outside of their churches to win them to Christ.





Our first daughter, Arlene, a Psychologist resident in Ireland, has found her soul-mate and will be getting married in Gretna-Green, Scotland on April 9th. The Lord has provided the means for Lloyd and his other daughter, Eleanor Gail, to travel for the wedding. Lloyd will take an extra two days to visit sites in northern England and southern Scotland, together with a cousin who will help to guide him around. Lloyd looks forward to be able to do some disciple-making work with him as they travel around. He is a new believer whom Lloyd had the privilege of helping while he was in Jamaica for some months last year. Your prayers are needed for us at this time.

The results in the election on Thursday are in, and the Jamaica Labour Party will form the new government. The nation will need much prayer to right the ship of state, and bring recovery to the weak economy.

Thanks again to you our supporters for your faithful support in prayers and financial means. The year seems to be facing up to be one of busy activity; and hopefully of spiritual blessings. Your continued support of us will be crucial in our ministries.

Your servants in Christ,

Lloyd and Elaine Cooke







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We just returned from Baileston United (Presbyterian, Congregational and Disciples in Christ) Church, in Clarendon near Spaldings. What a morning of blessings it was!

Elaine first shared briefly about the urgency and necessity of evangelizing children. She also shared about use of the Wordless Book in teaching kids their need for, and God's provision of salvation. Lloyd took over and first reviewed his former teaching with them on Personal Witnessing strategy and methods. He then took the remaining time to point to the far greater importance of preparing the heart and life by prayer and Bible study. Witnessing would then become a lifestyle where the believer would take every opportunity to "gossip the gospel", wherever he/she goes. Lloyd took them through Scripture to teach how prayer is indispensable to soul-winning, and how it prepares the believer to represent Christ; and what it does to condition the heart of the unsaved person to receive and respond to the gospel.

Plans had been made for the participants to go out on the streets in the community for a time of one-to-one witnessing. However, showers of rain which started when we were ready to leave, wouldn't stop. This made us postpone the outreach effort. But the church hopes to do this soon, on a Sunday afternoon after services. Maybe they will have more members than were at the seminar participating at that time.

The church was also mourning, and we with them, the very recent passing of their interim minister, Rev. Earl Thames. Help us pray with and for the Christians at Baileston United Church. During the rains we got to share a few very personal moments of relating with these believers in Jesus Christ. It was a most precious time.

Thanks for your prayers and for sharing with us, so that we can help God's people become his witnesses in life and by lip. Hallelujah!!!!!







Joy To The World!! Good News!! Good News!!

A Joyful Christmas, and a very Happy & Prosperous New Year to All!

A recent visit by Elaine (with three (3) others) to a local Elementary and Junior High-School resulted in much blessings and salvations. She goes into local schools to speak on the dangers of early sexual activity; and to encourage the students to "Wait & Win."

When she initially contacted the Principal and explained her purpose, he asked her to speak with the entire Grades 6, 8 & 9: a total of 14 classes. These were covered over two days when each did two sessions. With an average of 35 - 40 in each class, this means that about 500 students heard the abstinence message, together with a clear gospel presentation. Of those hearing the dual message of the dangers of early sexual activity, and of the power of Christ to save and help them to wait until marriage 237 children, and one teacher, prayed to receive Christ as their Saviour.

Praise the Lord with us

- for the opportunities we still have in Jamaica to present the Christian message in our schools;
- for open hearts among the children to receive us and the message;

Pray for the following,

- help in the follow-up process, to lead these kids to maturity in their faith;
- that we and other Jamaican Christians, will take every opportunity we still have to reach children for Christ;
- for one child, who spoke with Elaine afterwards, about the physical condition of the house her family lives in. Elaine, and persons from her church, has since visited and are trying to aid them;
- for the family of Lloyd's cousin, as they mourn the passing of their father. His funeral was on the 10th in Kingston;
- for Lloyd's students at Regent College as they take their end-of-term exams between the 12-16th.of the month;
- for Elaine and I as we travel to Miami after Christmas for the wedding of our first daughter on the 30th.















August 2016

The prophet Jeremiah once lamented concerning his generation, that "the harvest is past, the summer is ended but we are not saved." We will offer no such lament, though it is true, the summer is near to its end, and we have not been able to take a break and get some rest. Yet we have seen God's hand in blessings and in salvation constantly. And Lloyd will be leading a weekend salvation seminar in a traditional church next weekend, after which he will lead the listeners into an outreach effort. He also teaches on missions this Sunday at his local church. Please hold him up in your prayers.

Lloyd & Elaine Cooke Serving the Lord in

After Regent College of the Caribbean's graduation exercises on July 3rd when a new President was installed, with Lloyd being asked to write and also read the testimonial citation prior to the installation, we welcomed our grandchildren Annika and Tyler the next day from Miami. We took a few days off to welcome them and enjoy their brief visit with us. It was a treat having them, and exposing them to some of the local attractions. They toured the Green Grotto underground caves on the north coast, and learned something of Jamaica's history at the same time. A visit to the 'Black River Morass' wetlands on a boat cruise the next morning was an ecological adventure. This was followed by an afternoon of rugged watery fun at the Y.S. River Falls. Lloyd took the risk of allowing them to do the rope swing over, and plunge into, one of the pools below a cascade of water. Regretfully we had to share them with relatives in Montego Bay, where they had many more days enjoying local sights and attractions in the western end of the island. Unlike on their last summer visit, there was no repeat of the 'goats at church' experience.

At the end of June Lloyd had received good news from his doctor, after a PSA blood test, that there was no need at this time to do the proposed biopsy, as his prostate numbers were reduced. Elaine's high blood pressure is under control. We praise the Lord for continued good health.

Excitement is building in Jamaica towards the Olympic games, which begin in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this weekend. Jamaica is again expecting a fair haul of medals in Track & Field. We also have entrants in Swimming, Diving, and Gymnastics. All Jamaica will be eagerly watching during the next couple weeks, as will we.

Elaine has just concluded two good weeks of Vacation Bible School at both Porus and Waltham Methodist churches. In both places some visiting children were reached with the gospel, and quite a few surrendered their hearts and lives to Christ. One young boy of a hardworking single-father home accompanied her to Waltham last week. Both he and his young guardian received Christ as Saviour during the week.

While Elaine ministered to the children, Lloyd was participating in and helping give leadership during the annual Keswick Christian-life conference in Mandeville. This was the 116th year of this united inspirational gathering of the churches around Mandeville. The morning 'Bible Readings' and the evening expository messages from the book of Acts, were a challenge for faithful christian life and service. They were wonderfully blessed of God to the hearers, and the response to the word saw many making dedication of their lives to follow the Lord more closely. The cooperation and participation of the churches in the town was greater than has been seen in recent years. The Ministers Association was encouraged by the new spirit, and trusts this will bear much fruit for eternity. This convention has long been the highlight of Church life in central Jamaica.

The dangers and vagaries of the tropical hurricane season has again imposed itself upon us. Monday evening saw the island in high gear preparing for a Tropical depression, turned storm, Earl. During last night and this morning the southern part of the Island experienced heavy rains and intermittent squalls. Fortunately, it passed to our south and gave us only rains. It is now headed for Honduras and Belize on the Central American coast. We pray they are also spared any great destruction, like we were.

Our sincere thanks go to you all for your prayers, interest and financial support of us. The last few months have seen a drastic decline in our financial support, while our currency's value plummets. But this is the summer when missionary support usually plummets. So we trust in God and depend on him daily for the supply of every need. Please keep us constantly in your prayers. We depend upon it!

In the Lord's gracious service,

Lloyd and Elaine Cooke



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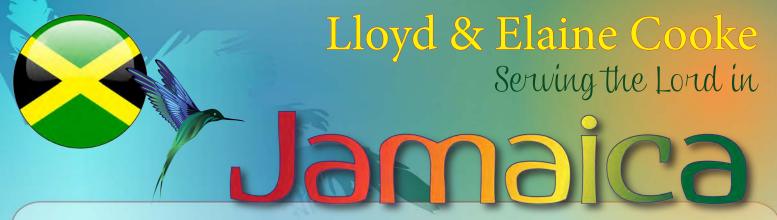
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We are laborers together with Christ! "Lloyd and Elaine Cooke





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Our dear and precious friends and family,

September 2016

With the passing of summer, the beginning of the new College year, and the continual calling home to heaven of more of our dear friends and choice servants of God, we are often led to consider our increasing years, and diminishing strength. But praises be to our God, He allows us continuing influence for His Kingdom here upon earth.

Elaine recently celebrated her ? birthday, and Lloyd his 74th, earlier in May. We continually talk about the mercies of God in allowing us extra time ('brawta', for the Jamaicans) to be able to reach out to and influence others for His Kingdom. Psalm 92:12-15 encapsulates our musings in this regard. We have indeed been like "palm trees... planted in the house of the Lord."

- Our roots are deep and firm,
- God is taking care of us, and
- causing us to flourish;
- we desire to continue to "still bear fruit in our old age" (grey hairs, moustache and thinning hair...notwithstanding)
- we continue to "declare that the Lord is upright; and there is no unrighteousness
- (unfaithfulness...) in Him."

While Elaine and I cannot report a multitude of activities, great numbers of recent conversions, and numerous calls upon our time from multiple places for ministry, we do continue to do those things which the Lord has placed before us. We also seek to assist others in their ministries, but mostly we seem to be acting more as consultants, guides and purveyors of 'Influence' to many to help them serve our Lord, to the best of their abilities.

Elaine's passion remains undiminished to see God's glory revealed in Jamaica, especially in the lives of the younger generations through the children in our location who seem to flock to her and to our home for various reasons. People in need seem to know that they can come to our door for a meal, a chat or for a few dollars to assist them to school or for some other need.

Our neighbour's son (bound by drugs, and having psychological episodes) recently attempted suicide by drowning. Thank God that Elaine heard his mother's cries and, together with the Police who were passing at the time, were able to rescue him.

Pray for her as she performs multiple functions in her local Methodist Circuit as pulpit preacher, children and youth worker; secretary of a number of church committees; and general instigator of outreach efforts to the needy with the gospel.

Pray also that her current mission to muster the Christian Church in Jamaica to rise up and confront the monster of crime and gun murders will find good response from our national Church leaders whom she is lobbying to act.

She has written an open letter in the Press to them about these issues, and is awaiting their response.

Lloyd's influence seems to be trending towards becoming a consultant in the areas of Church History and Missions.

A local Baptist church recently asked him to speak during their "Missions Month" on the topic of "Contemporary Mission Trends." One trend he shared about was the multitudes of Muslims who are turning to Christ in the Middle East and other areas, such as Africa and Indonesia. As Christians from North African countries, Iran, Iraq, and Syria are facing persecution, this is also causing large numbers to become Christians.

Opportunities are opening up for Lloyd to use his book on Jamaican Missions outside of the churches. His Publisher recently forwarded to him a request from a University Professor to have colleagues review The Story of Jamaican Missions for the Jamaican Historical Society. When Lloyd met with the Professor, he was told that the upcoming issue of the top Jamaican Cultural publication would carry an article which includes a quotation from his book.

He was also asked to be a guest presenter to the Jamaican Historical Society at their next meeting in early December, on the contents of his upcoming book. This is about a Jamaican family with six generations of foreign missionaries. At a recent launch of a new Missions Sending Agency, his book was highlighted as a source of information and motivation for Jamaican missionaries.

Lloyd's teaching assignment at Regent College this semester is Church History. He wants his students to be able to make connections with the past, and to see the blessings as well as the mistakes made by the Church in the past; and to use this knowledge to guide them in their future ministries.

May the Lord use all of these opportunities to His greater glory! Pray that Lloyd will be always well prepared, and be an instrument of God's grace to others, even in the academic community here in Jamaica.

We praise God for His gift of good health which we continue to enjoy. We have no chronic ailments to complain of. This enables us to serve, and to use our energies to motivate others, and to try to pass on to them those skills and insights we have acquired along the way. Our praises are due to the Lord; but also to you, our faithful friends and prayer helpers.

Do please continue to stand with us. The end-time clouds darken the skies around us, but our hope is in our ever faithful God. We know that He is in charge, and controls all situations for our good and His glory!

Lovingly serving with Christ!

Lloyd and Elaine Cooke



To our treasured friends and family,

November 2016

Happy Thanksgiving to you all! We so wish we could be with you as you celebrate with your families. It is the chief thing we miss about life in the States. We see that some of you are already getting snow. Alas, Thanksgiving is not a Jamaican tradition. For us Christmas is the time when families gather. May it be for you a time of good family reunions, and times of shared memories of the Lord's goodness and blessings experienced during the past year.

We "thank our God upon every remembrance of you." For your love, prayers and faithful support as we continue to serve here in Jamaica. We have been greatly blessed with good health, good weather, and were divinely spared the rayages of a deadly hurricane, Matthew, at the last possible moment. Many believe it was the mercy of God towards us, once again. While we are thankful, we grieve for our near neighbour Haiti. But we are happy to report that a number of Jamaicans who are missionaries in South Haiti were spared serious damage and disruptions, so that they are able to minister to the needs of others. Please pray for them.

We also thank God for a peaceful, though not necessarily 'Christian' election season in the US. We trust for quiet and coming together, despite the disappointment and hurt that many are feeling. Nevertheless, we must learn to submit to the will and purposes of God, though we may fail to understand how and why God works as He does. Remember that "the powers that be are ordained of God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God..." Rom. 13:1-2.

Elaine and I plan to visit in South Florida just after Christmas for the wedding of our daughter, Arlene on December 30th. We look forward to seeing and fellowshipping with some of you at that time. We request your prayers for us for the following:

- We mourn the passing this week of a younger cousin of Lloyd's from Prostate cancer. Please lift up to the Father his wife, Dianne, and two young children. Thank God that he was a passionate follower of our Lord.
- A Jamaican missionary friend who ministers a lot in the Eastern Caribbean, Africa and North America. He is facing Prostate cancer surgery, without having health insurance. He wishes to do the surgery in the U.S., and is seeking financial and other help to get the best outcome possible. Pray!
- A Jamaican-Puerto Rican couple who are doing Bible translation work in South Asia with Wycliffe. They are on furlough in Jamaica and wish to return to the field before the end of the year, but lack needed financial support. They plan to visit our church in a few weeks.
- Students from a government school for post High-School remedial education visit Elaine's church weekly for spiritual and personal improvement instruction. Elaine organized this outreach, and some have received Christ over the last eight or so years. Pray for a positive impact on those now attending.
- That the denominational and national Church leaders that Elaine has contact to appeal for a mobilization of the Jamaican Church against the disturbing increase in crime, especially as it affects children and youth.
- For god's will and purpose for Jamaica as we face a Local Government (municipal) election on the 28th of November. We are praying for peaceful elections, and that all may accept the results as God's will.

- That Lloyd will find the right publisher for his just completed book on a Jamaican family of six generations of missionaries.
- For Lloyd's presentation about his book to a meeting of the Jamaican Historical Society on December 6th.

We also have many reasons to praise the Lord, and invite you to join with in praise for all of the Lord's blessings, and enablements for ministry. Please pray for:

- Lloyd's speaking and participation in a number of missionary conferences recently;
- His students at Regent College of the Caribbean, as he teaches Church History this semester. In 4 weeks they will endof-semester exams;

Good news about Lloyd's recent Prostate test: there is no reason for concern, or for a biopsy. He credits the reduction in his numbers over the past three months to Elaine's various vegetable and fruit juices. Thank God.

Elaine recently had to do a 24 hour cardiac monitoring test because of palpitations. Though she hasn't yet seen her referring doctor, the printed report seems to contain no dangers. We are trusting for a good outcome. Elaine thinks the palpitations may be side-effects from high-blood pressure medications.

We pray for you and yours the abundant blessings of loving God, during this Thanksgiving and coming Christmas and New Year season. You are frequently in our prayers.

Yours, serving our soon-coming King, Jesus Christ.

Lovingly serving with Christ! Lloyd and Elaine Cooke











