



Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

Serving the Lord in Jamaica

September 2022

Greetings friends and family,

God has promised multiple times in His Word, that He will 'never leave you nor forsake you.' Even our increasingly graying hairs is said in Scripture will be 'flourishing', as God continues to help us, and cause us to bring Him glory.is over.

About a month ago **Lloyd** began to feel a great lack/loss of energy, and some pain in the rear of his left pelvic area. The left leg doesn't respond as strongly as before: he is almost dragging the leg as he walks. His daily walking distance has had to be reduced. A visit to his doctor had him being sent to do Blood work and an MRI.

The results of the blood work was generally good, but the MRI results indicate possible bone problems (the possible condition of 'Pagets' disease was mentioned) He was referred to an Osteopathic physician, who referred him to a Physiotherapist. Lloyd has done one session and is due to return in a few days for a second. We are taking all this in stride, and trusting God to guide us as to the future.

His dental work is another factor, as his daughters have arranged for implants to be done to replace his dentures. A number of visits to his Dental Surgeon (a nephew of his) has brought him near to the end of the process. But it has been excruciatingly difficult, with great difficulty in chewing: particularly cutting of meats. His weight has never been great, and now he has lost a few pounds. We still hope he will lose his hesitation to go to the dinner table, and will recover the lost weight. His visits to his Urologist are now only twice annually, to keep check after doing prostate surgery a couple years ago. His PSA tests are good, thank God. Do pray with us about these issues, please!

Elaine is doing well, just trying to keep down her cholesterol, and slightly elevated blood-pressure. She keeps in touch with her cardiologist about occasional heart palpitations. But,, after some yard work, sweeping and raking of leaves, she usually is better.

Weather Conditions: This is hurricane season, but so far no storms or hurricanes have threatened. But the rainy season is upon us: lightning strikes have been shutting down our Wi-Fi reception, so we have been without emails or Facebook for half-week. Our T.V. got blown, so we have had to buy a new one, a flat screen 'Smart T.V.' But we are not smart enough to set it up properly enough to get our usual channels. So our Cable service will send out a technician to get it properly working tomorrow. We have missed our important News and Religious stations for many days. It feels like 'dark days' cut off from the world of news and communication.

Ministry Activities have been reduced, but with Covid-19 shut-downs now over we are making adjustments. **Lloyd** is no longer lecturing at either his alma mater (Bible College) or the Graduate School of Theology in Kingston. He does not like teaching virtually (by Zoom), but prefers face to face teaching. He is now mostly devoted to writing projects, along with his preaching on Missions at his local church. Keeping in touch with the missionaries, regular home prayer times for them, and financially supporting a few of them (particularly the Jamaicans who are weakly supported financially) keeps us involved.

He is trying to finish up the Centenary history of his denomination, which he is co-writing with another, in order to send it to a publisher and having it printed. In addition, he was co-opted to help in writing the two hundred year history of the Church of England in Jamaica (Anglican), since it first became a Diocese (a See) in 1834. He has been asked to reprise the report he did in his first book, on the sending of Jamaican Missionaries to Africa and to some Central and South American countries after the Abolition of Slavery in the British Empire, of which we were a Colony. (We are currently joining in official mourning for the late Queen Elizabeth II. She was a person of evident faith in Christ, as well as a confidant of the late evangelist Billy Graham. We are praying for the new King and the grieving family, and praying that the United Kingdom will see a revival of effectual spiritual life.

Elaine: continues actively as a Lay-Preacher with the Methodist Church, but has asked to be used sparingly so that she may go back to some of the Youth involvements she had before the Covid-19 shut down. These include getting back into schools with her 'Wait & Win' program: proclaiming the wisdom of delaying sexual involvement until Marriage and allowing the Lord to transform them by putting their faith in Him, and developing strong moral and spiritual standards. She would also like to go back to the government Literacy agency youth, bring them into the Church Hall to have members instruct them in various educational and practical skills they can use in the future. She would also like to get back to having Children's Evangelistic Clubs in the churches of the Circuit. These are ministries that fill her with a sense of purpose and usefulness.

Family: Lloyd's daughter was here from Raleigh North Carolina two weeks ago, and we visited with her a couple of days in Montego Bay. She is working on Jamaican Citizenship, so that her son can respond to requests for him to possibly represent Jamaica in Greco-Roman wrestling. He has won a number of High-School and State competitions. Do continue to pray with us also for a nephew of Lloyd's who has psychological problems and resists institutional care. He is finally in such care, but is not fully submitting to the process. He also needs spiritual maturity, to grow well in his new faith experience. Pray!

Like you, we are concerned, often scared at the many world situation that cause wars and fears. We pray that peoples' hearts would turn to the Lord for HOPE. This seems to becoming a time of FEARS and much lack of reason to HOPE. People need the Lord, and we want to do all we can to point them to god and salvation through His loving Son. May each one of us, and you, make this a priority in these seemingly 'Last Days'.

We rejoice in the knowledge that God is in charge of world affairs, and He is not being taken by surprise by any happening. Remember that His Word tells us that "When you see these things beginning to come to pass, lift up your head and look up for your redemption draws near." (Luke 21:28)

We rejoice for your faithful support and prayers. Your partnership is vital to our service for Christ. We pray also for you and yours.

In loving thankfulness

Lloyd & Elaine

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P.O. Box 6690 • Ocala, FL 34482 • 352-622-1818 • www.HarvestInternational.org • dhandolly@hotmail.com
Serving in Zimbabwe, Africa • What's App: Dolly +263-756-261-000 • Dhan +263-715-472-486