



# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

## Serving the Lord in Jamaica

April 2024

Greetings friends and family,

It's been sometime since we communicated with you! We are still very much here with you still. Much is going on personally and in our world, but God is still in control! There is much concern about what is going on in Israel: We stand with Israel! As God also stands with Israel. "The God Who keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

*Healthwise:* We are more conscious of our ageing, and of its impact on us each day. Lloyd will have his 82nd birthday on May 27th. Our daughters Arlene and Gail plan to be with us here in Jamaica. Pray for their travel: Arlene comes from Abu Dhabi, and Gail from Raleigh, North Carolina.

Elaine's younger sister and two nieces visited with us a few weeks ago, for a funeral. We enjoyed their visit and the large bottle of protein powder that they brought for Lloyd. Elaine's health is also good, all things considered: her Cardiologist wants her to keep her blood-pressure lower than it is, but she feels that the strength of the medication triggers occasional heart fibrillation. We trust this will not suggest the need for a pacemaker. This has been mentioned as a remote, we hope, possibility. Do keep us in your prayers on this regard.

In terms of ministry we do less than usual: beyond leading services at our church, and occasional preaching. This Sunday, both of us had preaching responsibilities. The local children flood our premises often, and Elaine wants to have evangelism classes with them. This morning half-a dozen of them were to go to Church with her. She prepared breakfast for them, but they failed to show.

Much of our witnessing now is to individuals who stop by to chat or to ask us to help with food or other issues. The Lord provides enough for us to help others. Often this opens up avenues for counsel on spiritual matters.

Pray with us for Elaine's nephew, who is more like a son since he has been with us for the last over 20 years. He is trained as a Chef, and has served on Cruise ships. He is presently in Florida ( West Palm Beach) as a part of a new program with the government and the U.S where Jamaican Chefs are offered postings in overseas hotels. Pray for his growth in spiritual things, that he may be a testimony for the Lord.

Pray also that Elaine may soon be able to get back into the local schools to continue the health and spiritual talks that she and the doctors conduct. The hearts of the children are open, but there have been occasions of crime in our schools.

Yours sincerely in Christ's love!

*Lloyd & Elaine*

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# Lloyd & Elaine Cook

## Serving the Lord in Jamaica



Like you we have been fixated on what is happening in Israel: and amazed by What is happening there: but we are assured that God is at work, accomplishing His plans for Israel (to turn them to their Messiah, and to turn the rage of the devil to the salvation of the Muslim, so that His word will soon "fill the earth as the waters cover the sea." Please remember to **"pray for the peace of Jerusalem, may they prosper who love thee."** (Psalm 122:6)

We continue to be in good health and praise the Lord for his many mercies with which He 'daily loadeth us with His blessings' despite our increasing years.

Elaine continues to participate in her church's "Garage Ministry" which they began in the month of April, having 'devotions' with the men: reading the Scriptures, sharing a brief commentary and testimony, and praying with & for them and their families.

She says that during the month of May, celebrated as Child's Month in Jamaica they have had a number of invitations to go into schools and speak on the topic for the month, "Stand Up, Speak Out..." against what they see as evils and wrongs.

Do pray with us about:

- Personal evangelism of the children who come into our home for 'apples' the Jamaican 'Oatahie'i' variety.
- Praise God for the many who greet us as we do our daily evening walk in the community. If Elaine is not with me, they will inquire if she is O.K. We, mostly Elaine, will often pray with groups or individuals who let us.
- Pray for many Haitians who come by boat to our easternmost point of the island, which is only 90 miles to Haiti's southwest our tries to help them and often will give them help, while working on their requests for refugee status. Many Jamaicans have served as missionaries in Haiti. A few remain there. Our hopes and prayers are that the believers there will be able to assist in developing a new government free from the gangster gunmen who terrorize foreigners there mostly for ransom. We continue to petition the Lord to deliver the country from its past commitment to Voodoo and Spiritism. Multitudes have come to the Lord in Haiti but have had little opportunity to participate in the government.

Funerals here over the recent months have brought back to Jamaica one of our spiritual fathers: we benefited from his ministry as we hosed him for a few days.

Birthdays also brought the visit of our daughters, as they lavished their love on Lloyd, who celebrated his 82nd. They have since returned: Gail to her North Carolina home where she serves her hospital as a PA (Physician's Assistant); Arlene has also returned to Abu Dhabi, where she is a supervising Consulting Phycologist. Please help us keep them uplifted in payer: may they find opportunities to share Christ with their patients.

Pray for Lloyd's participation with a local denomination in a joint-writing of its two-hundred-year history. These projects take up a lot of his time. He is too busy in his retirement years.

We thank the Lord for you our friends and supporters and remember you often in our prayers. We depend upon you, even though we cannot do as much as we would wish to do.



# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

## Serving the Lord in Jamaica

December 2024

Greetings friends and family,

### **The Light has Come**

Jamaica is all agog about Christmas: but most are only interested in buying and receiving gifts. On Friday night, the 13th. Elaine and I participated in a community Carol Singing service led by three different local denominations. Amidst the hustle and bustle of men at the bars, groceries, shopping, and waiting at the Taxi stand. We braved it and sang at the top of our voices the good old Christmas carols. We had no music backing us up, just the voices of three men and seven women from three denominations.

We sang, read the Word, and prayed for our men, for families, and our nation. Then Lloyd was called upon to do the closing exercises: a brief message and an invitation for whoever desired to invite Christ into their hearts at this time when our minds turn to what happened on the first Christmas. He talked about the lights at Christmas: the 'Light of God' coming to dispel the darkness of the northern parts of Israel, including "Galilee of the nations". (Isa. 9:1-7). God promised to send Israel a 'child' who would be the 'Son' of God. This gift of God during their time of darkness would be called "Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace". When he came into the world, he spoke of himself as the 'Light of the World'. He also said that we who would believe in him would also be 'lights of the world'. God also sent a star that was followed by 'Wise Men from the East'. When they found him, they brought him gifts. Christmas time to many today is just a gift-giving time. We need to give Christ a gift today. "Wise men still seek him!" The gift that he desires of us is the gift of our lives, in response to his great love when he gave his life on the cross for us, that we might enter his heaven.

While no one came forward to Receive the Christ-child that night, we rejoiced in the opportunity to tell forth the message of God's love. We trust that the Spirit of God will work in hearts and his word will not 'return to him void'. Later that night at home the electricity went out. It stayed out for more than a full day. We were in the darkness, without being able to communicate by the various platforms we use today. We praise God that indeed 'The Light Has Come!' And our darkness is over.

May you rejoice in the 'Light' of God this Christmas: as we join with the angels and shout "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, to men of goodwill!"

God has been so good to us this year. As we continue to walk with our Saviour, may his blessings and overwhelming kindness continue to be your portion. Thanks for your prayers and support given to us this year as we continue to serve our Lord here in Jamaica!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year when they arrive.

Yours sincerely in Christ's love!

*Lloyd & Elaine*

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