

Lloyd & Elaine Cook

Serving the Lord in Jamaica



GOD STILL RULES HIS WORLD!

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Though Satan tests us with FEAR, we choose to lift up our eyes and believe that God is not displeased: that He is still God and will never cease to be. Our trust is in Him!

The evil works around us increases our longing for the return of our Lord to take over rulership of the world, take His children home, and punish those who reject His rule. But, we wait, and continue to speak to all we come in contact with, about His love and His sacrifice to bring them salvation. May we all be so faithful!

While we grow older, and our bodily aches and pains increase, we thank God for His daily mercies; and for His special goodness. We even look forward to the day when our Lord will call us to be with Him. Then we shall praise Him forever.

Health-wise we are both in relatively good condition: Elaine is not a good taker of medication, but her blood pressure is not too high: her cardiologist has her on tablets, but she only has occasional heart palpitation. Her daily exercise is sweeping the lawn and driveway: it does a good job of keeping her in good condition, thank God!

Lloyd has lost much of his energy, since his 80th birthday, but still keeps taking his afternoon walks. We both take various nutritional aids. Elaine’s niece from New York finds persons to bring him protein powder and other supplements that we could not afford to purchase. This is her ministry to us, and we praise God for her faithfulness. Lloyd has ceased his Biblical College lecturing, since his birthday, but he keeps doing denominational historical research, helping to write centenary and bi-centennial histories of two Jamaican denominations that he is connected with.

Elaine has resumed going into local schools with her medical-moral appeals to students to postpone early sexual activity and make the surrender of their young lives to Christ. She and the female Christian doctors with whom she does this ‘Wait & Win’ program continue their monthly meeting for prayer for the Lord’s infilling and enabling. Most Sundays she is leading worship and preaching in one of the Methodist Churches as a Lay Preacher. But her main motivation is to see children brought to faith in the Lord. Neither of us are anywhere near retirement. We cannot do this as long as people around us seek our counsel, financial assistance, and spiritual guidance.

We have had the joy in recent months of seeing two community young men experience psychological and spiritual change and healing through our advice, counsel and prayers. Pray much for another who stopped Lloyd along the road to request prayer for what he regarded as ‘Demonic attacks.’ We pointed him to read the Bible and ask the Lord for His deliverance and health. We were surprised at this encounter, but thanked the Lord for bringing him to us for help. We live in daily dependence on the Lord to minister to whoever He brings into contact with us. Hallelujah! The Lord is not done with us yet! To Him be praise and thanksgiving.

Much of our time is now ‘prayer-time’ with our precious Saviour. We do so for all whom the Lord brings into our memory, and particularly for “Unreached People-groups”, and for Persecuted Christians in certain countries where they face suffering for their faith. We particularly uphold Jamaican-based missionaries and agencies. And, we do thank you greatly who have stood with us as prayer and financial supporters for so many years. We ask the Lord to bless you and to meet your physical and spiritual needs. Do let us know what requests you have that we may hold you up before our loving and giving Heavenly Father.

We look forward to when we shall meet you in our Father’s Kingdom. What times of rejoicing we shall have in God’s presence! May He come quickly and take up his reign and rule over the nation of our/His world, very soon!

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Elaine was walking towards Bible Study at her church today. She noticed a man staring at her face. As she approached him he said: "You look like a lady I saw in the newspaper with her husband last Sunday". Elaine responded with a laugh saying, "You are right!" His reference was to a series of three articles that have appeared during the past month telling the story of Lloyd and her years of missionary activities in Jamaica, the Caribbean and Elaine in Zambia, Africa. These articles were entitled 'The Dynamic Churchman'; 'The Missionary Man'; and 'Respected Religion Historian'.

They may be searched at 'Jamaica Gleaner'. Three articles entitled, Jamaica Gleaner on twitter: The Dynamic Churchman I NEWS, (4th June 2023); 'The Missionary Man I NEWS (11th June); <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20230625/respected-religion-historian>

Despite the glowing reports of these articles we keep our hearts and thoughts set on Jesus, and try to do His will, as He shows it to us. Lloyd, at 81 years, tries to keep up his daily walking within the community, and to share Christ with all. He still preaches on 'Missions' in church, each first Sunday of the month. We also financially support a number of our Jamaican friends who serve in Missions, a female doctor in Liberia; a former Theological lecturer who takes other 'spiritual sons' of his to various countries in eastern Africa for several months each year, finishing up in South Africa; another (a couple) who are doing Bible Translation with Wycliffe among the people on Sabu island, in Indonesia (the Lii Hawu language).

Elaine, continues her classes in schools whenever the 'Wait & Win' program and challenge the children to put their faith in Jesus and to avoid early sexual activity and pregnancy. She also helps the HEART TRUST government jobs-training program. Helping them with lunch, and with their Maths and English remedial studies. She is anxious to begin a Child Evangelism community-club for children near to our home. Many come visiting us for help with school-lunch costs, and other financial family needs. We do what we can!

Lloyd spends much of his time in History research and writing projects. One includes cooperating with writers from the Jamaican Anglican (Church of England) Church -Lloyd's former denomination. Next year will be the 200th Anniversary since a Bishop was sent to Jamaica, just before the Abolition of Slavery in the British Empire of which Jamaica was a part. I am writing about the evangelism and 'missions' activity of the

Church during that period. The story of the Church will be told in two volumes. We pray the Lord will use it to remind the membership of the need to continue evangelistic efforts and outreaches to the spiritually needy.'

Jamaica has just come out of months of drought. But the rains have caused some crop damage, especially to vegetable and fruit-farmers. A need for irrigation for their fields is also a need that they face. Many continue to lose small stocks to thieves who refuse to work, and steal what small farmers depend on when cash is needed. The Police do not do enough to help them. Another national problem is the matter of crime: much of it is domestic violence, and violence against children. Gang warfare is an area of concern. Thankfully nowhere near Haiti. Our government, together with other Caribbean nations are discussing what they can do to help restore a working government to our near-neighbour. Do Pray with us for Haiti. Many Jamaican missionaries have helped to reduce the power of 'Voodoo' in that island nation.

Our Jamaican government has set up a committee to revise our Constitution and Laws, this Committee includes at least two Pastors: one who was an Attorney. We pray that no new laws will be introduced to change those against homosexuality or to make abortions easy. The LGBTQ+ people are using every influence to get Jamaica to accept their lifestyle. We pray that our nation will ever be a bulwark of resistance against these evils. Some Christian groups are presently doing public demonstrations. Pray with us!

Our thanks continue for you faithful financial and prayer support in these times. We were informed that the mission handling gifts sent to us would need to reduce the monthly amount sent since our Account with very low. We asked them to only send what is there as we will continue to believe the Lord for our every need: material, physical and spiritual. We give thanks for your help!



Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

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March 2023

Greetings friends and family,

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Yours sincerely in Christ's love!

Lloyd & Elaine

A Ministry of Harvest International, Inc.

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Lloyd is still experiencing a great loss of energy. Walking is reduced and difficult, but I still go on my daily walks. He also has difficulty with a dental problem. This causes chewing difficulty, so he is taking extra nutritional pills and protein powder to maintain his nutritional well-being. Elaine is doing better, though she has a little high blood pressure problem. We trust the Lord for his daily help.

The Lord has opened a trip to Israel for us via our daughters. We will be joining a group from Chapel Hill Bible Church in Raleigh North Carolina. We will be away from October 4th to the 24th. We look forward to an enjoyable and inspiring trip. We thank the Lord, and our daughters for this visit.

We continue our involvement in local ministries in our churches and with the leadership of the local Ministers Association. Lloyd continues to be involved in two different history writing projects. We will continue these involvements until the Lord calls us home. We thank you for what you have done for us and continue to do.

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Merry Christmas to all of you!

Here in Jamaica, we are beginning to feel the 'Christmas breeze'. Our daytime temperatures have dived our usual summertime warmth. There is also a cool wind blowing from the north. As we watch the evening news from Florida stations, we notice that as the temperatures did there into the 60s and lower, we began to feel those dips. There used to be a time when our mid-island, mountainside, Mandeville location was utilized as a location for our former colonizers, civil servants to come when the heat in the cities and towns by the seaside was too much for them to bear, but that situation has changed, as the area's population, houses, and roads have increased.

Our focus recently has shifted much to paying with and for Israel, the Hamas invasion, and the hostages they have taken. We are particularly asking the Lord to strengthen the Israeli people, and especially for them to seek the Lord's wisdom, guidance, and deliverance; and we revisit the Scripture of Psalm 83 and in the prophet Isaiah's messages of "Comfort Ye, comfort ye, my people!". We know that the God who watches over Israel "does not slumber or sleep"! May they turn their eyes and hearts towards their Messiah, for His deliverance. Our hearts do yearn for their national Salvation and that of their enemies as well. We ask that the Apostle Paul's words in Romans 11:26 "All Israel will be saved" when the Deliverer comes out of Zion and turns away ungodliness from Jacob.

Our confidence is that God is at work, as he prepares both Israel and their Islamic enemies to acknowledge the God whom their progenitor Abraham followed, as their own true and only God. We also ask you to join us in prayer for God's clear work in our geographical neighbor, Haiti. Their situation is so desperate that many are risking their lives on the seas in un-seaworthy boats to come to Jamaica seeking help. Many of our Nationals have been missionaries in Haiti, and numerous of us have gone to that country on mission trips and after hurricanes and earthquakes to help make both their physical and spiritual conditions better. Do join us in your heartfelt prayers for them.

Most of you have been our faithful prayer partners over so many years. We thank you greatly. We cannot express adequately our profound gratitude for your faithful and sacrificial support as we seek to serve the Lord and his Church's work here. There is a song that says, "Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am a life that was changed!" Many are children and adults that you will meet in heaven, who will be there because you both give and pray. Many young men and women who were students at Regent Bible College of the Caribbean are now pastors, children, and church evangelists as we have helped to prepare them for Christ's service and ministry.

The Mandeville Ministers Fraternal (now 'Association') has also benefitted from our many involvements which you have enabled us to be part of. Many also are the children from Primary and High Schools who have made Jesus their Savior, through the "Wait & Win" program. Because you gave to us, we have been enabled to help others." While we serve the Lord, we also help others take the gospel to other nations and encourage our local churches to do the same.

We thank God for each of you and your help all these years: thank you very much!



Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

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November 2023

Greetings friends and family,

Elaine and I were in Raleigh, N.C. on October 7th. getting ready to go to the Holy Land the very next afternoon with a group from our daughter, Gail's, Chapel Hill Bible Church. Many of you have informed us how greatly you interceded for us. The trip was finally called off the very morning: about 12 hours before we were due to depart.

This is the time of Thanksgiving: it is maybe, the only North American season that we really miss, since our return to Jamaica twenty-three years ago. We began to see the beginnings of the change of leaves during the two weeks we spent in North Carolina and Georgia, recently. We wish for you a great time of family gathering and remembrances of God's blessing to you and your families over the past year. We also have much to thank God for and to remember His often undeserved blessings over this past year.

While we regret the attack by Hamas on the nation of Israel, we rejoice in the Lord's help so far, and that He will use this issue to turn the hearts of the Israeli nation and its people towards their Messiah. God's promises are plentiful to Israel of their protection and their eventual "looking up-on Him whom they have pierced, and wailing as they receive His return for their deliverance (Zech. 14:10-12) Jesus/Yeshua promised the people of Jerusalem (Matt. 21:1-11; Psa. 118:26) that when they would finally ask for His return by saying "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!" He would come to their aid and final deliverance. may we all continue to "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem" as Psalm 122: 6-9 requests us all to do. We also greatly give thanks to God that through faith in Christ, we have also become "sons of Abraham by faith (Rom. 4:1-18). We therefore suffer with Israel as their brothers and beneficiaries of the salvation brought into the world, as Jesus himself told the woman at the well that 'Salvation is of the Jews'.

Our thanksgivings also are due to you, our faithful prayer and financial supporters, who allow us to continue our witness for Christ here in Jamaica and wherever we go. Together we are Witnesses for Christ. Sometimes, as Francis of Assisi, advised us, we use words to do our witnessing. We will continue to "Occupy until I come"! until the Lord calls us home.

Yours sincerely in Christ's love!

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