

Lloyd & Elaine Cook

Serving the Lord in Jamaica



Restaurant Encounter: Life-Giving Results

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This was a new assignment at a Seminary where I would be teaching for the first time. I was a bit apprehensive and anxious to get going. As I placed my tray in front of a twentyish young man and began, (he was not eating, but was doing what seemed like school work) he asked me “What time is it?” I responded to his question, then dug into my baked potato and hot chili-con-carne. A few minutes later the voice behind me was overheard to say, “I just don’t feel like going...!”

Was he addressing me, or talking to himself? It was not clear which, so I continued with my meal. Nothing more was said. But, as I continued eating the Spirit of God began conversing with me: “When you are through do not leave before finding out if he was addressing you!” The divine impression was strong, and the voice within repeated His instruction a number of times. So I determined to be obedient!

As I finished and prepared to leave, I turned my chair around and faced him: “earlier, after you asked me the time, you muttered something that I am not sure whether you were addressing me or talking to yourself. You said “I just don’t feel like... Do you mind explaining what you said, and what you meant by that?” Yes, he said, and began a heart-rending tale of woe. He had lost his wife to cancer just before Christmas. His five year old daughter and he had not eaten for three days. He was studying to be a Chef, and was seeking a job to tide him over until his studies were complete. But he was in a deep pit of depression, and questioning if God really cared for Him and his daughter. He could not answer her questions about God’s love.

I offered him words of Christian hope; gave various suggestions; and handed him certain funds I had on me for a debt I intended to pay and prayed with him. All that afternoon I thanked God that I was in the right place at the right time to be His instrument to meet this young man’s immediate needs. I was unable to contact him for over a week, but prayed often for him. When I did contact him his mood was quite different. I enquired if he was reading the Bible as I suggested. He was. The next day I would again be in the city, 58 miles away, and arranged to meet him. As soon as we met I enquired of his spiritual condition. His reply was that he wanted to receive the Lord as his Saviour. This was without my prompting. With copious tears he confessed his sins and his needs to the Lord, and asked for His salvation. The Lord’s Spirit again moved upon me to give him some funds. He went on a job interview that afternoon and is now employed.

Please intercede for your new brother in Christ; and ask the Lord to make you always aware of opportunities to be a witness for Him. People all around us are waiting to hear our message of hope and salvation in Christ. Let us not be afraid, or hesitant to share at every opportunity the Lord puts in our path.

Praise and Prayer

1. For continuing good health: both Elaine and I have no serious health issues that are not under control. We praise the Lord our God!
2. The schools are still open for Elaine’s ministry to children. Many do respond positively to the gospel.
3. For the invitation Lloyd received, from the Graduate School that conferred the Honorable Doctorate on him in October, to teach a course in Caribbean Church History during March. The course is concluded, and the students’ exam and Term Papers are marked. Praise God for His grace to Lloyd to cover this in the short space of time he had to design and prepare the course!
4. Two young men that Lloyd led to Christ and has been discipling since February. Signs of new life and growth in the Lord are evident. Uphold them in your prayers, please!
5. Do keep Elaine and me in your prayers, as we seek to be His ready instruments to bring Him Glory!

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Seniors Serving in Jamaica

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Educating: As the summer months have come, we are also facing end of courses and graduations. Lloyd did not teach at regular Regent College of the Caribbean this semester, as he was tasked to teach a course module at the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology in the capital, Kingston. While the teaching sessions only covered a little over four weeks, the time for preparation to teach a completely new course, along with preparing quizzes and final exams and term papers made it as much work as teaching a full semester. In addition, Lloyd still did, occasionally, visit at Regent where the Children's Ministries Course he had developed was being taught for the fourth year. The numbers for the course this year were not as great as in former years, but the five students were very eager and committed. They will face their graduation, along with other graduates, on Sunday evening July 7th.



Assisting Socially: Though Elaine and Lloyd are not involved in large soul-winning efforts, yet that is the end product of all we do. But we are involved with fewer numbers, and work in more personal and individualistic ways. To put it in another way: we are seeking to win persons to faith in Christ and then to make them into disciples following in the footsteps of Jesus. Lloyd has been working with one such person since January.

Discipling: Meet Clayton: he turned up at Lloyd's Church on a Sunday morning in January. Clearly he was not a believer, and had come into the area to visit someone, and felt led to come inside. Lloyd chatted with him, and someone else called him forward for special prayers. He was clearly moved, and responded with tears. The Next Sunday he was back. We found out that he had to walk quite a distance, before getting a ride, right to the Church's door. Lloyd counseled with him and led him to pray for salvation. He was invited to join a new believer's class Lloyd was teaching. He has rarely missed since first coming.

He had lost his job and was needing assistance. Many men helped him to focus on farming, and Lloyd & Elaine funded his farming endeavours. But not everything has gone smoothly. Now he has picked up a job overseeing a farming operation some distance away from his home. Problems have also developed there, but with comfort, counsel, and much prayer, he is persevering. Pray with us for his growth in faith, trust and dependence on the Lord in every respect. He is doing well in a Correspondence Bible Course. We are believing God for his growth and development in the things of the Lord. Pray with us for him.

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Elaine – Children Ministries: Her visits to schools for devotions, and her weekly multi-faceted classes on Saturday morning at a local church continue, with occasional interruptions. But some are showing signs of encouraging growth. She faces upcoming Vacation Bible Schools in a number of Methodist Churches. In addition, she helps in a local community Sunday School. She sees many unchurched children that she wishes to reach. Your prayers will strengthen her resolve to will and develop the spiritual growth of children and youth.

We have been asked to work with a visiting Children's Worker during the summer. Many details of time, locations, etc. are not yet settled. Do pray with us for the arrangements and outworking of this initiative.

Neighborhood Contacts for Christ: we are often surprised at neighborhood people coming to us for aid, both for small income earning jobs, and to give guidance and counsel in family situations. Our response is not always as 'Christian' as we should be. But our help seems to keep them coming. But we also see this as opportunities given by the Lord for witness and counsel. Elaine is particularly helpful with them. We trust that we are drawing them to the Christ who is in us, and that some will come to seek His salvation.

Summer time-off: We have no plans, yet, for some vacation/rest time. While our souls look forward to spiritual refreshing from the annual Keswick Convention in July, it seems unlikely we will do much towards physical refreshing; especially as Lloyd continues to work on the historical research and writing of his denominational history that he is involved in. But, we are in the Lord's protective care.

We depend upon your prayers and financial support of our multi-faceted ministries, and the individuals who look to us for financial, social and spiritual assistance. We often need wisdom as to which appeals to respond to. Thanks for your prayers for us and for those we seek to help in their journeys through life.



Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

Serving the Lord in

Jamaica

March 2019

Dear Family and Friends,

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5. Do keep Elaine and me in your prayers, as we seek to be His ready instruments to bring Him Glory!

We remain,

Yours in the loving kindness of our Blessed Savior Jesus Christ.

Blessings!

Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

Lloyd & Elaine Cook

Serving the Lord in Jamaica



Hurricane Season - 'September Remember'

In primary school we learned a poem concerning the hurricane months:
"June, too soon; July, stand by; August, look out you must;
September remember; October, all over"

This seems to have changed: now the second to third weeks of September are considered the most busy hurricane weeks, no longer August. While all of the Caribbean is in danger each year's hurricane season, we in Jamaica have been fortunate that since 2007, (when hurricane Dean took off our roof) Jamaica has escaped being hit. But, we sorrow with our Bahamian brethren as they suffer and seek to repair after being hit by 'Dorian.'

Many Jamaicans reside in the Bahamas and work in their hotel industry, and some were affected in Marsh Harbour and Grand Bahama, but we suffered no loss of Jamaican lives. Thank God! Many Jamaican businesses, social and Church groups are preparing to send aid. The Jamaican government has sent a large group of our military to help in search, relief and recovery work. Lloyd wishes he were twenty years or more younger, so that he could be on a relief team over there, helping in relief and recovery efforts, as he often did in other Caribbean countries in the 1980s to 2000.

While the summer is over, we are still here, doing all we can to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. We will surely miss the lovely colours of 'Fall,' but we will certainly NOT miss the winter and snow. While we took no 'holidays' nor went anywhere for rest time, we did have a number of family visits: one from a younger sister of Elaine with her family, and one from a younger brother of Lloyd's and his wife. They were here nearly a month apart. Lloyd's brother and sister-in-law visited from Tanzania, where they are using their training and former technical and business experiences to help the local people and government, aiding Small and Medium Business persons improve their procedures and thus their income. In chatting with them we recognized they were really doing 'secular missions' work. Please pray for their physical enablement and spiritual growth.

Elaine and I, and our church, also benefited from the visit in early August of two female Jamaican medical and educational missionaries to Liberia. Lloyd had them to share with the church their photos and training activities, and how God is using them to prepare Africans to serve their own people. Do keep them in your prayers as they return to Liberia at the end of September.

Lloyd continues in his work of research, interviewing and writing the history of his church group. He hopes to finish by the end of the year. Meanwhile he is also involved with three different Colleges and Seminaries. While not teaching at Regent College of the Caribbean this semester, he assists sometimes at Midlands Bible College, and just finished as a reader and adviser of a graduate student's Theological Thesis. He is also preparing to teach an online graduate course on Caribbean Church History at the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology in February upcoming. Do uphold him in your prayers as he prepares for this venture.

Elaine continues with her various children and youth interventions and outreach ministries in the new school year just beginning. She reports "The summer is over, and what a hot time it was, but God in His love has sent us several recent showers of rain." She was kept very active helping out with Vacation Bible Schools (V.B.S.) in two of the smaller churches. She was also kept busy fellowshipping with and caring for three groups of family member visitors. She also continues to assist two preteen boys in literacy and numeracy, and takes them to church on those Sundays that she can get them to go along.

We thank you profusely for your interest in what we are doing for the Lord, and for your prayers and financial support of us. We rejoice in the good health that the Lord gives us, even as our years increase and our bodies grow somewhat weaker. Keep praying for us to be able to continue doing what we do here, and more as we are able.

Lloyd & Elaine Cook

Serving the Lord in Jamaica



Gifts Received from God This Year

Elaine and I have just returned from Negril, Jamaica's famous seven miles long white sand beach, lined by hotels of every brand. We went to rejoice with our younger daughter Gail and her husband and our grand-kids Annika and Tyler, and helped her celebrate her 50th birthday. It certainly doesn't seem that long that I helped her mother push her out, when she seemed hesitant to enter the world. We marvel at the woman, worker and mother she has become.

Along the drive Elaine and I were constantly rejoicing at the beauty of the landscape: the green mountains and valleys with streams flowing down flowered hillsides. But especially we rejoiced over God's fulsome blessings upon us, despite our country's criminality and sinfulness of deeds. God has indeed been very good to us and to our country.

We trust you are also expressing your joys to God for friends, family and work that you have been able to enjoy and earn from. And, we thank God with you for the gracious and glorious "Unspeakable Gift" of His Son, because of whom we celebrate Christmas. His gifts to us this past year have been many: good health after over seven decades of life; provision for our daily needs; opportunities to share with others around us whom God has placed around us to help them in various ways; and more than all to speak to them of God's love in Jesus Christ, and of how He can meet their every need if only they will put their trust in Him.

Lloyd thanks God for two young men that God placed in his way so that he could lead them to faith in Him, and the new and changed lives he has watched grow in them. One especially still needs your prayers, as he seeks employment to meet his daily needs and that of his three children. Lloyd also is thanking God for every student he has been enabled to teach and guide in the classroom, so that at their graduation he can see how the Lord has molded and matured them for leadership roles in His Kingdom. He looks forward to the privilege of continuing to do so in the coming year at the College and Graduate School where he will be teaching.

Lloyd especially praises God for being able to see the near completion of the two years and a half of gathering information, researching and writing the history of his denomination over the past 100 years. He hopes to see the editing and preparation for printing being completed before next year's end.

Elaine will be especially glad to be able to claim and get more of Lloyd's time and attention, whenever he is finished with this his third book. This year she faced the burying of a brother in New York and a dear niece in Orlando, Florida. But the sorrow was softened by the knowledge that they were entering their heavenly home, and are now rejoicing in His presence.

Both Elaine and I gratefully thank our Blessed Lord for His dearness and nearness to us throughout the year. We especially rejoice over you all who have loved us, prayed for us, and contributed to our financial needs so faithfully. Thanks!

If our Lord should come and call us home to Him within the coming year, may He find us ready and prepared to meet Him without any tears or regrets. Paul said that "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." 2 Cor. 5:8. His coming is near: it could be this coming year.

We thank our God for both His presents and His presence with us, and we trusted Him with you this past year, and will also in the coming year.

May the blessings of the Lord be your constant portion!

Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

-serving the Lord in

Jamaica



June 2019

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Yours in the service of our conquering King, Jesus Christ.

Lloyd and Elaine (Cooke)

Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

-serving the Lord in

Jamaica



August 2019

Dear Family and Friends,

Summer Activities

We just closed Keswick Convention, - a week of moving Bible Studies and Evening Conference meetings- bringing together most of the churches in our town under the auspices of the Mandeville Ministers Association. It was a great week of spiritual enrichment-the 119th - and this year's edition was possibly the most enriching. Though, we say that after nearly each year. Certainly the attendance and the fullness of the spiritual feelings, was better than most past editions. We praise God! But now we must get back down to earth.

Our bodies were pushed to the limit over the past three weeks, and Elaine nearly paid the price last Monday. She has been seeing the doctor to address some heart and blood pressure anomalies, and so went to the Heart Institute to be attached with a blood pressure monitor. They found her pressure to be abnormally high, yet gave her no medical help. A few hours later we had to return to adjust the tightness of the fit. The apparatus had previously ceased its testing activity and, on checking her pressure herself, she found it near 200 over 100. She called her regular physician at around 7:00 p.m. who was still at his office, and went to visit him. She was given medication which brought the pressure back down to normal.

The following two days had her returning to each doctor to report back. We praise God for His watch-full care and intervention, and his removing our fears. We are surmising that her body was adjusting from near three weeks of stressful events and activities:

- In the first week of July Elaine, after much telephone traffic with her four nieces in the USA because of the illness of another living in Orlando, she felt it necessary to take a visit to see the niece facing chemotherapy for breast-cancer which had metastasized. Elaine arrived on the afternoon of July 2nd, in time to visit with the niece before she passed the following day. Elaine's nieces look to her for spiritual and emotional support as a substitute mother. But what a testimony this niece had left the medical staff. They all reported on her witness to them.
- On Elaine's return to Jamaica on July 4th, rather than heading home she went on to another town to meet yet another niece with family and friends, (7 persons). They were visiting for special birthday celebrations. We spent two days with them before returning to Manchester Friday evening. On Sunday we were both involved in the graduation exercises at Lloyd's college.

- The following week saw us equally busy. Elaine had to lead Vacation Bible School for three days, at Porus. Lloyd was separately involved with attendance and leadership of morning Bible Study sessions and evening Convention services of the Keswick Convention, as previously mentioned. The weekend we attended two different funerals in Kingston, and preached on Sunday.

For persons of our increasing age, we need your prayers for strength to match our activities. But we do thank God for all that we are still able to do: to bring glory to His name and to his people. We constantly have to claim the Lord's promise that "as you days so shall your strength be."

Praise the Lord with us for

1. Daily strength, and generally good health;
2. Love of our two children and two grand-kids, and their daily walk with God;
3. A satisfying and fulfilling, if very active, summer;
4. Help for Lloyd, as he continues to ferret out the facts to write the history of the Christian Brethren movement in Jamaica;
5. Elaine's ministries with children and youth and other persons in need;
6. Spiritual growth of two young men Lloyd was able to help come to faith in Christ, and his mentoring of them.

Pray with us for

- Elaine's nieces in the States to whom she is a spiritual mentor, counselor and substitute mom;
- Another niece who has not yet come to faith and is battling a drug-habit;
- A Master's degree student's thesis that Lloyd is reading and evaluating;
- That Lloyd will complete his historical writing by year's-end;
- The new College-course lecturing that Lloyd will take on in September;
- That the Jamaican Church will continue to be a bulwark against societal and governmental pressures, and to not surrender to the abortion industry and homosexual agendas from both local and external sources.

Do continue to uphold us before the Lord, and increase your material and spiritual support of our ministry activities. We bless God every day for you, and pray for your needs, as you so faithfully supply ours. Maranatha! (The Lord Cometh)

In God's Service in Jamaica,

Lloyd and Elaine (Cooke)

Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

-serving the Lord in

Jamaica



November 2019

Dear Family and Friends,

THANKS! THANKS! THANKS!

Though it may sound trite, it certainly is not for us to again say that we are gratefully indebted to you, and thankful to God for each of you and your prayers and material support that you have provided us throughout this past year.

In Jamaica we do not have a season called 'Thanksgiving', and Elaine and I do miss the special aura of the season in the States. Since we have returned to labour here for the Lord in Jamaica these past twenty (20) years, it is the one thing that we have missed the most: Thanksgiving. We miss the family time, the gathering together, and the renewal of friendships that the time engenders.

As the day approaches, we do pray that each of you will be specially blessed of the Lord, particularly as you share with each family member how they have been a blessing to you in their own unique ways.

We thank our heavenly Father that he has seen fit to often use us to help those around us in normal everyday activities, even when we are not trying to be a 'blessing.' We often find that we represent the Lord and his mercies to people, even reluctantly so at time, in the simple needs and conditions of their lives. We are grateful for every such opportunity.

So, beyond the specific and usual efforts to make Christ known by our words, we treasure the challenge of Francis of Assisi who is reported to have said "preach the gospel, and if necessary use words."

May you there, and us here, always seek to minister the grace of God to those around us just by who we are, as well as by Whose we are, even when we do not realize anyone is looking.

Do enjoy the time of Thanksgiving: not only on the day, but on every day and in every way.

Yours lovingly and thankfully,

Lloyd and Elaine Cooke

A Word from Elaine

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Shalom!

We join with the Apostle Paul in saying “We thank our God on every remembrance of you.”

We thank Him for your love for us, for your prayers and financial support, and for choosing to partner with us over the years.

Through Lloyd’s teaching at Regent College of the Caribbean and in the various churches many have gone on to be pastors, counselors and Sunday school teachers. We praise God the Lord for their calling.

Elaine’s children ministries at Good News Clubs and in the schools have seen many children and young people give their lives to the Lord. Through it all you have been there with us and we give God thanks for you.

As we approach another Thanksgiving and Christmas season we thank God for His eternal gift of Jesus our Savior to us.

May you and your family be wrapped in the beauty and warmth of His love this Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Yours lovingly and thankfully in Christ,

Elaine