



Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

Serving the Lord in Jamaica

June 2022

Greetings friends and family,

As Elaine and Lloyd face their later (increasing years they have noted that a number of friends and acquaintances are being 'taken home' one by one. This has made a growing number of widows and widowers. They have also been made aware of these older friends marrying each other, in these their later years. We rejoice with them, and like to see these remarriages of older friends, and wish them well, as we look forward to the day when we shall meet in our Father's home: free at last from the vicissitudes of our earthly sojourn and service: where they shall be no "no marrying no giving in marriage."

While we regret seeing our elderly friends 'go home', the Scripture tells us that our heavenly Father wants 'to bring His beloved ones home.' "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them." (Rev. 14:13)

Lloyd joined the company of 'Octogenerians' on May 27th. Our two daughters and their spouses/families – in Abu Dhabi and in North Carolina- attempted to surprise him (together with his four siblings here in Jamaica. Our younger daughter and her family from North Carolina made a trip to South Florida for a friend's son's wedding, and planned to come on down to Jamaica for a belated birthday bash and a summer vacation, but had to drive right back home to North Carolina because of family problems. However, we in Jamaica did go on to the vacation cottage they had rented, and were able to make contact electronically and watch a streamed video and 'virtual' greetings sent to their father. We ate their food and benefitted from the family gathering, but greatly missed their physical presence and loving greetings. We got to thank God for the many decades of loving service to Him and the many mercies and gracious favors he has showered upon us as a family. Praises be to His great Name!!

However many additional years God shall grant us, will be spent for Him, and in gathering souls for His Kingdom.

Aiding the Wounded is a situation we find ourselves doing more and more as God brings needy family and neighbors to our notice. A number of them have had 'difficult times' emotionally, socially and/or psychologically. We have had to temporarily house, comfort and counsel two such young men in recent months. One is now housed at a government institution; another is still in an unresolved situation that requires your continual prayers. These situations have caused us much stress, physically and spiritually. Do continue to lift us and them up before our Lord in prayer often. Thanks!

While Elaine is deeply involved in ministries within her local church, including infrequent preaching assignments, she misses her former school-based visitation and youth counseling opportunities that, because of the Covid-19 schools shut-down over the past two years. The recent re-opening of face-to-face classes throughout the educational system may provide new opportunities. Pray with her that that may come about soon.

Lloyd's Writing Projects: Lloyd can't seem to relax and just "enjoy life" in semi-retirement, like Elaine would like him to do. He is now involved in two research and writing projects: (1) Finishing up and preparing this for printing: the centennial history of his denominational fellowship of churches/assemblies. This he is co-writing. He has reached the stage where he is inputting photos, etc. The publication costs still mystify us: it is a hurdle we find difficult to cross. Please ask the Lord to provide a sponsor/sponsors as we approach those we think will help finance printing costs, soon. (2) He has recently been co-opted to assist his former denomination :the Anglicans/Episcopalian Church of Jamaica, to write the double-centennial history since the first Bishop was assigned to Jamaica in 1824. This was during slavery times, just before Abolition of the system of slavery. Bishops formerly would lead the church from London, through the local Governor and the political Assembly, made up of slave-owners.

My part is to reprise the record I did in my first book, of that church's role in preparing and sending the sons of former slaves as missionaries to certain African and Latin American countries during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. I also want to highlight the church's creditable work in winning the slaves to faith in Christ, and continue to do so through special evangelism efforts and agencies, up to the present. We ask for your assisting prayers that the Lord would give Lloyd guidance, favor and information to accomplish these history-writing tasks.

Elaine and I want to, once again, express our gratitude to each of you for your years of faithful prayers for us and your financial gifts which have enabled us to serve nearly fifty (50) years of missionary service, abroad, and now back home.

All praises be to our God, and to you His loving children who have been our 'helpers' these many years. May our faithful and Loving Savior and Lord meet all your needs through His mighty power.

In loving thankfulness

Lloyd & Elaine

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