



## *Conference News for 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020*

### **PALM SUNDAY 5TH APRIL AND GOOD FRIDAY 10TH APRIL, 2020**

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, which is celebrated by Christians around the world and right here in our Bahamas. It is a remembrance of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on a donkey knowing that He would be crucified, die and rise again to save us from our sins. There He was welcomed by people who laid their garments on the ground, waved their palm branches and placed them in His path, prior to His arrest on Holy Thursday and His crucifixion on Good Friday. It thus marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent that leads up to Easter Sunday and our remembrance of His last days before crucifixion.

BCMC usually marks Palm Sunday with special services and Palm Sunday marches with the symbolic waving of Palm branches by our respective churches. In our state of national emergency, this will not be possible this year. We will most certainly miss our fellowshiping, our passing of the peace and our First Sunday communion which falls on this Sunday. We are in a challenging period in our lives.

As we similarly commemorate this coming Good Friday, Jesus's ultimate sacrifice for us, though it is one which usually engenders family gatherings, let us, in our state of social distancing, contemplate what sacrifice Jesus made for us and rededicate our lives to the honour and Glory of God.

Remember that all is not lost, we still have opportunities to observe Palm Sunday and Good Friday in "virtual" mode, through social media or televised services. We will pray that in Lent 2021 the conditions would allow us to once again worship in our various churches. We urge leaders to take advantage of social media as it allows for opportunities to connect with the members. This is a time for us to grow stronger in our faith.

Members are asked to observe the COVID -19 Regulations that have been put in place by the Government.

As the Persian poets have written, "This too shall pass"

#### **BCMC LENTEN TELEVISED SERVICES (ONE HOUR)**

##### **Hosted by the Nassau Region**

**Palm Sunday, 5th April at 10:00. a.m. ZNS TV 13 – Rev. William Higgs,  
Trinity**

**Good Friday, 10th April, at 10:00 a.m. ZNS TV 13 – Rev. Lester  
Ferguson, Grant's Town Wesley**

**Easter Sunday, 12th April, at 10:00 a.m. - ZNS TV 13 – Rev. L. Carla  
R. Culmer, President**

## **EFFECTS OF CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 ON BCMC**

The pandemic Coronavirus/COVID.19 that is wreaking havoc around the world has regrettably come to our Bahama shores. Consequently, the Government has had to implement Emergency Orders to combat the threat to our country. With 24 cases and one death to date, we must ensure that we adhere to the Regulations that have been put into effect. We cannot afford to have unmanageable numbers of cases as our resources cannot accommodate them and we most certainly do not want to have any more deaths.

We are all praying for our country, our members and our churches but for the time we are in we must continue to pray unceasingly that we would emerge from these dark days with a bright tomorrow.

During this period of unprecedented shutdown of the country and into the beyond and until the economy rebounds, so many persons will be without work and income. For those who have and will have resources we urge you to be your brother's and sister's keeper as far as is possible.

Measures taken by the BCMC and some churches are as follows:

- Temporary closure of all BCMC Churches;
- Some churches in the Nassau Region have begun holding online services on Sunday mornings and they are made available afterwards:
  - St Michael's at 9:30 a.m. – You Tube
  - Global Village at 9:30 a.m. – You Tube
  - Grant's Town Wesley at 0:00 a.m. - You Tube
  - Trinity has begun services using ZOOM
  - This Palm Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, Grant's Town Wesley will have a virtual John Wesley Palm Sunday March on You Tube at 3:00 p.m.

Our one-hour Prayer and Share Services have been and are being aired on ZNS Radio for three Sundays. They began on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Please tune in to ZNS 1540 AM; ZNS 104.5 FM, and online at znsbahamas.com. You may also use the ZNS app.

Ministers/Pastors have been communicating via WhatsApp with their congregations with Lenten meditations and words of encouragement.

Much of communication with members is being done via social media – WhatsApp/You Tube/Facebook. Please visit the sites of the various churches to share in the worship experiences.

## **SUGESTED ACTIVITIES TO PASS THE CURFEW TIME**

We find ourselves at home, unexpectedly. We should try not to become couch potatoes. If we are working from home, we need not sit at the computer most of the time. So what do we do? Here are some options:

- Exercise – Walk (in your yard or neighbourhood) /download some aerobic exercises that could be done at home
- Start a new hobby – gardening?

- Read a book or magazine
- Read the Bible
- Do some craft work
- Bake or cook something different/special
- Do some puzzles
- Observe more prayer time
- Call a lonely or “shut in” person
- Tackle those projects you’ve been wanting to make the time to do

Be safe and stay healthy

## **HURRICANE DORIAN UPDATE**

Work is temporarily on hold.

Visiting Building and Cleaning Teams were slated to start coming in March. These Teams were mostly coming to help with clean up. However, the pandemic Corona Virus/COVID -19 is causing postponements/cancellations.

## **GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020**

With the Emergency Orders in place and the uncertainty of when the Corona Virus will leave our shores there is the possibility of a change of dates for The 2020 General Conference

## **22<sup>nd</sup> WORLD METHODIST CONFERENCE 18<sup>th</sup> TO 21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST, 2021**

The 22nd World Methodist Conference will be held from 18<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021 at Gothia Towers in Gothenburg, Sweden under the theme “On the Move”. The World Methodist Council meets every five years to plan its programmes, elect leadership, organize its work and review progress made in various aspects of church activities/life. The Conference is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Interested persons may contact the Conference Office for more details.

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

Intercessory prayers at Conference Office are temporarily in abeyance. Prayer warriors please continue to intercede for our members, our country and our BCMC at home each Friday at 11:00 a.m.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES**

All events are in abeyance due to COVID -19.

## PRAYERS



Please remember to keep the following persons and/or their families in prayer:

### **Sick:**

Mr. Klaus Sobeich, Grant's Town Wesley

Mrs. Lorraine Phillpot, Ebenezer, wife of Assistant Treasurer, Mr. John Phillpot

Ms. Alicia Munroe, Zion Methodist Church

Mrs. Sheran Sweeting, Trinity, wife of Rev. Charles Sweeting

Mr. Hubert Albury, Ebenezer

Mr. Clifford Cates, Ebenezer

Mr. Franklyn Bethel, Lay Preacher, Grant's Town Wesley

Mrs. Eula Hepburn, Great Bethel, Cat Island

Mr. Dennis, Seymour, Wesley, Inagua

Mrs. Corella Sands, Epworth, Cherokee Sound

Miss. Rosa Johnson, Wesley, Governor's Harbour

Mrs. Olevia Bowles – Great Bethel

Mrs. Julie Cates, Epworth, Cherokee Sound

## PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 1st April – Recording for Easter Sunday Service

Thursday 2nd April – Recording of Devotionals for social media

**Should you have information that you would wish to share among the congregations, please send it to [bcmc@bahamasmethodist.org](mailto:bcmc@bahamasmethodist.org).**

**PLEASE SHARE CONFERENCE NEWS WITH PERSONS WHO ARE NOT ON THE EMAIL LIST.**

**YOU MAY ALSO SEND NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE CONFERENCE NEWS.**