



CARIBBEAN BAPTIST
WOMEN'S UNION
EXPANDING TOGETHER

Virtual Day Of Prayer

5th June, 2021



A Courageous Life!

“Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid or terrified of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6

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Brief History of CBWU Day of Prayer

At a meeting held at Coral Pine Baptist Camp Homestead, Florida in 1981, the idea of a Caribbean Baptist Women's Day of Prayer was shared and ratified. The first CBWU Day of Prayer was observed June 1981.

President's Message - **COURAGEOUS LIFE**

Karlene Edwards-Warrick

Text: Esther 4:12-17; 5:1-6



Can one person make a difference? What can keep you from doing the will of God? FEAR! Especially the fear of death and of losing the approval of others. Fear can rob us of the courage necessary to do what we know is right. In today's scripture we encounter a woman who made a difference. Esther, a poor Jewish orphan, becomes queen of the powerful Persian empire. She was willing to die to save her people in the face of death.

As I prepared this message, I remembered my own encounter with death in 2004. While preparing for evangelistic services in a new community, two members of our evangelistic team, my husband, my two-year-old daughter and I were held up for thirty minutes at gunpoint. I recalled that when the thieves were about to tie me to the ground my daughter began to scream and I mustered the courage to negotiate with our attackers, with a gun to my head, to allow me to comfort my daughter during the ordeal; to which they agreed. I used that opportune moment during the heist to interact with our attackers. I was able to tell them about our purpose in that community and to share the gospel of Jesus, much to the disapproval of the gun-toting leader who kept demanding that I keep quiet. He kept yelling that I was talking too much...but I continued to share the good news. I knew then that God was speaking to his heart. They left without hurting anyone. I know it was God's will that we encountered those three young men on that day.

Today we look at Esther's story: she was placed in a royal position to assist in the delivery of God's Divine Plan. It is easy to see God's plans at work when we see good things happen. But what about the bad? Even then, we need to trust God's total plan, that "*...all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose*" (Romans 8:28).

God's Divine Plan

God's plan for the Jews can be seen here in the words of Mordecai to Esther, "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish." (Esther 4:14) Mordecai's words reflected his faith that God would honour His eternal covenant with Abraham and David. We are reminded that our God is a Promise Keeping God. Do you see yourself as part of God's plan even when we are called to face death? Ephesians 2:10 reminds us, "For we

are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

God's Divine Moments

As believers, God's timing is providential. Esther's divine moment of providence came by accepting her responsibility to go to the king. However, Mordecai was clear when he said to Esther that she could be the one to save the people. God will use you only if you're ready, or he will find someone else. Esther 5:2-3 says, "When the king saw Queen Esther standing in the courtyard, she won his favour, and the king extended to Esther the gold scepter that he was holding. Esther approached and touched the top of the scepter. The king asked her, "What do you want, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even if it's half of the kingdom, it will be given to you."

God's Divine Strength

It is God's divine strength that enables and encourages us in times of danger. Esther was willing to die to save her people. Sometimes we must stand in courage, even when it is not popular to do so. She said, "...I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." (Esther 4:16). What Courage! What maturity of faith in Jesus! Her plan to go to the king put her in danger because no one (not even a wife) went before the king uninvited without risking death. Esther's fearless faith in God inspired her heroism and made a difference. It resulted in her life being spared and so were the people of God.

Jesus also faced opposition and the threat of death with grace and determination to accomplish his Father's will. He knew that his mission, his purpose in life, would involve sacrifice and suffering and even death on the cross. Jesus understood God's plan that His death would bring victory over sin and Satan and the glory of everlasting life.

Conclusion

Sometimes life will make no sense. We will face difficult times in this life; pain and suffering cannot be avoided. We may even remark that last year 2020 made no sense, and even 2021, with so many people suffering and dying. When we are faced with perplexing valley experiences, do we turn to God or turn away from Him? I trust that Esther's story will always be a reminder and encouragement that God is always present even in the midst of trials. He is orchestrating all the events of our life for His glory and our good. In Joshua 1:9 you are reminded to, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

A Personal Prayer:

Father, You promise to give me supernatural strength, wisdom and courage as I face difficult situations in my life. Fill me with joyful hope, courage and boldness to stand against evil and to share the truth of Your love for sinners and Your victory over sin, Satan and death. Give me the grace and the courage to reject whatever is evil and contrary to Your will and the strength to take action as well. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Karlene Edwards-Warrick

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Refrain:
Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

[Refrain]

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

[Refrain]

Prayer for Caribbean Islands, Economic and Social Issues by Donnette Franco - Guyana

Most gracious God, we your children come with thanksgiving in our hearts. Your word said that we should seek you first and in obedience we seek your divine intervention. We ask for stability and full recovery to the Island's/country's economy. The present COVID 19 Pandemic has negatively impacted our Region. Lord help your children and all your human creation, especially those who have lost their jobs or sources of income. Give them faith to believe that you can turn around their situation and open new financial opportunities for them.

We ask you to give divine blessings for better race relations among people, as well as wisdom to elected governments, administrations and opposition leaders across the Caribbean. Your word says call upon you in times of trouble and our prayers will be answered. The land of one of our territories is threatened by another neighbouring country. We ask you dear God to fight this battle for them and bring them victory, for the benefit of the people.

We lift up to you ,Jesus, the victims of domestic violence and their families; social/case workers; persons who open their hearts and homes to victims; shelters that provide a safe space to people; justice system; volunteers who give their time and service and donors who freely give of their resources. We pray for persons to recognise the importance of giving to support the work of the Lord and those in need. (Acts 20:35; Matt. 10:8) Lord please deliver our Caribbean Region from every evil that is a hindrance to our farmers or farm lands. Remove the destruction that is blocking our farmers from producing bountiful, wholesome foods for our nations' food security.

Help us, sweet Jesus, to remove resentments and to love and live in peace with each other despite our differences, for we are one people. Provide for the children and youth, allow governments and NGO's to give the necessary resources to help improve the virtual learning conditions. Prepare in advance what's needed for a smooth transition process for all stakeholders upon the reopening of schools.

Improve the situation in Venezuela for its citizens to be comfortable and to less likely be exacerbated so as to prevent migration to other countries. Hear and answer our prayers, dear God. We ask these mercies through your son Jesus Christ, Amen.

Prayer against Crime and Natural Disasters

By Marine Cunningham - Jamaica



Caring God and Father of us all, we intercede on behalf of the victims of natural disasters, hurricanes Eta and Iota, who are still in shelters; that the government and private sectors will commit to rebuilding their communities in a timely manner, to alleviate the distress and discomfort they are still experiencing. We pray that the authorities will make wise decisions concerning this issue and other projects for the wellbeing of your children.

We pray for victims of domestic violence and crime and for a decrease in the upsurge in violent crimes against young women, and children; for a decrease in child abuse as it seems the COVID-19 Pandemic has exacerbated these scourges in some of our Island states. We pray that this scourge will bow to the authority of your Divine Power Lord and cancel the power of sin in the hearts and lives of men and women, who continue to do harm, to destroy families, friends and neighbours because of anger, misunderstandings, power, lust and greed.

Lord, that your Holy Spirit, would cause a Youth Quake to shake our nations, especially on this generation. Change their hearts, oh God, stop violence amongst the young people, and cause their souls to be drawn to you by millions, to you Father and may there be a reduction in shootings and criminal activities. May lives be surrendered to Jesus Christ, and we further pray for an end to sexual abusive situations that exist in many of our countries especially among those with the highest rates in the Caribbean.

Finally, God of wisdom, please guide the governments of our Islands to identify and implement effective crime fighting initiatives and social intervention strategies, and to seek your guidance forward. Thanks, Father, for answering our prayers. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.



A Courageous Life of Faith



Allison Barton

“Lord,
why are
you
allowin
g this to
happen
to me?”

See Me
Through
Lord
Jesus!

Allison recalled the night in question when she, her two daughters, her younger brother and his wife were scheduled to leave Trinidad on a “red-eye” flight to New York and then to Boston; a trip she had made several times before. This was her brother’s first time flying so they were excited.

A few days prior to their planned departure Allison had accepted two used suitcases from a relative. She gave one to her younger daughter, and kept the other for herself. At the airport, everyone checked-in and at the departure lounge she remembers her name being called on the intercom, and being asked to accompany a gentleman back to the check-in area. She was asked to identify her suitcase, and to her extreme surprise the officer dug into the front pocket and retrieved two handguns. Her immediate reaction was to scream in shock; denying any knowledge of the illegal items. She and her family could not travel. She became physically unwell, the possibility of imprisonment running through her mind. She reached out to God saying, “Lord, you can’t let this happen to me, I am your child.” She questioned the officer on the absurdity of the incident; the guns were both very old, and they seemed unusable.

Nevertheless, her passport was taken away, and she was escorted to a nearby police

station where her worst fears were realized. She was led to a holding cell where she completely broke down. Allison started crying afresh, the memories having left an indelible mark on her psyche. She recalled feeling abandoned by God, questioning Him, “Lord, why are you allowing this to happen to me?”

“I didn’t sleep that night,” she said, “I paced the floor, reciting Psalms 23 and 27 and singing praises!” This happened from 1:30 am till 7:30 am when she was taken back to the airport and a full report was taken from her. She felt numb, her family members were not allowed to see her and she was left alone. She was escorted to her home where a search of her premises was conducted and her younger daughter was interrogated. Their accounts of the situation were similar. She was allowed to shower there and taken back to the airport. At this point she simply let go, “Lord! This is in Your hands, I’m leaving it up to You!” Still very emotional, she sat in the airport for what seemed like forever waiting on a call, which never came; shattering her hopes of being released. As she was returned to the police station she said, “Lord, Your will be done.” and sang *See Me Through Lord Jesus!*

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Prayer for Churches/Ministries/Evangelism

Lucille Lightbourne - Turks and Caicos

Heavenly Father, we bring our ministering women servants to you and pray for their abiding steadfastness in faith to keep them committed in service; guided by your Holy Spirit. We pray for an outpouring from them giving hope and promise in your word wherever you lead, and may your joy and love strengthen them in the journey.

We pray that our young women grow in knowledge in your word, with kindness and the willingness to serve in our churches and elsewhere sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. We pray for strength and courage for our Caribbean Baptist single women as they face challenging situations. Let not their hearts be discouraged, but let them trust you awesome God, problem solver, who moves mountains out of our way.

We pray that your Holy Spirit will infuse the lives of our youth, igniting passion to serve in ministry. Direct their path and keep them in your will. We ask for vision and direction in reaching at-risk youths who have drifted away and others who have no knowledge of you. May your holy presence draw them, bringing peace and comfort to their troubled hearts.

Father as believers, permit us not to yield to temptation causing disarray in our churches. Remind us that we are called with a holy calling for kingdom service to unite as one in faith, with love. Help us to humble ourselves under your mighty hand, casting all our concerns on you.

Lord we pray that you grant wisdom, knowledge and inspiration to our dedicated servant leaders in CBWU. Keep them constant in prayer and diligent in service as they labor in your vineyard. Thank you Lord for bringing us through pandemic 2020-2021 (thus far). You made a way for your Word to go forward by social media. Continue to guide us as we explore other creative ways to tell lost souls of your marvelous saving grace. All power is in your hand and we ask that you open closed doors for freedom of movement and opportunities to minister.



A Courageous Life of Faith—con't



After another sleepless night she was returned to the airport. The phone call finally came, she was free to go. She screamed, “Thank You, Lord!!!”

Allison shared her deep gratitude to God that her daughter had not chosen

that suitcase, she was also never handcuffed, her passport was returned and she was not charged.

Her greatest gratitude is to God who showed her favour, for His faithfulness, which reaffirmed her faithfulness to Him. Finally, she expressed her gratitude for praise and worship which she honestly felt kept her through the two nights she spent in the holding cell.

Written by Donna-Daile Smart

You deserve the glory

You deserve the glory
And the honour
Lord we lift our hands in worship
As we lift your holy name

For you are great, You do miracles so great
There is no one else like you, there is no one else like You

For you are great, You do miracles so great
There is no one else like you, there is no one else like You

For you are great, You do miracles so great
There is no one else like you, there is no one else like You

For you are great, You do miracles so great
There is no one else like you, there is no one else like You

When upon life's billows

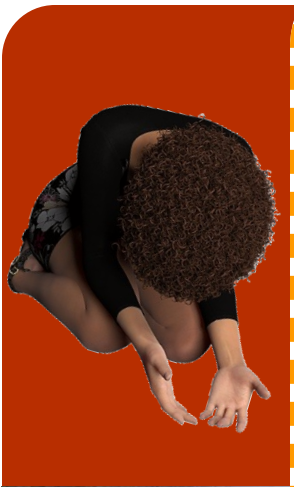
When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold.
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your Lord on high.

So amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end .



Prayer for Families

Annette George-Boney - Dominica

Our Father who is in heaven, who loves us with an everlasting love, bless Your Name. The Psalmist rightly said 'who is man that you are mindful of him'. Father we thank you for thinking of us and being our Lord and Saviour. You have put families together, but the enemy has come in and caused destruction in our homes and we are calling on You for restoration and peace within our walls. We come against the plans of the enemy right now and demolish the plans he has against our families.

We call on your consuming fire to burn up all the enemy's wicked plans and we call on You, Father, to strengthen our marriages, You are that third cord that is not quickly broken and we can count on you. Lord cover our husbands that Your words would be infused in them and they may know that this marriage fountain is blessed, and they will rejoice in the wives of their youth. Lord help us to submit to one another out of reverence for You. Oh Lord, we thank and praise you for the spouses you have given us, bless our unions Lord.

Lord thank you for giving us our children as our heritage, cover them with Your protective covering. Your Word says that there is no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are living according to the truth. We thank you when our children live according to Your Word. Father God forgive us as parents when we don't teach our children Your way, we have strayed from your teachings. Lord the way they live tells a sad story, they indulge in evil and violence, Father forgive them. We are sorry, show us what to do. Help us to teach them Your way now, Father, and they will be known for their good actions. Jesus, it's in your powerful name we pray. Amen.

Praise You In This Storm—by Casting Crown



I was sure by now
 God, You would have reached down
 And wiped our tears away
 Stepped in and saved the day
 But once again, I say, "Amen"
 and it's still raining

Well, as the thunder rolls
 I barely hear Your whisper through the rain
 "I'm with you"
 And as Your mercy falls
 I'll raise my hands and praise the God who gives
 And takes away

*And I'll praise You in this storm
 And I will lift my hands
 For You are who You are
 No matter where I am
 And every tear I've cried
 You hold in Your hand
 You never left my side
 And though my heart is torn
 I will praise You in this storm*

I remember when
 I stumbled in the wind
 You heard my cry to You
 And raised me up again
 But my strength is almost gone
 How can I carry on
 If I can't find You?

But as the thunder rolls
 I barely hear Your whisper through the rain
 "I'm with you"
 And as Your mercy falls
 I'll raise my hands and praise the God who
 gives and takes away

I lift my eyes unto the hills
 Where does my help come from?
 My help comes from the Lord
 The Maker of Heaven and Earth
 I lift my eyes unto the hills
 Where does my help come from?
 My help comes from the Lord
 The Maker of Heaven and Earth
 (I lift my eyes unto the hills)
 (Where does my help come from?)

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 My help comes from the Lord
 The Maker of Heaven and Earth
 (I lift my eyes unto the hills)
 (Where does my help come from?)

Sickness/Pandemic Prayer

Deborah Bynoe - Barbados

“What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer. Oh, what peace we often forfeit. Oh, what needless pain we bear. All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.”

Almighty God we approach your throne in the wonderful name of Jesus our Saviour. Lord my God, I call on you for help and healing at this time as we are all concerned about our sisters who are not well. We ask you to allow your son, Jesus, the great physician, to touch from the top of their heads to the soles of their feet, all women suffering from cancer especially breast cancer. We put our trust and faith in you as there is no healing too difficult for you.

We ask that you continue to protect our borders from invasion of COVID-19, breathe on all who are infected with COVID-19 and decrease the cases in our Islands. I pray that all residents and visitors alike would comply with the protocols and guidelines set by the COVID-19 units.

Holy Spirit, give our Pastors the discernment and wisdom to serve in this new COVID-19 environment. We ask for wisdom and understanding for our Caribbean leaders to properly manage the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. May our churches be in a position to assist those who are unemployed and homeless in our congregations.

Father of compassion and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our trouble, we ask for your angels to encamp round about us and protect us as we endure this pandemic. Comfort your children who may be feeling discomfort as they wait on surgeries that have been postponed due to the pandemic. All these things we ask in Jesus name, with thanksgiving. Amen.





*“Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid or terrified of them,
for it is the LORD your God who goes with you;
He will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

Deuteronomy 31:6