

*Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let
us press on to know him. He will re-
spond to us as surely as...the coming of
rains in early spring.
Hosea 6:3 NLT*

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Longing for a Downpour

By Gayle Woods, Missionary Pastor in Cayman Brac

Sunday night, January 20, as I was preaching, I heard a large clap of thunder. Then I heard what I thought was a downpour of rain hitting the roof of the church. No one else seemed to notice, and so I immediately dismissed it as I continued to preach. After the service as people were leaving the church, I noticed that they were congregating in the lobby. This was rather unusual. I looked out to see what was taking place and realized that they had been stopped because of the pouring rain. Nobody wanted to venture out, knowing they would be quickly soaked.

We rejoiced at the sight. It seems that the West end of the island gets most of the rain, while we are merely getting a sprinkle – if even that. We were happy to see the rain. Our plants would be watered, and our cisterns would be filled. Then one week later, we had another gully washer! Micki and I enjoyed the sight, sound and smell of the rain as we sat on the front porch.

This brought to my mind a number of scriptures regarding the “former and latter” rains. A careful examination of the Scriptures brings us to conclude that these verses are talking about literal rain – just like we had here in Cayman Brac. Even so, the very thought makes us long for a spiritual parallel. Our hearts are thirsty for a spiritual drenching. We long for a downpour of God’s presence in our ser-



Spot Bay received a second downpour in January, as seen from the front porch of the parsonage.

2018 Ghana Convention

By George Korah, Director of Ghana Mission

For some years now the Ghana mission had not had convention, and it was in the light of this that Oleta and I thought it necessary to have convention this year. We approached the Sogla church to seek their consent to host the rest of the churches, and they agreed to it. We were happy for them, as Sogla is one of the smallest churches. I was actually encouraged about their willingness for it.

This year’s convention, beginning December 30, saw a lot of people coming. We had about 200 people from all the churches with the youth making about 80%. Many unbelievers from the community also came to hear the Word of God.

Everything went well. We had a wonderful joint service, watched “JESUS” passion film together (after which four people gave their lives to Christ), shared testimonies, made friends and ate together. Leaders from all the churches were present, and we had a good meeting about the way forward for the ministry.





World Missions

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Buka Island

Summer Vote

The Doyle family lived in Buka Island from 2011-2013, during which time Larry helped the Solos people begin translating the Bible into their own language.

Now, although the Doyles live on the mainland of Papua New Guinea, Larry stays in touch with the Solos translators and guides their efforts. In fact, Larry is planning another trip to Buka later this month.

Buka is a part of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, which fought for their independence from PNG from 1989-2001.

This June, a vote is planned, at which time the people will decide whether to be an independent nation.

All of this has implications for the Bible translation efforts there. Please pray for peace throughout this process and continuation of the work of God.

vices. Our hearts ache to see our spirits, which are parched and dry, be refreshed, revived, renewed by the rain of God moving down upon us.

Habakkuk the prophets says what I feel in my heart in chapter 3, verse 2. The KJV says, "O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy."

No matter what version of the Bible you prefer, the message is the same: "God, you have done great things for your people in the past. We deserve judgment, but we plead for two things. Give us mercy and give us the spiritual blessings that you poured out on your people in the past."

That is my prayer and my longing today. I hope that you will join me in calling upon God for an outpouring of His presence and blessing on the people in Cayman Brac. Many are away from God and need to come back to Him. We all need a revival of spirituality.

"He found me!"



Dr. Woods recently wrote about one of the parishioners at Spot Bay: "I went to the Spot Bay church to turn on the air conditioning so it would be cool for the mid-week service. As I pulled in to the church, I saw two of the doors were open. I knew Camellia Smith would be inside cleaning.

"As I walked toward the church, I heard her singing. I heard the ringing of the bells that she was shaking in her hand. I stood in the doorway and enjoyed her worship. When she turned toward me, her face was a picture of joy that is hard to describe. Later as I talked with her, she jubilantly told me how God had found her deep in sin. She had been a drunkard and a drug addict. She said, 'Pastor, I didn't find Jesus. He found me!' Needless to say, my heart was full as I returned home."