

# The Information

January - February 2006



## Wholeness Through Humility and Prayer

For the next triennium the Province will focus its attention and energies on an overall theme of **Renewing, Revitalising and Redirecting the Church through Prayer, Study and Service.** The annual sub-themes are as follows:

2006

### **Wholeness through Humility and Prayer**

Thematic Focus: A posture of healing and blessing -  
Renewing Power

Texts: 2 Chron.7:14; Jer.17:14; Jas.5:13-18

2007

### **Equipping the Saints, Empowering the Faithful**

Thematic Focus: A posture of growth and strength -  
Revitalising Power

Texts: Eph. 4:11-16; Col.1:27-29; 2Tim.2:1-2

2008

### **Blessed to Bless**

Thematic Focus: A posture of faithfulness and  
fruitfulness - Redirecting Power

Texts: John 15:4-8; Acts 1:8; Rom.12

There comes the time when every organisation needs to be renewed, revitalised and redirected. This is especially true of the Church, the Body of Christ. The members of this body need to be renewed and revitalised on an ongoing basis, and need to be directed anew or again if the body is to be vibrant. Some ingredients for this rejuvenation are to be found in the disciplines of Prayer, Study and Service. And the Power for the renewal, revitalisation and re-direction comes from Jesus Christ, through the charisma of his Holy Spirit.

As we this year focus on the theme **Wholeness through Humility and Prayer**, we shall reflect, not only upon the source of the power for renewal, but also on our posturing of ourselves to attain that renewal. Such posturing will become a part of us through humble

submission and be availed through prayer. In 2 Chron. 7:14 humility, prayer, and seeking God are enjoined as prerequisite to God's provision of healing. This is a covenant with God, and his commitment to those who so respond to him.

Prayer is more than the mere utterance of words to a loving God, most likely asking him to supply some 'want', or perhaps 'need'. It must come from the heart and be such that even the most harsh of answers will be welcomed and chastising will be accepted. It must be such that self is put aside in deference to God. It must be a case of laying oneself bare before God and revealing one's innermost emotions. It must be sincere, since the 'effectual, fervent prayer of the righteous avail much'.

Humility involves submission before God. It is not weakness, but recognition of a greater reality, a greater power. In fact, we are told that when we humble ourselves before God he will exalt us. This situation of lowliness, this characteristic way of acting towards God, and by extension, others, is opposite to pride, arrogance and violence. It in fact presupposes a sense of humility to truly pray and seek God's face. The very thought of 'seeking God's face' implies humility as this is a longing for him which causes him to assume control of that individual.

The Healing and Wholeness are then effected through this submission. No one who truly humbles self, and who earnestly prays and ardently pursues God, will turn away unhealed, unrestored, or other wise untouched. Having so postured oneself, the blessings are received in abundance. The Christian is renewed before God and brings renewal to His Church. O that we all might pray, with Jeremiah: "Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me and I shall be saved." (Jer.17:14).

**Provincial Theme 2006 - Wholeness through Humility and Prayer**

**Provincial Meetings**

The PEC held its first meeting of the year in Antigua during the period January 26-30, 2006 at the Provincial Headquarters. The Superintendents' Conference followed during the period January 30-31, 2006.

**2006 Almanac**

The 2006 Almanac of the Province focuses on the Antigua Conference as it celebrates 250 year of service and witness. The almanac features a picture of the early settlement at Spring Gardens (Antigua), showing the Sandbox tree under which earliest worship services were held.

**Christian Educators' Conference**

The Christian Educators' Conference is scheduled for March 27-31, 2006 in Antigua. Your prayers are requested for this conference.

**New Moravian Warden at UTCWI**

The PEC of the Jamaica Province and the PEC of the EWI Province have agreed on the appointment of the Rev. Frank A. Barker as the Moravian Warden at the United Theological College of the West Indies. Bro. Barker, a pastor from the EWI Province, is from Barbados and last served as Pastor of the First Moravian Church in New York.

We pray God's blessing upon Bro. Barker and his family as he takes up this important ministry.

**2006 Daily Texts**

The First Quarter of the EWI edition of the Daily Text is available at the Provincial Headquarters or can be obtained from Superintendents. The cost is EC\$9.00 or the equivalent in your currency. Look out for the Second Quarter of this Daily Text.

**28TH PROVINCIAL SYNOD**

The Provincial Synod of the EWI Province has been scheduled for August 11-19, 2006 in Tobago, inclusive of travel days. The Tobago Conference is currently working assiduously towards hosting this Synod. It is anticipated that approximately 100 persons will be in attendance at this Synod.

Kindly note the following in preparation for Provincial Synod:

- \* Proposals for consideration at Synod shall be submitted by the Island Conference by March 31, 2006.
- \* All Reports (Superintendents, Treasurers, Specialised Ministries) should be submitted by April 30, 2006.
- \* Delegates to Synod shall be elected according to the regulations of the Book of Order (cf. ¶ 17) and their names shall be submitted to the PEC by May 15, 2006.
- \* Pre-Synod Conference shall be held in each Conference before May 15, 2006 as preparation towards Synod.
- \* All Conferences are reminded that their financial obligations to the Province must be met in order to be seated at Synod. Arrears for previous years should therefore be paid up by December 31, 2005 and Conferences should be financially current for the year 2005 by February 10, 2006.

Let us remain steadfast in prayer for Provincial Synod, and for the Tobago Conference as they prepare to host the same.

**Consecration**

Rev. Mikie Roberts was consecrated as a Presbyter in the Moravian Church on February 08, 2006 in Barbados at the Calvary Moravian Church in Barbados. He is currently a Minister of Music in the Barbados Conference.

Presbyter is the second Order of Ministry in the Moravian Church. The first Order of Ministry is Deacon and the third Order of Ministry is Bishop.

Please continue to bear Bro. Roberts and his family in prayer.

**WATCHWORD FOR THE YEAR**

Annually a Watchword for the year is drawn for each Province in the Unity. This is done by the Provincial Board of the European Continental Province as a sign of our unity in Jesus Christ and in the fellowship as one church denomination worldwide.

The text drawn for the Eastern West Indies Province this year is the text of July 22. Please allow this text to speak to you throughout the year.

**Watchword for the Year**

There in the presence of the Lord your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the Lord your God has blessed you.  
**Deuteronomy 12:7 (NIV)**

At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, "Come; for everything is ready now."  
**Luke 14:17**

## UNITY PRAYER DAY

The Unity has designated the 2006 Unity Prayer Day Offering to benefit Bishop Kisanji University in Mbeya, Tanzania. The University is named in honor of the first African Moravian Bishop in Tanzania. Bishop Teofilo Hiyobo Kisanji was active in establishing the Moravian Theological College (MOTHECO) in 1969. MOTHECO is the predecessor institution of the University.

The Rev. Andrew Kyomo, Vice Chancellor, informed that the contributions received will be aimed at facilitating the proposed Faculty of Education at the University, improving library facilities and purchasing books, especially by African theologians. Safety and communication systems must also be installed or improved. These include fire detectors and fire extinguishers. They also plan renovations to improve classrooms and provide access for the physically challenged.

Unity Prayer Day is an opportunity to give thanks to the Lord who called us together as the Unitas Fratrum and who has provided for us nearly 550 years. The same Lord has given us the privilege of being his witness "to the ends of the earth." In Mbeya our church has a most important ministry in education and in training for church service. The Unity Board encourages generous contributions to this offering as we commemorate the founding of the Unitas Fratrum in 1457, and as we continue to fulfill our call to serve humanity.

## Synod of the Moravian Church in America

Please bear in prayer the Moravian Church in America - South Province as they approach their Provincial Synod which is scheduled for April 09-23, 2006.

## Standing Committee on Theology

The EWI Province was host to a group of Moravian Leaders from around the world in January. This group, the Unity Standing Committee on Theology of the Moravian Church worldwide, met from January 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> at the Cortsland Hotel and considered some points of Theology relative to the Moravian Church. Convener of the Committee, the Rt. Rev. John Kent of the Suriname Province, shared that the committee discussed the following issues in particular:

- \* The nature and role of the Committee;
- \* Human Sexuality and the Church, particularly from the exegetical, theological and pastoral perspective;
- \* The charismatic movement in the Church;
- \* Ordination within the Moravian Church.

From the discussions of the Committee reports will be sent to the Unity Board of the worldwide Moravian Church. Relevant material and information will then be disseminated via that medium to all the Provinces of the Moravian Church. The Committee also intends to put together discussion papers on the subject of homosexuality, to be used in the various Provinces of the worldwide Moravian Church ( the Moravian Unity).

Members of the Committee have been drawn from the four regions of the Moravian Unity, namely the African region, the European region, the North American region and the Caribbean region. Serving on the Committee are:

- \* Rt. Rev. John Kent of the Suriname

Province (Convener of the Committee)

- \* Rt. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Lewis of the Eastern West Indies Province
- \* Rev. Dr. Worth Greene of the Moravian Church in America - Southern Province
- \* Prof. Dr. Benjamin Wright of the Moravian Church in America - Northern Province
- \* Rev. Benigna Carstens of the European Continental Province
- \* Rev. Phillip Cooper of the Moravian Church in Great Britain and Ireland
- \* Rev. Tuntufye Mwenisongole of the Moravian Church in Tanzania - South West Province
- \* Rev. Lennox Mcubusi of the South Africa Province

The Unity Standing Committee on Theology will continue its work via e-mail and is exploring the possibility of meeting once more before submitting a final report to be considered by the next convening of the Unity Synod in 2009. Unity Synod is the ultimate decision-making forum of the Moravian Church and is composed of delegates from all Moravian Provinces in the Unity. This Synod is convened once in every seven (7) years.

The Unity Standing Committee on Theology of the worldwide Moravian Church expresses its thanks to the Antigua community in general, and the Cortsland Hotel in particular, for so warmly receiving its members and contributing to the facilitating of its meeting and the overall process of Theological reflection within the Moravian Church.

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## Unity Executive Meeting

The Unity Board Executive Committee met in London during the period January 17-26, 2006. Unity Executive members are:

- \* Rev. Dr. Robert Sawyer (North American Region & Chairman of the Unity Board)
- \* Rev. Roslyn Hamblin (Caribbean Region)
- \* Sis. Jackie Morten (European Region)
- \* Sis. Angelene Swart (African Region & Vice-Chairman of the Unity Board)

## The Passing of Bishop Cloete

The South Africa Province announces the passing of Bishop Albert A. Cloete on 27th August in Cape Town, South Africa at the age of 80 years. Bishop Cloete was consecrated on 16 November 1980 by Bishops Nielsen and Schaberg along with two Lutheran bishops. We extend our sympathy to his widow, Sister M. Cloete and the South Africa Province.

## Star Mountain Celebrates

The Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Ramallah, Palestine will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of ministry with handicapped Palestinian children during the period 11-13 April, 2006. The celebrations will include a special Anniversary Service. The Unity President, Rev. Robert Sawyer is expected to share in these celebrations.

An invitation is extended to all Moravians to join the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center in celebration.

Please continue to provide prayer support for Sister Rawda Marouf Khouriya and the staff at Star Mountain as they continue their work in very difficult circumstances.

## Guyana Synod

The Guyana Province held its annual Provincial Conference during the period November 13-17, 2005 and elected the following to serve on the Provincial Board: Brothers Brinmore Phaul, Noel Adonis, Leroy Levans, Henry Springer, and Sister Doreen Nelson. We also ask God's guidance and blessing on these leaders.

## Tenth Moravian Women's Conference

The Tenth Moravian Women's Conference will be held during the period June 27-30, 2007 on the campus of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. The theme is **Joy on the Mountain - celebrating the Good News, Peace and Salvation of our Lord.**

For additional information and registration please contact the Superintendents or the Provincial Headquarters.

## Synod of the Rukwa Province

The Synod of the Rukwa Province took place 3-8 October and elected Brother Erord Rupia Simae as Chairman of the Provincial Board. Brother Peter Magesa will serve as Vice Chairman and Brother Donald Siwalozi as the General Secretary. Brother Kasitu continues to serve as Bishop in the province. We congratulate these Brothers and pray for Lord's blessing on them as they lead His Church.

## Moravian Memorial Days

**March 1st - The founding of the Unita Fratrum at Lititz, Bohemia, 1457.**

**March 26th - The election of the first Minister of the Unitas Fratrum, 1467. The Sunday nearest March 26 is observed as a Day of Prayer for Theological Education.**

## UNITY PRAYER WATCH

Provinces will participate in the Unity Prayer Watch as follows:

Dec. 31-Jan. 18	-	Moravian Church in America, Southern Province
Jan. 18-23	-	Moravian Church in Costa Rica
Jan. 23-31	-	Moravian Church in Guyana
Jan. 31- Feb. 7	-	Moravian Church in Czech Republic
Feb. 7-25	-	Moravian Church in Suriname
Feb. 25-Mar. 14	-	Moravian Church in Tanzania, Western Province
Mar. 14-22	-	Moravian Church in Alaska
Mar. 22-31	-	European Continental Province and Star Mountain
Mar. 31-Apr. 15	-	Moravian Church in the Eastern West Indies

### The 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches

The 9th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches is scheduled for February 14-23, 2006 in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The theme for the Assembly is **“God, in your grace, transform the world”**. Rev. Roslyn Hamblin, Acting Chairman of PEC is the Delegate of the Moravian Church - EWI Province to this Assembly.



### HIV/AIDS Seed Fund Programme

The Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) has implemented a project aimed at ‘Building a Faith-Based Response to HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean’. This project is undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada, provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) ESAC Programme. The Project is being referred to as the **Seed Fund**.

\* The Seed Fund has been established to provide grant support for existing and new initiatives of members of the inter-religious communities in Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, BARbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago to combat HIV/AIDS and to stimulate their involvement in efforts to address HIV/AIDS related issues.

\* Any Faith-based Organization that meets the criteria or requirements of the Fund is eligible and can submit an application. This includes all Inter-religious or Non-government organizations with a Faith-Based support system

Projects should seek to:

- < Increase community awareness of the disease; promote behaviour change, combat misinformation about the disease or focus on the issues of stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV/AIDS.
- < Provide counselling, care and other support services.

N.B.:

1. Grants will not exceed US\$8,500.00 in total
2. Successful applicants will be expected to sign an agreement with CCC and to submit financial narrative reports
3. Grants will not be provided for:
  - < Administrative expenditures such as salaries and other recurrent operational costs;
  - < Projects that are inconsistent with the development goals of the region.

Examples of projects that can qualify for support are as follows:

1. An educational forum on Sexuality and HIV/AIDS and its prevention for groups at risk.
2. A training workshop to prepare community volunteers for the provision of counselling, care and other support services.
3. The preparation and conduct of a travelling theatrical production focusing on issues of stigma and discrimination.

How to apply:

Interested and eligible Organizations should submit their projects by completing an Application Form.

The following information should be included:

- \* Background information on the requesting Organization
- \* Project Justification
- \* Project Outputs and Activities
- \* Description of the project (outputs or expected results, the activities and indicators of achievement)
- \* The budget for the project (with a detailed breakdown of the various components and their costs)

The Forms, Format and Guidelines for the Preparation of Applications can be obtained from any of the CCC Offices. They can be prepared and submitted in hand-written, typed or electron form to any of the CCC Offices on completion:

**CCC Regional Office in  
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad  
CCC Antigua Programme  
Centre in St. John’s, Antigua  
CCC Jamaica Programme  
Centre in Kingston, Jamaica.**

#### Confirmation Manual

Please be reminded that copies of the new edition of the Confirmation Manual are now available at the Provincial Headquarters.



250th Anniversary  
-Antigua Conference-

The Antigua Conference of the Moravian Church is celebrating 250 years of work and witness throughout the year 2006.

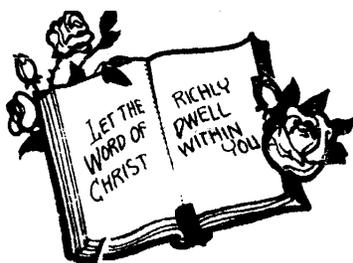
The activities planned are as follows:

- March 31 - A Recognition Banquet
- April 1 - A Pan Fest, which will bring together all the Steelbands in our churches
- April 02 - The Anniversary Thanksgiving Service
- April 03 - Spring Gardens Night
- April 04 - A Reception sponsored by the Government
- April 05 - An evening of singing of Moravian hymns and their stories
- April 06 - Youth Explosion
- April 07 - A Service of Recommitment
- December - Grand Anniversary Concert

An exhibition of Moravian Work will be on display at the National Archives from April 03, 2006 and will run for approximately 6 months.

The General Post Office will publish Commemorative Stamps of the Moravian Church on April 03, 2006

A Commemorative Magazine will be published in time for the celebrations.



**In Loving Memory of the  
Rt. Rev. G. Oliver Maynard**

The Barbados Conference was host to a Memorial Service in honour of the late Rt. Rev. G. G. Oliver Maynard who died on September 11, 2005 in Canada. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life was previously held at the New Dawn Moravian Church in Toronto, Canada on September 19, 2005.

This Memorial Service in the EWI Province took place on Thursday February 09, 2006. It was held at Bishop Maynard's home congregation, the Calvary Moravian Church. The sermon was delivered by the Acting Chairman, Rev. Roslyn Hamblin, whilst Bishop Kingsley Lewis paid tribute on behalf of the Province.

Representatives from the Tobago Conference and the Trinidad Conference were present and share tributes on behalf of those Conferences. Bishop Maynard's wife, Sis. Doreen Maynard, was in attendance at this Service, as were his brothers Mr. Arthur Maynard and Dr. George Maynard. His children Joy Maynard-Bethea and Mark Maynard could not attend but sent a written tribute.

**Condolences**

We extend condolences to Bishop Kingsley Lewis on the passing of his father, Bro. George Lewis, in Antigua on January 05, 2006 and his mother, Sis. Genevieve Lewis in Antigua on January 18, 2006. Services of Thanksgiving were held at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church on Friday January 13, 2006 and Monday, January 30, 2006 respectively. Please bear Bishop Lewis and his family in prayer, particularly in the challenges of this double grief.

**The Passing of Bro. James  
Moorehead**

The PEC shares with the Province the news of the passing of Bro. James Julius Moorehead of the Virgin Islands Conference, and former member of the PEC.

Bro. Moorehead represented the VI Conference as a Delegate to our Provincial Synod and was elected to the PEC (Provincial Elders' Conference) at the 1978 Synod. He ably served the EWI Province as a PEC member during the term 1978-1981.

Bro. Moorehead died on January 28, 2006 after a period of illness. Funeral Service for him and his sister who died on the same day, was held at the Memorial Moravian Church in St. Thomas on February 03, 2006.

As a Province we are appreciative of his contribution to the Province. We extend sympathy to his grieving family, relatives and friends and bear them in prayer as they mourn the passing of two of their loved ones.

## Birthdays/Anniversaries

### Birthday greetings for the month of January go out to:

Rev. Glenvil Gregory	8
Sis. Sonia Spencer	11
Bro. George Ramsay	27
Rev. Ray Joseph	27
Sis. Andrea Lorde-Smith	29



### Birthday greetings for the month of February go out to:

Rev. Dufferin Culpepper	1
Rev. Binta Mgonela	3
Rev. Cortroy Jarvis	7
Sis. Shirley Joseph	8
Rev. Willard Prout	10
Sis. June McMillan	17
Rev. Errol Connor	21
Rev. Adrian Smith	21
Rev. Esther Moore-Roberts	24
Rev. Deslyn Belle-Watson	27

### Anniversary greetings for the month of February go out to:

Rev. Ray & Mrs. Shirley Joseph	7
Rev. Dr. Kingsley & Mrs. Maureen Lewis	19



### Congregations Celebrate!

#### February

The Sharon Moravian Church in the Barbados Conference, celebrates its 238th Anniversary on February 8, 2005. The Pastors are Rev. Ezra Parris, Rev. Jeremy Francis, and Sis. Movelle Kellman (Supplementary Minister). The congregation has a membership of 943.

The Spring Gardens Moravian Church in the Tobago Conference, celebrates its 155th Anniversary in February. The Pastor is Rev. Rowan Simmons and the congregation has a membership of 290.

The Friedensfeld Moravian Church in St. Croix, Virgin Islands Conference, celebrates its 205th Anniversary in February. The Pastor is Rev. Dr. Reuben Vessup and the congregation has a membership of 351.



### Unity, Provincial and Conference Celebrations

Next year, 2007, will mark the 550th Anniversary of the Moravian Church worldwide. The Moravian Church or *Unitas Fratrum* was given birth in March 1457 in Czechoslovakia. Each Province is expected to celebrate this anniversary in unique ways. The year 2007 will also mark the 275th anniversary of Moravian Missions, as well as, the 275th anniversary of the Eastern West Indies Province. The first Moravian missionaries landed on St. Thomas on December 13, 1732. Hence, the Virgin Islands Conference will also attain 275 years of worship and witness in 2007. Special celebrations will be held within the Province to mark this anniversary.

#### IN MEMORY OF CORETTA SCOTT KING



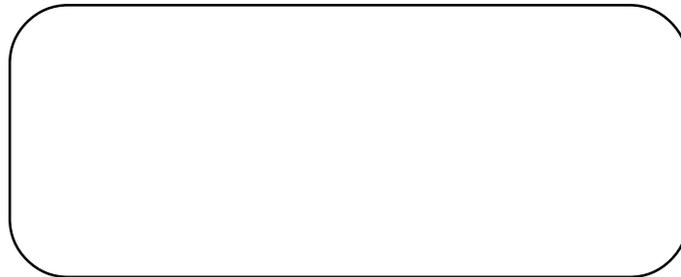
Mrs. Coretta Scott King, widow of the slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, passed away on January 31, 2006 at an Holistic Alternative Medical Center in Mexico. Her body was flown home to the USA and lay in state at the Georgia Capitol and then the Ebenezer Baptist Church where her late husband had been a minister. The funeral Service was held on February 7, 2006 at the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, where her daughter is a minister. She was laid to rest at the King Center.

# The Information Newsletter

See us on the Web: <http://moravians.faithweb.com>



**MORAVIAN CHURCH**  
**EASTERN WEST INDIES PROVINCE**  
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St. John's, Antigua, West Indies.



**Our Lamb Has Conquered; Let Us Follow Him**