



# The Information

MONTHLY PUBLICATION  
JANUARY 2007

*"For we are God's workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good  
works, which God prepared in  
advance for us to do."  
Ephesians 2:10 [NIV]*

## Waves of Celebration in 2007

The year 2007 is a significant year for the Moravian Church Worldwide. It marks the 550th Anniversary in the life and witness of the Unitas Fratrum. It shall also mark the 275th Anniversary of the Moravian Church in the Caribbean - a testimony to the sacrifice and pioneering mission commitment of our forbears.

This year shall therefore usher us into a cascading experience of celebration spanning some 18 to 24 months. In this season, we shall have many opportunities to reflect upon, review and re-envision the Church as God would have it: empowered by the Holy Spirit and following in the steps of our Chief Elder, the Lamb who has conquered.

Many congregations will also be marking significant individual anniversary milestones. We shall therefore be caught up in waves of celebratory activity. Therefore, with the psalmist, let our refrain be thus, *"O that we may praise the Lord for his goodness, his favor, his faithfulness, and his wonderful deeds to the children of humanity"*. Let the praises ascend sincerely and incessantly for the year 2007 is here. **Glory to God!**

### VISION STATEMENT

A Church – Transformed,  
United, Victorious in Christ

### MISSION STATEMENT

By the grace of God, we seek to be faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ; without distinction, we use all that we possess to call all peoples to the truth of the Gospel through worship, evangelism, discipleship and service

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### United in 550th Celebrations

Joint Communion Services will be held in all the Conferences as we unite in celebrating the 550<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Moravian Church Worldwide. The Services will take place on Sunday March 4, 2007 at 10am, and will follow one common liturgy or order of service. There will also be an exchange of pulpits/preachers - between Conferences. The aim in following the same order of service, exchanging preachers and coming together in each Conference at the same time, is to defy geographi-

cal separation and thus stand united in celebrating the 550<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of the Unitas Fratrum.

### Ordination/ Consecration

Sis. Alicia Ross will be ordained a Deacon in the Moravian Church on Friday, January 19, 2007 at 6 p.m. at the Rose Hill Moravian Church in Trinidad.

Bro. Kirk Barker will be ordained a Deacon in the Moravian Church on Sunday, January 21, 2007 at 6 p.m. at the Sharon

Moravian Church in Barbados.

Bro. Algernon Lewis will be consecrated a Presbyter in the Moravian Church on Thursday, February 08, 2007 at 7 p.m. at Zion Moravian Church in St. Kitts.

Bishop Neville C. Brown and Bishop Kingsley O'R Lewis have been requested to do these Ordinations/Consecrations. The PEC invites your prayers and support for our Sister, our Brothers and their families.

### Administrative Meetings

The PEC Meeting will be held in Antigua, February 1-3, 2007. It will be followed by the Annual Meeting of Superintendents on February 5-6, 2007. The Superintendents Meeting will be followed by the Development Meeting on February 7, 2007.

### Joint Spouses and Staff Retreat

A Joint Spouses and Staff Retreat is planned for Summer 2007. The retreat, entitled "*Rekindling the Passion*" is slated for July 11-15 in Surinam. The details are being worked out. Bro. Mikie Roberts is the coordinator.

### Unity Board Meeting

The Unity Board Meeting will be held in Barbados, May 16-25, 2007. The Barbados Conference is working to ensure that accom-

modation and other provisions are in place for a successful hosting of the leaders of the various Moravian Provinces. Sis. Cicely Horsford is the Coordinator

### Moravian Bishops' Conference

The Moravian Bishops' Conference will be held in St. Thomas from June 7-15, 2007. It is expected that at least 20 Bishops from throughout the Unity will attend. Plans are being finalised. Bishop Kingsley Lewis is the coordinator.

### Seat on the BWM

The EWI Province has been accorded a non-voting seat on the Board of World Mission (BWM). This is a very important step towards the collaborative work that is envisioned by some of the resolutions passed at the 28<sup>th</sup> Provincial Synod. The PEC Member responsible for Missions, Bro. Dion Christopher, is the Provincial representative. The BWM's Annual General Meeting takes place in March. We appreciate the BWM decision, and the leadership of Bro. Will Sibert in this endeavour.

### Vacancy

Sis. Leunda Callender has resigned after 2 years as Secretary at the Provincial Headquarters. We are therefore inviting applications from suitably qualified persons to fill the position vacancy.

### Faith Celebrates

The Faith congregation (St. Croix) marks its Tenth Anniversary with a week of activities beginning Sunday, January 7 to Sunday, January 14. In addition to two (2) special worship services to reflect on the past ten years and to offer thanksgiving to God, there will be a musical night, presentations on health, personal finance and stewardship, and a youth night. We offer heartiest congratulations to the Pastor and congregation. The church is currently engaged in construction of a manse and an educational complex. They have done very good work in their ten years of existence.

### Episcopal Consecration

Brother Wincap Cassy of the Honduras Province shall be consecrated a Bishop of the Worldwide Unity on Sunday January 14, 2007. We encourage your prayers and offer congratulations to Bro. Cassy.

### Daily Texts Devotional Delayed

The provincially published Daily Texts Devotional is being prepared for distribution. Last year, it was produced quarterly. This year, it will be published half yearly. We appreciate your patience and wish to encourage both your support and promotion of the same.

*Epiphany Season Message 2007*

## TOGETHER, WE FIND OUR PLACE

by the General Secretary of the WCC  
— Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, to Member Churches and related ministries.

Ecumenical Christianity for the 21<sup>st</sup> century stands on the twin pillars of a common experience of Christ and a common understanding of a world shared with all of humankind. On those pillars we must build the World council of Churches that is needed for the years ahead and other pandemic diseases.

“From the beginning, my ecumenical experience taught me that I cannot be a Christian without being ecumenical,” a colleague said recently on finishing her service with the WCC secretariat. Ecumenists for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century sound a similar theme. They stake our future on churches experiencing Christ together and daring to live for God in the world. This fresh appreciation of our Christian identity is developing not in a vacuum but through engagement with, and at times confronting, the world. It is clear, for example, that today we require new and healthier relationships within the religious and secular mosaic of societies.

Our calling is to be a people who seek and serve Christ together, to be churches alive in the promise of God’s world-transforming love (Romans 8:35-39). We experience cultural differences and may respond to challenges variously, but our hearts must be strong together. The last Assembly of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Harare, Zimbabwe

referred to this as the *ecumenism of the heart*. Our meeting took place in Africa, where people affirm the importance of life in community by saying: **“I am because we are.”**

As the global instrument of this fellowship, the WCC has a leading role in promoting coherence and collaboration among churches and ecumenical partners. Guided by WCC governing bodies the secretariat is convening members to foster co-operation among people of different religions, to overcome violence in various forms, to advocate for peace and justice with governments and multilateral organizations, to address inequality in society and destruction of God’s creation, and to contribute to the healing of HIV and AIDS and other pandemic diseases.

These Challenges are reflected in new constituency-based programmes:

- *Ecumenism in the 21st Century* does ground work for the ecumenical movement of tomorrow;
- *Unity, Mission, Evangelism and Spirituality* are about churches becoming the church for today;
- *Public Witness* addresses structural violence, inequality and the unjust distribution of wealth, seeks accountability from those in power, provides a platform for promoting peace in the Middle East, and sets the profile of the WCC in international affairs;

- *Justice, Diakonia and Responsibility for Creation* generates credible responses to systemic threats to life;
- *Education and Ecumenical Formation* nurtures people for the ecumenical journey.
- *Inter-Religious Dialogue and Co-operation* activates a key issue for the future of humankind.

New potential is built on an ecumenical legacy that empowers us for engagement in the world. At the core of our faith is Jesus Christ as the way of salvation. Yet we understand that it is not for us to set limits on the saving power of God and we know that God can accomplish more than we can ask or imagine. We keep the faith as a global body of witness to the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of life, the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We seek to live in just and loving relationships with others and to take the risk of counting on God’s presence under all circumstances. We see the *oikumene*, the whole inhabited earth, as the common home of humanity and of other communities of faith.

God’s horizon is our reference point. The *koinonia* of the Holy Spirit comes alive in insights and convictions that point far beyond the prevailing logic of our time. Life is given to us not for domination or self-centeredness, but for sharing, thankfulness, conviviality and joy. We are to find our place in the world together as believers in God and as churches for the world.

### **The Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC)**

is the recognised Regional Ecumenical Organisation (REO) of the Caribbean. It is made up of 34 different Christian churches in 33 Caribbean territories which span the Dutch, English, French and Spanish-speaking Caribbean. The CCC was founded in 1973 and has been responsible for a number of human and social development initiatives in the Caribbean.

Such initiatives focus on Advocacy and Communications; Disaster Mitigation, Preparedness and Response; Drug Demand Reduction; HIV/AIDS response; International Relations, Public and Cultural Affairs; Youth, Family Life and Gender Affairs; and Violence Mitigation.

In more recent years, the CCC has created Ecumenical Relations and Theological Affairs (ER&TA) Desk. This Desk has lead responsibility for the formation of the Regional Ecumenical Institute (REI) which serves as a mobile educational facility for theological and development issues such as those outlined above.

In June 2007, the Caribbean Conference of Churches, (CCC) will commence a Master of Theological Studies (MTS) Programme. The MTS Programme is a collaborative effort of the Caribbean Conference of Churches and the Faculty of

Theology, Huron University College (HUC), University of Western Ontario.

The MTS arose out of the CCC's recognition of the need for continuing education and dialogue on theological and developmental issues from a Caribbean perspective. Indeed its Constitution commits it: "To provide and stimulate programmes of study, research and experimentation, so as to help the Church understand the decisive action of God in Christ in terms of their culture, experience, and needs". Moreover, in keeping with the CCC's emphasis on contextualized scholarship, the MTS programme was designed by a team of Caribbean theologians and will be delivered by Caribbean lecturers. The latter have been approved as adjunct faculty by the HUC Faculty of Theology Committee.

#### **Whom Does The MTS Target**

The MTS Programme targets those in church leadership or ministry (ordained or lay) or anyone who may have a genuine interest in pursuing theological studies. Further, it provides individuals who are not current holders of a Master's degree in theology with the opportunity to engage in advanced study and research.

Applicants should be in possession of an undergraduate degree from a recognized university in any discipline. In exceptional cases, students who are not holders of an undergraduate degree may be allowed to pursue the Master's Programme.



### **New Year Greetings!**

We welcome this New Year with the prayer that our celebration and our work may witness to the fruitful works of faith to the glory of God and the benefit of all. May God prosper us in

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

Sis. Margaret John	4
Rev. Glenvil Gregory	8
Sis. Sonia Spencer	11
Bro. George Ramsay	27
Rev. Ray Joseph	27
Sis. Andrea Lorde-Smith	29



Christ, our Lord

#### **February 5th Watchword**

was chosen for the EWI Province for 2007 . It calls us to *prayer, repentance and praise.*

**Check it out!**