

The Information

Then the man said, *"Let me go, for it is daybreak."* But Jacob replied, *"I will not let you go unless you bless me."* Genesis 32 vs. 26 [NIV]



How Can the Church Respond to the Economic Crisis?



REV. DR. CORTROY JARVIS
CHAIRMAN
PROVINCIAL ELDERS CONFERENCE
EASTERN WEST INDIES PROVINCE

The church must work together to protect the poor and build a more sustainable economy in the face of the global financial crisis.

What we are now seeing worldwide is that it is the poor people who are suffering most from a crisis that is not of their making.

I believe that as a church we have to tap into our vast human and financial resource to support people struggling in the downturn, as well as offer new

hope and comfort through the message of the Gospel. There are many persons who have lost their jobs or who have had a reduced work week, however, one should not lose hope.

We as Christians have to hold out the word of life and not just the opportunity to bring economic solace to people who are in difficult positions by doing practical things.

The church has a huge network of willing volunteers and we've got all kinds of things at our disposal and so we need to be there, in the trenches, in the world and actually use the resources that the church has to empower our people.

Whatever the plan however, we must bring the transforming message of the Gospel into what we are saying, alongside all the practical things that we are doing. If we don't do these things nobody else is going to do them. We have a responsibility to be the salt and light to those around us.

The loss of jobs and therefore income to support ones family has become both a personal and a pastoral issue for us, and we are struggling to make sense of the fundamental unfairness that underlies it. The banks and other financial institutions in the U.S.A, whose behavior is most responsible for this crisis, have been saved from failure by the American taxpayers, while many of those least responsible are losing jobs and homes, and are suffering. The fact that the crisis started in the USA and it was not confined there, is a clear indication that we are interconnected to each other.

Clearly, the financial crisis is a structural meltdown that calls for increased government regulation of banks and other financial players. But at its core, this is also a spiritual crisis. **More and more people are coming to understand that underlying the economic crisis is a values crisis, and that any economic recovery must be accompanied by a moral recovery.** We have been asking the wrong question: When will the financial crisis end? The right question is: How will it change us?

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

MAILING ADDRESS:

Moravian Church - EWI Province
Moravian Provincial Headquarters
Cashew Hill, P.O. Box 504
St. John's, Antigua

Tel: (268)560-0185

Fax (268)462-0643

EMAIL ADDRESSES

moravianchewip@candw.ag

moravianchewip@gmail.com

WEB ADDRESS

<http://www.moravians.net>

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This could be a moment to re-examine the ways we measure success, do business and live our lives; a time to renew spiritual values and practices such as simplicity, patience, modesty, family, friendship, rest and the like.

Faith communities can help lead the way, challenging the idols of the market and reminding us who is God and who is not. "The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world, and they that dwell therein," (Ps. 24:1). The Earth does not belong to the market. Human beings are stewards of God's creation and should preside over the market, not the other way around.

Many of our religious teachings, from our many traditions, offer useful correctives to the practices that brought us to this sad place. Jesus's Sermon on the Mount instructs us not to be "anxious" about material things, a notion that runs directly counter to the frenzied pressure of modern consumer culture; "³¹So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them"(Matthew 6:31-32, NIV).

Judaism teaches us to leave the edges of the fields for the poor to "glean" and to welcome those in need to our tables; "When thou gatherest the grapes of thy vineyard, thou shalt not **glean** it afterward: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow"(Deuteronomy 24:21, KJV). And Islam prohibits the practice of usury, that is, "The practice of lending money and charging the borrower interest, especially at an exorbitant or illegally high rate".

We need a pastoral strategy for the financial crisis. We need to use these religious teachings to develop our Christian response to the crisis. What should people of faith be thinking, saying and doing now? What is the responsibility of the church to our communities, to the nation and to the world?

The Church must endeavour to find ways and means to empower our people. Some practical things like assisting the poor financially where possible; organizing congregational or Conference credit unions; making plots of lands available for members work in agriculture to ensure food production and food security; providing seeds, seedlings and fertilizers for farmers to increase productivity and to encourage new cooperative strategies for solving such problems as hunger, under-employment, unemployment and joblessness. If these initiatives succeed, the economic crisis may offer congregations a rare opportunity to clarify their mission and reconnect with their communities.

I believe that the Church must continue to examine and reexamine its role in the education of our people. Issues like education, compassion and justice will have to be at the heart of the mission of the Church. Solving the problems of hunger, unemployment, joblessness, under-employment, food production and food security, all hinge on reeducating ourselves with regard to missions and the role of the Church. The Church can encourage and provide opportunities to persons, to learn skills, so that they can employ themselves.

Moving forward, I hope local congregations will begin reflecting on where they keep their money and how their investments reflect their faith. I envision congregations creating checklists to evaluate who they do business with, and the like and how they can be more effective in ministering where they are planted.

I challenge each Moravian Congregation to use this economic crisis as an opportunity to become more creative and to use the little at your disposal, to do great things for God and to teach our people to FISH, so that they can empower themselves. The Song Writer Kittie L. Suffield, wrote the hymn, "Little is much when God is in it" which sums up the Mission of the Church:

In the harvest field now ripened
There's a work for all to do;
Hark! the voice of God is calling
To the harvest calling you.

Chorus:

*Little is much when God is in it!
Labor not, for wealth or fame.
There's a crown—and you can win it,
If you go in Jesus' Name.*

In the mad rush of the broad way,
In the hurry and the strife,
Tell of Jesus' love and mercy,
Give to them the Word of Life.

Does the place you're called to labor
Seem too small and little known?
It is great if God is in it,
And He'll not forget His own.

Are you laid aside from service,
Body worn from toil and care?
You can still be in the battle,
In the sacred place of prayer.

When the conflict here is ended
And our race on earth is run,
He will say, if we are faithful,
"Welcome home, My child - well done!"



The Rev. Jeremy Francis was consecrated a Presbyterian on Sunday September 12, 2010 at the Estridge Moravian Church in St. Kitts at 4:00p.m. Rev. Francis is the Pastor of the Estridge/Bethel Moravian Congregations in St. Kitts.



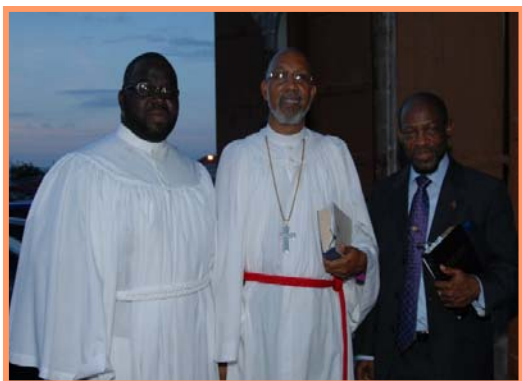
Bishop Kingsley Lewis laying hands on Rev. Jeremy Francis consecrating him as a Presbyterian in the Moravian Church.

Next to Bishop is the Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis, Chairman of PEC.

The Rev. Jeremy Francis, his wife Moyia and son Jhonathan



Maurice and Janet Francis
(Proud Parents of
Rev. Jeremy Francis)



L to R Rev. Jeremy Francis, Bishop Kingsley Lewis and Prime Minister of St. Christopher/Nevis, the Hon. Denzil Douglas

The Rev. Adrian Smith was consecrated a Presbyterian on Sunday September 19, 2010 at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church in Antigua at 6:00 p.m. Rev. Smith is the Pastor of the Cana/Gracehill Congregations in Antigua.



Bishop Kingsley Lewis laying hands on Rev. Adrian Smith consecrating him a Presbyterian in the Moravian Church

Rev. Adrian Smith and Wife Andrea Smith



L to R Keisha (sister) Rev. Adrian Smith, and Juliette Smith (mother)

*Rev. Junior Sean Roberts
Rev. Adrian Smith
and
Rev. Jeremy Francis*



The Rev. Junior Sean Roberts was consecrated a Presbyter on Sunday September 19, 2010 at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church in Antigua at 6:00p.m. Rev. Jr. Sean Roberts is the Pastor of the Greenbay/ FiveIslands Moravian congregations in Antigua.

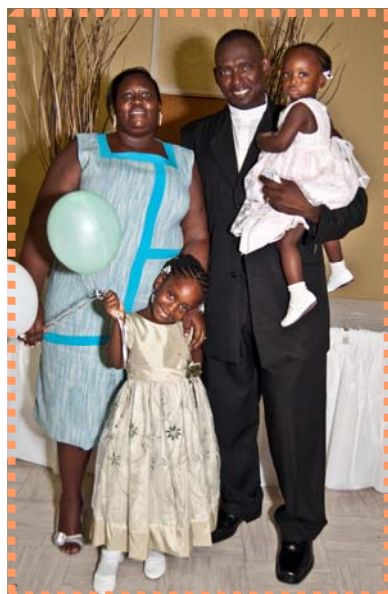


Bishop Kingsley Lewis laying hands on Rev. Junior Sean H. Roberts, next to Bishop is the Superintendent, Rev. N. Daniel and Rev. E. Christopher presenting the Candidate

The Rev. Andrew Roberts was consecrated a Presbyter on Thursday September 30, 2010 at the Sharon Moravian Church in Barbados at 7:30p.m. Rev. Andrew Roberts is the Associate Pastor of the Centenary Clifton Hill and Fulnec Moravian Churches with responsibility for the Fulnec congregation.



Bishop Kingsley Lewis laying hands on Rev. Andrew Roberts,, next to Bishop is Rev. Vera Waithe Superintendent of the Barbados Conference



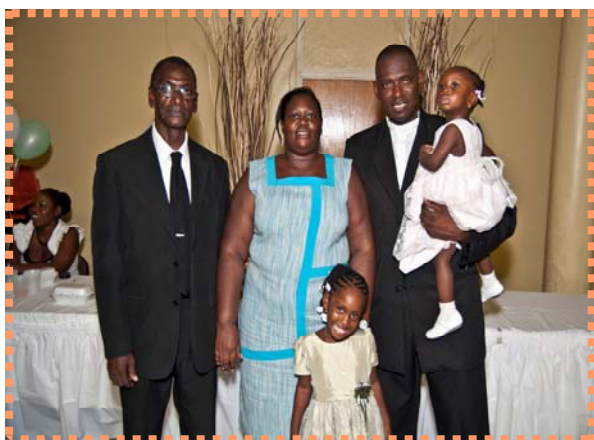
Rev. Junior Sean Roberts with Wife Paula and children Samara and J'adore



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis, Rev. Andrew Roberts and Bishop Kingsley Lewis



A Bible is being delivered to the New Presbyter by A Lay Member of the St. Phillip Fellowship Mrs. Maria Barker



L to R Ralph Roberts (father) Paula (wife) Samara (daughter) and Rev. Junior Sean Roberts with J'adore (daughter)



L to R Rev. Andrew Roberts, Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis Chairman of PEC, Bishop Kingsley Lewis and Rev. Julie Joefield-Parris



L to R Mrs. Geraldine Roberts (wife of Rev. Andrew Roberts), and son Daniel Roberts, Ministerial student, Martin Taylor and Rev. Winston Jones

THE BARBADOS CONFERENCE CELEBRATES WITH

REV. VERA WAITHE

A Thanksgiving Service was held for Sis Vera Waithe at the Clifton Hill Moravian Church on Wednesday 8th September 2010 in honour of 30 years in Ministry. The Preacher was Rev. Ezra Parris and the Worship Leader was Rev. Roslyn Hamblin. Other members of staff participated in the Service.

The Service was well attended. Persons braved the heavy showers and came to give God thanks and show appreciation for the ministry of a colleague, Pastor and friend. Special selections were rendered by the Moravian Disciples and the Moramus Singers of Barbados. During the service a message was read from the Chairman of P.E.C.

Sis Vera graduated from the United Theological of the West Indies in 1980 and was called to the Antigua Conference as Christian Educator. It was in 1981 in Antigua that she was commissioned to this ministry during a special service. In 1990 she was called to the Barbados Conference as the Christian Educator / Minister of Christian Education. In February 2002 she was appointed Superintendent of the Barbados Conference. Later that same year she was called to serve the Clifton Hill and Centenary congregations as pastor. Sis Waithe was ordained a Deacon during the 2003 Provincial Synod in Barbados. She is currently the Superintendent of the Barbados Conference and serves in the Pastorate of Clifton Hill, Centenary and Fulnec.

Many congregations shared their appreciation verbally and with gifts. Sis Waithe was very touched by the occasion and in her response thanked God for bringing her thus far. She expressed the hope, desire, and commitment to continue the work to which she has been called.

Congratulation Sis Vera, and may God continue to bless your ministry.



Bro. Kevin Thompson of the Fulnec Congregation presenting a token of appreciation to Rev. Vera Waithe.

PEC MEETING

Your Prayers are requested for the PEC as it convenes its final meeting for 2010 from October 21- 24 in Tobago. During this time the PEC expects to meet with the Executive Board and the Joint Boards of the entire Tobago Conference. In addition, other meetings might be scheduled. Of special significance is the preparation and presentation of the 2011 Provincial Budget.



UNITY BOARD MEETING

Unity Board Meeting will take place in Calgary, Alberta, Canada from October 1-8, 2010. The head of each Province is expected to attend and present an up to date report on that province.



MORAVIAN THEOLOGICAL CONSULTATION

The Moravian Theological Consultation will be held in Paramaribo, Suriname from October 06—12, 2010. The heads of Moravian Theological institutions, along with one student, and another Faculty Member are expected to attend. In addition, Bishops Kingsley Lewis and John Kent have been invited to attend. Since the Eastern West Indies Province and the Jamaica Province share one Tutor/Warden at the United Theological College of the West Indies, the Rev. Frank Barker our Tutor and one Moravian Student will attend from UTCWI.

The Objective of the consultation is the exchange of information and, possibly, the coordination of teaching programs and other activities.

The matters to be discussed are:

- ◆ short reports of the institutes present
- ◆ a comparison of the syllabi, as well as the levels of the theological education (e.g degrees)
- ◆ the specific profile of our Moravian teaching, if there is any; or: how do we teach “Moravianism”?
- ◆ the theological challenges of the Unity today
- ◆ the possible cooperation among the various institutes
- ◆ distant learning programs and its experiences/possibilities

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In Atmosphere of Thanks and Praise, Rev. Francis consecrated Presbyter

by Lesroy W. Williams
(columnists for the Labour Spokesman Newspaper in St. Kitts)

Mansion Village (September 13, 2010) ---It was a day that Reverend Jeremy Bartley Francis looked forward to with eager anticipation. That day would come when he was consecrated to the Presbyterate on Sunday, September 12, at the Estridge Moravian Church in Mansion Village.

In a atmosphere of thanks and praise, amid relatives, friends, clergy from several denominations, parishioners and several government officials, including Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas, Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Sam Condor and Mrs. Condor, Dr. the Hon. Timothy Harris, Hon. Marcella Liburd, Rev. Francis reaffirmed the solemn promises that he made at his ordination as a deacon in the Moravian Church on September 7, 2003 in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands (USVI).

Antiguan by birth, married with one son and holding a Master of Arts degree in Theology from the University of the West Indies, Rev. Francis received his theological and pastoral training at the United Theological College of the West Indies in Mona, Jamaica. On August 1, 2008, he was appointed pastor of the Moravian Church at Estridge and Bethel in St. Kitts.

Presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Lewis, in his sermon entitled "The Calling of a Shepherd", told Rev. Francis that his "responsibility is to call others to follow Jesus Christ" and that there was no other thing in ministry more important than the proclamation of the Gospel. Bishop Lewis emphasized the importance of prayer in ministry and instructed Rev. Francis that "he must lead God's people to life, light and love".

"Anybody who receives ordination to the holy office of the ministry should know that he dares not go limping between two opinions, trying neither to displease the world or God," Bishop Lewis said. "He should know that he cannot serve two masters."

He implored the new Presbyter to follow the example of the Good Shepherd in "laying down his life for the sheep" and that he should know each sheep by name.

Rev. Francis said that his consecration to the Presbyter-

ate highlighted two things - reflection and celebration. It's a time of reflection because of what it is, what it means and the possibilities that lie in store as an elder and Presbyter. The church now sees me as one who is eligible to shepherd even younger ministers. "It's a time of celebration because it wasn't easy for me to get to this point. I had a lot of challenges, a lot of ups and downs and so it's a time when I can say that through it all, I've learnt to depend upon God's word," he said.

Along with Bishop Lewis, the other officiating Ministers were Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis, Chairman of the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC); Rev. Ezra Parris, Secretary of PEC; Rev. Hilton J. Joseph, Superintendent of St. Kitts Conference; Rev. Nasel Ephraim, Member of Executive Board; and Brother Ivyn Williams, Lay Pastor.

Mr. Larry Vaughan delivered a solo. Sister of Rev. Francis, Mrs. Jodie Donawa, proclaimed the first reading from Ephesians 4: 7-13 and Rev. Nasel Ephraim rendered the second reading from John 10:1-10. Selections in song were done by the Estridge and Bethel Joint Choir and the Conference Choir.

The celebration continued with light refreshments after the service.

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Moravian Theological Consultation Continued from Page 5

- ♦ exchange of teachers/students among the institutes/provinces
- ♦ the lack of ministers in certain provinces and the role of the theological education in this situation
- ♦ lay education
- ♦ the "sleeping" chair of a Moravian lecturer at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands
- ♦ refresher courses; assistance provided for, e.g., "burned out" ministers
- ♦ the role of the MCF: is it simply financing the theological education (priority number one as again decided by the last Unity Synod), or could there be other inputs, as e.g. scholarship programs, conferences?
- ♦ the financial support coming from the MCF and earmarked for theological education – how is it handled in the various provinces?
- ♦ the expectations of the Unity as a whole towards the theological education
- ♦ follow-up of the consultation: what can/must be done in the years to come?



Provincial Youth Camp 2010 – Antigua

Director's Report

by J. Joefield-Parris (Rev)

Camp Director

Provincial Youth Camp 2010 was hosted by the Antigua Conference of Moravian churches from August 4-14. Approximately 100 Campers, Counsellors and Educators shared together during the time specified. There were representatives from the Conferences within the Eastern West Indies Province as well as from Jamaica and Canada. The theme for this year's Camp was "Together God can", the concept being with God, all things are possible. The programme sort to cater for the all round development of the participants.

Programme & Sessions

Theme Study

The theme unfolded in such a manner as to reinforce the fact that we are not alone in the things of God. The Educators as well as members of the Antigua staff delivered these theme studies. They were: Together God can – Purify, Prepare, Provide, Perfect and Preserve.

Workshops

Workshop topics dealt with issues that were relevant to the youth today. They included: Career Calling, Stress Management, Choosing a Mate, Tithing, Financial Management, The Body as the Temple of God. Campers also participated in a Career Fair where a number of presenters shared on their areas of expertise. They were also exposed to areas of Dance, Music, Painting and Creative Writing as a result of which the Choir was formed, paintings and songs were produced and the dance learnt was performed at the closing service.

Activities

There was a hike to a nearby beach where we had morning devotions before the trip back. Campers were moved as they participated in the mission project for this year. It involved visiting and sharing with the elderly and others in a variety of places. They were the Fiennes Institute, the Bishop John E Knight Home, the Sunshine Home and Amazing Grace Institute.

The activity 'Expressions' brought to the fore the talents of the campers as they expressed themselves in prepared and impromptu speeches on the theme as well as other topics of interest. A Singstude, Cup of Covenant and Silent Night brought that activity to remarkable and noteworthy close. There was also an evening where campers put on display their talents as they represented their countries in many

ways such as poetry, dance and song.

There were two tours which revealed churches and other places of interest in the Northern and Southern zones of the island. Of course there was time for shopping in the city, as well as the viewing of a movie for the purpose of follow-up discussion.

Worship Sessions – The Opening Service was held at the Gracefield Moravian Church. The closing at Spring Gardens and being held on August 13th there was the traditional Lovefeast. Campers with counselors participated in morning devotions and there were a number of visiting persons from the Antigua Conference sharing in Vespers in the evening. Campers also attended the host churches on Hospitality Sunday and in the evening an emotional Worship Encounter saw many committing and recommitting their lives to Jesus Christ.

We wish to thank:

- * The Antigua Conference for hosting the Camp this year and for allowing us to be a part of their life and witness.
- * The Local Supervisors and Camp Committee for fleshing out the programme and co-ordinating the various personnel, so that things unfolded to the glory of God.
- * The Government of Antigua and Barbuda for graciously hosting a reception for the Camp delegation.
- * The Camp Staff and Counsellors, for giving of their time and abilities in the important role of shaping and molding lives for Christ.

There will always be the deviation from the norm, however one must make a judgement based on the whole picture. Collectively, this has been one of the most mature and settled set of youth at any Provincial Camp, though there were some teething problems at the settling in stages, the mature as well as embracing attitude of many, quelled the 'noises' of the few. We were able to overcome most of our difficulties in an appropriate and timely manner, thus settling quickly to whatever task was at hand. Not even the untimely interruptions by the local utilities company was any major distraction, but was viewed as a part of the experience. We pray that God will continue to have His way in the lives of those who attended and that we will continue to provide that necessary avenue for our Youth to come together, share and be nurtured in the things of Christ so that they can take their place in this world and in His Kingdom.

The Judges Hill Congregation

Celebrates its



The Judges Hill Moravian congregation celebrated 25 years of the beginning of work and witness of what was



then a fellowship, under the theme:

“25 years – Preserving, Praying and Working to build God’s Kingdom”.

A Service was held on September 26th, the preacher was the Rev. Mikie Roberts.



Birthday Greetings for the month of October is extended to:

Bro. Winston Jones	2
Sis. Georgette John	6
Sis. Angella Roberts	11
Bro. Joseph Nicholas	15
Sis. Anique Elmes-Matthew	22
Bro. Algernon Lewis	24
Sis. Julie Joefield-Parris	28



Anniversary Greeting for the month of October is extended to:

Bro. Vankys & Sis. Myrtle Isaac	26
Bro. Derick & Sis. Lexs Forrester	27
Bro. Joseph & Sis. Patricia Nicholas	27

Fun Corner

