

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF PEC - EWI PROVINCE

July, 2011

# 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]



## Who are the Garifuna people?

I have always known that the Moravian Church in Honduras has a Ministry to the Garifuna people, but I had never met a Garifuna individual. I had always wondered, who are these people? What do they look like and where did they originate from? I had the opportunity recently at the Moravian Caribbean Regional Conference, held in Costa Rica from June 11-14, 2011, to have met two (2) of them. I was privileged to have been seated beside the Rev. Mario Mejia who heads the Garifuna Mission in Belize. In addition, the Rev. Gabina Bernardez who works with the Garifuna Mission in Honduras was in



attendance at the meeting. It was truly a joy to have met and interacted with them. In fact, I referred to Rev. Mario Mejia as Super Mario. He was such an exuberant person. He laughs heartily and speaks with passion about the Ministry, Message and Mission of the Church. He is fluent in English, Spanish, Kriol and the Garifuna language.

Gabina and Mario are black people who look like any black person from Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Guyana, Suriname, St. Kitts, Antigua, Jamaica or the Virgin Islands. Except one is told, it would be difficult for one to know of the ethnic make-up of the Garifuna people. The question is, who are they and where did they come from?

The **Garifuna** (*Plural*) Garinagu ( are descendants of Carib, Arawak and West African people. The British colonial administration used the term *Black Carib* and Garifuna to distinguish them from *Yellow* and *Red Carib*, the Amerindian population that did not intermarry with Africans. The Amerindians who had not intermarried with Africans are still living in the Lesser Antilles; Dominica, St. Vincent and The Grenadines, etc.

Today the Garifuna live primarily in Central America. They live along the Caribbean Coast in Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras including the mainland, and on the island of Roatán. There are also diaspora communities of Garifuna in the United States, particularly in Los Angeles, Miami, New York and other major cities.

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L to R:-Rev. G. Pais, (Nicaragua) Rev M. Mejia, (Belize)  
Rev. Dr. C. Jarvis

### 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](mailto:moravianchewip@candw.ag)  
[moravianchewip@gmail.com](mailto:moravianchewip@gmail.com)

### WEB ADDRESS

<http://www.moravians.net>

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French missionary Raymond Breton, who arrived in the Lesser Antilles in 1635, and lived on Guadeloupe and Dominica until 1653, took ethnographic and linguistic notes of the native peoples of these islands, including St Vincent which he visited only briefly. (1) According to oral history noted by the English governor William Young in 1795, Carib-speaking people of the Orinoco came to St. Vincent long before the arrival of Europeans to the New World, where they subdued the local inhabitants called Galibeis. They lived along with the Carib men. Young recorded the arrival of the African descended population as commencing with a wrecked slave ship from the Bight of Biafra in 1675.



Rev. Gabena Benardez (Garifuna Honduras) and Rev. C. Jarvis

The survivors, members of the Mokko ethnicity from today's Nigeria (now known as Ibibio) reached the small island of Bequia, where the Caribs brought them to Saint Vincent and ill-used them. **When the Carib masters felt that the Africans were too independent in spirit, according to Young, they planned to kill all the male children.**

**The Africans, learning of this plan revolted, killed as many Caribs as possible and withdrew to the mountains, where they joined with other runaways who had taken refuge there.** From there they raided the Caribs continually until they had greatly reduced them in numbers.(2) There are few other accounts of the island, as it was not occupied by Europeans and visitors were rare or there unofficially, hence Young's account is the only one of the century before he wrote to provide specific details of the origins of the Garifuna.

Britain and France both laid conflicting claims on Saint Vincent from the late seventeenth century onward. French pioneers began informally cultivating plots on the island around 1710 and in 1719 the governor of Martinique sent a force to occupy it, but was repulsed by the inhabitants.

A British attempt in 1723 was also repelled.(3) In 1748, Britain and France agreed to put aside their claims and Saint Vincent was declared a neutral island, under no European sovereign.(4) Throughout this period, however, unofficial, mostly French settlement took place on the island, especially on the Leeward side.

In 1763, the Treaty of Paris awarded Britain rule over Saint Vincent. After a series of Carib Wars, which were encouraged and supported by the French, and the death of their leader Satuye (Chatoyer), they surrendered to the British in 1796. **The British considered the Black Caribs enemies and deported them to Roatán, an island off the coast of Honduras. In the process, the British separated the more African-looking Caribs from the more Amerindian-looking ones.** They decided that the former were enemies who had to be deported, while the latter were merely "misled" and were allowed to remain.

Five thousand Black Caribs were deported, but only about 2,500 of



L to R Rev's Bernadez, Ordenez, (Honduras undertaking) Paiz and Mejia

them survived the voyage to Roatán. Because the island was too small and infertile to support their population, the Garifuna petitioned the Spanish authorities to be allowed to settle on the mainland. The Spanish employed them, and they spread along the Caribbean coast of Central America.

In recent history, Garifuna have thrown off their British appellation and encourage others to refer to them as Garifuna (Garinagu-plural). The Garifuna population is estimated to be around 600,000 both in Central America, Yurumein (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) and the United States of America.

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### MCRC MEETING

The Moravian Caribbean Regional Conference (MCRC) convened in Costa Rica from June 11-14, 2011. This is a biennial meeting of the Chairman of the Provinces that make up the Caribbean region of the Moravian Church. The Provinces that make up the MCRC are: Guyana, Suriname, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica and The Eastern West Indies .

In addition, we had the Chairman of the Honduran Undertaking, which is the other half of the Moravian Church in Honduras. There were representatives from the Mission to the Garifuna people in Honduras and the Belize Mission.



**Group picture of Delegates to MCRC**

The Meeting received reports from each Province and mission area, as we sought to understanding challenges faced by each Province and mission area, including Cub, Haiti, Grenada, St. Maarten and the Garifuna Missions in Honduras and Belize.

As Leaders, we prayed together, sang together, worshipped and embraced each other. Indeed, we showed solidarity with each other, as we go forward to advance the work of Christ, through the



**Rev. Brinmore Phaul (Guyana) & Rev. Dr. Paul Gardner (Jamaica)**

Moravian Church. There were many high points which caused us to rejoice, and celebrate; however, there were some low points as well which threatens the witness of the Church and the cause of Christ. The seeming splitting up of the Church in Honduras for the second time is great cause for concern.

A considerable amount of time was spent working through the issues. We left with the Prayer that the Church would be united.

The prospects look good for the growth and expansion of the Church once we remain faithful.

We were grateful to have had the Unity Business Administrator (UBA), Bro. Jorgen Boytler present at the meeting.

He made a presentation on the Unity, its Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. It was an eye opening



**Rev. Jesmin Hebbert (Costa Rica) (R) and Twin Sister**

presentation on the dynamics at work in the Moravian Church, worldwide. We also had Bishop Sam Gray from the Board of World Mission at the meeting.



**Rev. Renald Panza-(Suriname)**

He made a presentation on the work of the Board of World Mission and he was generally very helpful to the progress of the meeting.

Bishop Gray, apart from understanding and speaking the languages spoken in Central America, understands the Culture very well, since he has worked in Honduras and Nicaragua for upwards of 20 years.

Costa Rica is a nice place. They have a rich culture and very nice people.

On June 11, 2011, we drove from San Jose the capital to Port Limon on the Caribbean Coast to visit and interact with the Churches in that area. There are so many things to see and do in that area. It is very mountainous, with many rivers. There is a very thriving banana and pineapple industry in Costa Rica. There are some areas where as far as your eyes can see, are banana trees.

It was a great experience in Costa Rica and thanks must be given to Bro. Leopold Pixley and the Province for hosting us in such a warm and friendly way. To God be the glory.

## Mission Grenada: "Hope to a People"

The St. Kitts Conference of the Moravian Church will be hosting a ten-day mission to Grenada dubbed "Mission Grenada: Hope to a People" from 14<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

The inception of this Mission came about after the Ministerial Staff journeyed in December 2010 to Grenada to observe the work. One night following an afternoon on the Mission field, the staff shared their observations during an evaluation session and noted that it would be a good gesture to have a reading camp prior to the Tobago Conference's Vacation Bible School (V.B.S.) mission trip due to the realization that the illiteracy rate was obvious.

To this end the thoughts of a ten-day mission surfaced in our minds.

The vision was shared and the invitation was extended to the members of our church throughout the Conference to get on board once they were led by the Holy Spirit.

The following persons has expressed their desire to be part of the Mission team to Grenada:

Sisters Nasel Ephraim, Sisters Karimu Byron, Belinda Pantlitz, Rhoda Procope, Sharon Archibald, Nicola Michael; Brothers Hilton Joseph, Joseph Tudor, Walter James, and M J Byron. (St. Kitts)

Sisters Angela Roberts and Karen James (Antigua)

Sis. Hyacinth Taylor (Tobago)

Bro. Erwin Warner (Minister in Training)

The Mission trip will be focused on the following areas:

- ◆ **Medical Work** – This would be led by Dr. Sharon Archibald, Nurse Rhoda Procope and Nursing Assistant Hyacinth Taylor. They will carry out testing in the areas of Blood Glucose, Blood Pressure and Cholesterol.
- ◆ **Reading Camp**: A five-day reading camp will be led by Mrs. Karen James (Teacher)
- ◆ **Christian Education Hour and Devotions**
- ◆ **Open Air Services**
- ◆ **Cottage Meetings**: Mid-week services will be facilitated and leaders will be trained.
- ◆ **Prayer walking**: This is praying on site with insight. It is genuine prayer. Prayer walking is essentially a relationship with God – talking and walking with God Himself through Jesus.

Prayer on site is simply praying in the very places where you expect your prayers to be answered.

At present the mission team is actively engaged in fund-raisers in the form of a barbecue on Friday afternoons and a

breakfast on Saturdays. Pledge cards have also been circulated to generate funds for this mission.



Let me use this forum to express my thanks to all of our patrons

and I pray that God will bless your Bread and your Water.

As we prepare for this mission trip we have made



up our minds that we cannot come down from the wall until the wall has been restored

We humbly ask you to PRAY, PRAY, PRAY as we work the field of souls.

**THE MORAVIAN CHURCH, EWI  
AND  
THE ANTIGUA CONFERENCE  
Present A  
Summer Mathematics Enrichment Program  
AT CASHEW HILL**

Topics to be covered will be chosen from the following:

**Functions (linear, quadratic) – domain and range, maximum and minimum, graph sketching;**

**Geometry;**

**Trigonometry –up to identities;**

**Matrices;**

**Probability and Statistics**

Date: July 11 – Jul 29, 2011

Sessions will be held Monday to Friday,  
8:00am to 12:30pm.

Follow-up sessions will be held on some weekends until CXC examinations in 2012. Topics will be chosen as they are needed to strengthen preparation for General Proficiency and Additional Mathematics Examinations.

These classes are opened to 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Formers, in addition to Teachers and other interested persons.

Please call 560-0185 between the hours of 9a.m. and 4.00p.m. Monday to Friday for further details.

Facilitators: Dr. Vanere Goodwin and the Rev. Dr. Conrad Spencer, Mathematics Professors at the University of the Virgin Islands.



### PEC MEETING

The PEC will meet in the Trinidad Conference from July 06, to 08, 2011. Please remember the PEC in prayer as they meet at such a time as this.



### JOHN HUS 596<sup>th</sup>

July 06, 2011 marks the 596th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of John Hus (JAN HUSS). John Hus did not actually start the Moravian Church, but it was out of the Principles he stood for, that our Church was born.

### *Who are the Garifuna people? Continued from Page 2*

The latter, due to heavy migration from Central America, has become the second largest hub of Garifuna people outside Central America. New York has the largest population, heavily dominated by Hondurans, Guatemalans and Belizeans. Los Angeles ranks second with Belizean Garifuna being the most populous, followed by Hondurans and Guatemalans. There is no information regarding Garifuna from Nicaragua having migrated to either the East or the West Coast of the United States. Nicaraguan Garifuna are few in number. They are learning the Garifuna language and acquiring the different cultural aspects.

1. Post Rust, Susie. "[Fishing villages along Central America's coast pulse with the joyous rhythms of this Afro-Caribbean people.](#)". National Geographic. Retrieved 2007-09-21.
2. William Young, *An Account of the Black Charaibs in the Island of Saint Vincent* (London, 1795), pp. 6-8
3. Young, *Black Charaibs*, pp. 12-13.
4. Young, *Black Charaibs*, p. 4.



L to R Bro L. Pixley (Chairman of the Costa Rica Province),  
Rev. Dr. Jorgen Boytler (Unity Business Administrator) &  
Bishop Sam Gray of the Board of World Mission) who were all in  
attendance at the MCRC Meeting in Costa Rica  
June 11– 14, 2011

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Let us remember in prayer both Rev. Ulric Smith and Rev. Romeo Challenger who are ill at this time. Let us pray that God will touch and heal their bodies.



### Birthday Greetings for the month of July is extended to:

Sis. Ida Brown	03
Bro. Winston Chase	08
Bro. Neilson Waithe	10
Sis. Cherice Job-Lewis	10
Bro. Ralph Prince	11
Bro. Colbourne Walters	14
Sis. Frances John	15
Bro. Kirk Barker	21
Bro. Dion Christopher	23
Sis. Earlene Simmons	25
Bro. Andrew Roberts	28
Bro. Rudolph Roberts	28
Sis. Althea Pearlina Jarvis	29



### Anniversary Greetings for the month of July is extended to:

Bro. Colin & Sis. Anique Matthew	04
Bro. Nigel & Sis. Belinda Manswell-Daniel	06
Bro. Neilson & Sis. Vera Waithe	07
Bro. Willard & Sis. Lynda Prout	14
Bro. Jeremy & Sis Moyia Francis	19
Bro. Devon & Sis. Stacey Mannix	21
Bro. Andrew & Sis. Geraldine Roberts	22
Bro. Mikie & Sis. Winelle Kirton-Roberts	24
Bro. Rowan & Sis. Earlene Simmons	24
Bro. Walton & Sis. Angela Frederick	26
Bro. Jr. Sean & Sis. Paula Roberts	30

## Condolences



Your prayers are requested for Sis. Sharon Mc Cardy-Joseph the wife of Bro. Hilton Joseph on the passing of her Father Bro. Rupert Mc Cardy. Bro. Mc Cardy passed into the nearer presence of God on Monday June 13, 2011 in Tobago. The funeral service took place at the Montgomery Moravian Church in Tobago on Tuesday June 21, 2011.

Let us remember the family in our prayers.

## Expectant Fathers

Four expectant fathers were in Minneapolis hospital waiting room, while their wives were in labor. The nurse arrived and announced to the first man, "Congratulations sir, You're the father of twins."

"What a coincidence" the man said with some obvious pride. "I work for the Minnesota Twins baseball team."

The nurse returned in a little while and turned to the second man, "You sir, are the father of triplets."

"Wow, That's really an incredible coincidence " he answered.

"I work for the 3M Corporation." My buddies at work will never let me live this one down.

An hour later, while the other two men were passing cigars around, the nurse came back, this time she turned to the 3rd man - who had been quiet in the corner. She announced that his wife had just given birth to quadruplets.

Stunned, he barely could reply. "Don't tell me another coincidence?" asked the nurse. After finally regaining his composure, he said "I don't believe it, I work for the Four Seasons Hotel."

After hearing this, everybody's attention turned to the 4th guy, who had just fainted, flat out on the floor. The nurse rushed to his side and after some time, he slowly gained back his consciousness. When he was finally able to speak, you could hear him whispering repeatedly the same phrase over and over again.

"I should have never taken that job at 7-Up "I should have never taken that job at 7-Up "I should have never taken that job at 7-Up..."