

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF PEC - EWI PROVINCE

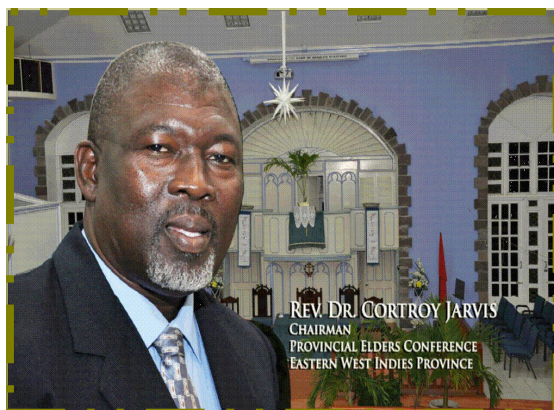
May, 2011

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]

RUNNING THE RACE

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. (1 Corinthians 9:24).



I had the privilege of attending the 72nd Synod of the Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands from April 25-29, 2011. The Synod convened at the Bethlehem Moravian College in Malvern, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, after a most inspiring service on the afternoon of April 25 at the Holy Cross Moravian Church in Santa Cruz. Bethlehem is just a wonderful place and the Synod was a tremendous experience. Over

100 delegates, observers, advisors and fraternal delegates were in attendance. The food was out of this world.

As I led the Bible Studies each day and the interactions that ensued and the challenges that were encountered, I was forced to reflect on running the Christian race. St. Paul, speaking to the Corinthian Church said, "**Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.**" (1 Corinthians 9:24).

The 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing China concluded with some remarkable achievements. It was probably the best organized Olympics of all times. The Chinese knew that the entire world would have been keyed into every aspect of Chinese life and so they went over and beyond anything that has been seen before at these games. The China Olympic Committee was highly commended for the outstanding work put into the organization and execution of the games.

Usain Bolt of Jamaica was the shining star of 10 days of Athletics competition at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games that produced five (5) world records and sixteen (16) Olympic records. Bolt arrived at the Games having lowered the 100m world record to 9.72 in New York in the month of May 2008. He did not disappoint. He won both the 100m and 200m races in astonishing world record times of 9.69 seconds and 19.30 seconds respectively. Shelly-Ann Fraser led home a Jamaican clean sweep in the Women's 100m race with her compatriots Kerron Stewart and Sherone Simpson sharing silver. Then Veronica Campbell-Brown of Jamaica retained the 200m gold medal she had won at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

Jamaica's near-total domination of the sprints was underlined in the Men's 4 x 100m Relay race.



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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Running the Race

The team, featuring Bolt on the third leg and former world-record holder Asafa Powell on the anchor, raced home with a new world record of 37.10 seconds.

The games will be remembered for several things:

1. China copped the highest number of Gold Medals- 51 out of 100 medals won overall.
2. The USA copped the highest number of Medals- 110
3. The Russian Federation, along with China and the USA were the only teams to have gotten more than 50 Medals
4. USAIN BOLT of Jamaica broke 3 world records on his way to winning 3 Gold Medals and being acclaimed the fastest man in the world.
5. The Caribbean won a total of 41 Medals (Jamaica- 11, Cuba-24, Dominican Republic- 2, Trinidad and Tobago- 2 and the Bahamas-2).

Whatever might be said about the Olympics, the games belonged to Usain “lightning” Bolt. Bolt ran with **Precision,**



Purpose and Passion. He left the rest of the Athletes as if they were running a day behind of him.

I believe that Usain Bolt taught us and can teach us some valuable lessons about our walk with God.

Firstly, we must be **Precise** in whatever we seek to do. In other words, whatever we do or whatever we are doing must be clearly stated or depicted. The Child of God must be focused. It is not so much how you begin, but how you end the race. You must endure to the end.

Secondly, we must be **people of Purpose** in all of our endeavours. In other words, we must be determined and deliberate as we strive for and pursue the prize that is before us. Our eyes must be fixed on the prize in Jesus Christ. Your purpose must be to complete the race well. Your purpose must be to win the prize.

There will always be **distractions and joy stealers**, but our purpose must be to go forward. The child of God cannot and ought not to allow anyone to steal his/her joy in the Lord.

St. Paul was mindful of the attacks from the enemy on the

child of God, he instructs us, as he instructed the Ephesian Church: “ **Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.** ¹¹ **Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.** ¹² **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”** Ephesians 6: 10-12.

Thirdly, we must be **Passionate about whatever we**



are called to do. We must have that powerful emotion or appetite to achieve against the odds. Indeed, we must possess that **enthusiasm, fire, fervor**

and zeal which challenges us to reach beyond the ordinary.

The race of life is filled with many travelers. The Child of God must run smart in order to win the prize. Some persons break under pressure, while others break records under pressure.

The story is told of a mother who wanted to teach her daughter a lesson. She got three (3) pots of the same size filled with water and placed them on the stove under the same heat at the same temperature. In one she placed an egg. In another she placed a potato and in the third she placed some coffee beans. The pots boiled for twenty (20) minutes and then she turned the burners off. The mother then asked the daughter to examine all three (3) pots and to tell her what she observed. The egg which was fragile before was now hard. The potato which was hard at the beginning became soft. The coffee beans had turned the colour of the water. The mother then asks which are you under pressure, the egg which became hard, or the potato which became soft or the coffee beans which impacted or changed the water? The daughter said; I’d rather be the coffee beans so that I can make a difference where ever I am. We should try to be the coffee beans, no matter what crisis or problem we encounter. “*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize*” (1 Corinthians. 9:24) I challenge you therefore to run the race of life with **Precision, Purpose and Passion.**

Tobago-born Claude Berkley has been consecrated Bishop-elect of Trinidad and Tobago.

He will take over from Bishop Calvin Bess when he steps down in December. The man who will head the Anglican Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago says he will be tackling a number of issues including the shortage of clergy and a "lack of confidence among Anglican Christians". Speaking shortly after his consecration, Bishop Berkley said he will also be paying attention to Christian education and fund-raising.

The solemn Eucharist for Berkley's consecration and ordination took place at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Port-of-Spain before a packed congregation. Tents and chairs were used to accommodate the additional persons who could not be seated inside the church. In identifying the issues he would work on, 53-year-old Berkeley said he shared a common approach with the outgoing Bishop Calvin Bess.

Speaking to reporters after the more than three-hour Eucharist, Berkley said; "We have the non- ending matter of fund-raising. We need some funds to get our projects done and repair a range of buildings and put the infrastructure in place to do further work."

Bess remains in charge of the diocese of Trinidad and Tobago until December when he steps down after reaching the retirement age of 72.

"Thereafter I would fall into place. There is usually an enthronement service and then we continue from there," Berkley said.

A festive mood pervaded the pomp and ceremony of the service which began with a procession from City Hall, Knox Street, which included diocesan seminarians, visiting Anglican clergy, visiting bishops, and Diocesan Bishops and the Archbishop's procession. Applause greeted the bishops and Berkley.

In the welcome, Bess said all were privileged to be part of an event of which only six had taken place in the 138 years history of the Diocese.

In the sermon, Bishop of Belize The Right Reverend Philip Wright said The Charge (read at the consecration of a Bishop) admonished Berkley to know not just the names and addresses of his people but to gain an understanding of the realities of their lives to the best of his ability. "Know what matters most to them and where the message of the gospel and ministry of the Church can have their greatest impact," Wright preached. Wright said people wrestled with many circumstances which challenged their faith, adding that the woes faced today helped define the mission and ministry of the Church in the current era.

Trinidad's New Anglican Bishop



Anglican Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago Calvin Bess (left) and Bishop-elect Claude Berkley

The challenges are nothing short of exigent yet they are filled with so many opportunities that speak of the grace and love of God as manifested in people who choose to respond to these difficulties with faith and hope," he said. Referring to the natural disasters which have taken place in Haiti, Japan, New Zealand and across the Caribbean region, Wright observed that persons worldwide, whether believers or not, were mobilized to help their fellow human beings and this pointed to an innate goodness in all people which was waiting for the opportunity to "burst forth in action."

Wright said in the face of economic hardship faced by families, crime, violence, substance abuse, there were individuals and agencies which sought to intervene and the Church was one of the foremost institutions which continued to make a difference in the lives of individuals and families.

He told Berkley in the current times people looked to strong leadership which can be trusted, an energized and enthusiastic leadership which could inspire potential. Wright said such leadership

adhered to high moral and ethical doctrines. Leadership also required vision, and he advised Berkley to share his with his people.

"As Bishop you have an opportunity to put such into fuller practice and lead by example in a way like never before." However he said Berkley should also have realistic expectations of what he could accomplish.

The Rite of Ordination saw Berkley declare his faith in the Scripture and promise to conform to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Church. He also underwent an examination in which he openly accepted the roles and responsibilities of Bishop.

Following the Litany for Ordination during which Berkley prostrated himself on the altar, the Consecration and Ordination took place. He was presented with the Bible, Pectoral Cross and Bishop's ring, Mitre and Pastoral Staff and presented as Bishop to loud applause from the congregation.

The Moravian church E.W.I.P congratulates Bishop Berkley on his elevation to being the Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago.

HISTORIC 72nd SYNOD

I have just returned to Antigua after sharing in the 72nd Synod of the Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. The Synod was held at Bethlehem Moravian College in Malvern St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, from April 25 – 29, 2011.

The Opening Service for the Synod was held at the Holy Cross Moravian Church in Santa Cruz, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica on Easter Monday which began at 3.00p.m, Jamaica time or 4.00p.m Eastern Caribbean time.

The Synod was held under the theme, “Stewardship:



Rev. Dr. Paul Gardner

A mark of Spiritual Maturity. The Rev. Dr. Paul Gardner, President of the Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, gave a most challenging and pointed message with regard to the Church’s response to the socio-economic realities of our time. The packed congregation lapped up every word spoken by him and I believe that propelled Synodals with more purpose into the Synod deliberations.

The Synod was historic in more ways than one. The entire day on April 27, was taken up with two (2) cases that were appealed to the Synod by brothers, the Rev. Dr. Canute Thompson and the Rev. Dr. Paul Thompson. In the end, the Rev. Dr. Canute Thompson got the nod from Synodals and won his case. The Rev. Dr. Paul Thompson say the Synod upholding the PEC’s decision and so he lost his case. It is instructive to note that both cases should have lasted 1½hrs each; however, the entire day was consumed by the two (2) cases.

The Camaraderie, the fellowship, the Bible Studies, the worship experiences, the food and the weather was something to behold. Bethlehem Moravian College in the hills of Malvern is just a wonderful place. The freshness, the scenery, the fog that descended and covered the entire area from Spur Tree hill to Malvern was majestic.

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The New PEC was elected as follows:

Rev. Dr. Paul Gardner – President
 Rev. Jermaine Gibson – Vice President
 Rev. Germaine Lovelace- Secretary
 Rev. Wayne Reid
 Rev. Devon Anglin
 Sis. Evelyn Hall
 Bro. Lowel Morgan – Treasurer

I wish to thank the Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands for the warm reception received by me and for being able to play a significant role in the Synod. Thanks also to the Advisor to the PEC/ Synod, M. Georgia, Gibson-Henlin; Fraternal delegates, Bishop Sam Gray and Chris Evanson of the USA and to the Rev. Frank Barker, Moravian Tutor/ Warden at U.T.C.W.I.



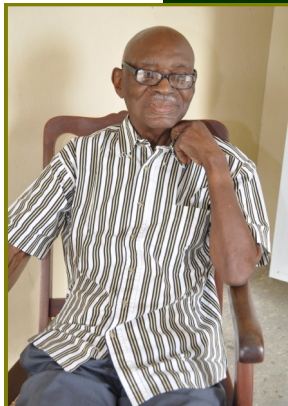
L to R Rev. Dr. Paul Gardner, Rev. Jermaine Gibson, Rev. Germaine Lovelace, Rev. Wayne Reid, Rev. Devon Anglin, Sis. Evelyn Hall, Bro. Lowel Morgan

Quotes of the Day

"I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who conquers his enemies; for the hardest victory is over self." ~ Aristotle

"He who created us without our help will not save us without our consent." John Calvin

60 years of Ordination to the Diaconate for Bishop Neville Brown



Bishop Neville Brown Celebrating 60 years of Ordination

The Rt. Rev. Neville Cleofoster Brown, Bishop of the Unitas Fratrum, on Monday April 11, 2011, marked the 60th Anniversary of his Ordination; and on April 27, 2011 celebrated his 85th birthday. The Moravians of Antigua and indeed of the Eastern West Indies Province, salutes this man of God; a man who served among men.

Bishop Brown on April 11, 2011, marked the 60th anniversary of his ordination. Some members of the ministerial staff and the Conference Office Staff in Antigua, the Chairman of PEC and the Provincial Office Staff, gathered at his home to share with him on the occasion. Bishop Brown, sitting beside his lovely, loving, long-standing and supportive wife, Ida and with tears filling his eyes, thanked God for his faithfulness to him.



Rev. Algernon Lewis bringing Greetings on behalf of the Superintendent of the Antigua Conference Rev. Nigel Daniel

Sixty years in ministry is no mean task. He had to help our people overcome the “little black boy syndrome” and accept that black people could serve



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis Chairman of PEC presenting Bishop with a token of appreciation on behalf of the EWI Province

We salute Bishop Brown! If we were to include the years spent in preparation and

those before he was ordained over three quarters of his life has been spent to the praise and glory of God. What a testimony!



Sis. Menelva Samuel bringing cheer and fond memories



Rev. Bonnie E.B.W. Smith presenting Bishop with a token of appreciation on behalf of the Antigua Conference

as ministers. He served as a man among men, bearing the hardships and the hard knocks of ministry making ministry for us today much easier.



Rev. Adrian Smith administering Holy Communion to Bishop and Sister Brown

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Bishop Neville Brown was ordained a Deacon on April 11, 1951, at Spring Gardens, Antigua, by the Rt. Rev. Peter M. Gubi. He was consecrated a Presbyterian on May 19, 1959 at Estridge, St. Kitts by the Rt. Rev. Peter Gubi. On November 11, 1993, he was consecrated a Bishop of the Unity at Spring Gardens, Antigua by Bishops Neville Neil, John Wilson and Stanley F. Thomas, after being elected Bishop at the Provincial Synod in St. Kitts in 1993.

Bishop Brown served in the following Conferences:

Antigua - 1950 - 1952

Tobago - 1952 - 1954

Antigua - 1954 - 1956

St. Kitts - 1956 - 1961

Antigua - 1961 - 1970

Trinidad - 1970 - 1980

Chairman of PEC 1980 – 1984

Antigua -1984 Superintendent and Pastor of Greenbay/ Five Islands 1984-1993. He was elected Bishop after he retired in July 1993.

The Man

Bishop Neville Brown came from humble beginnings. He was born in the village of Newfield, Antigua, to Walter and Eleanora Brown, and is the eighth of nine siblings. Growing up in rural Antigua at that time, Bishop Brown recalls, was very challenging. Times were hard and life was difficult, but God was his strength and source. In God he found the courage to face life and the challenges of the day. So church became a very important place in his life. Bishop Brown always had a book in his hand. His mother believed he would one day make an important contribution. He however, had to overcome diseases like Malaria and Typhoid as a child. This made them refer to him as the sickly child. His mother died when he was a little boy and he remembers his oldest sister Inez taking care of them after her death. It was his mother's prayer that he would become a minister and serve the Lord. And as destiny would have it, God called him into his ministry. Then God gave him a woman of virtue, called Ida Brown, to stand with him. Together they had six children, two of whom died early.

The Mentor

I ask a few persons who knew Bishop Brown personally to describe him for me. The following is their recollections:

Ethel Knight 86 year old member of the Spring Gardens congregation and a close friend of the family said this of him:

He is a Christian man who loves his family and was dedicated to his work. It was on a bicycle he made his first trip to do ministry in Greenbay. He was not good at riding, and he fell off the bicycle, but he got up brush off his clothes and continued. He really loved the Lord. He was very helpful, always willing to help and give advice. She attributes Bishop Brown's success as a minister to the strong support of his wife over the years. He could not have done it without her.

Sis. Gwendolyn Constant, the 97 year old member of Enon congregation, speaks fondly of the Bishop: I remember serving with him as Sunday School Superintendent. Sometimes when he traveled, he would give me the confirmation class to teach. He is a very good man. He is my cousin you know! He was a quiet gentleman but you had to behave yourself with him. Yes, He loved the Lord and served him faithfully.

Bro. Roland Walker of the Greenbay congregation describes the bishop as a pastor who deeply loves his parishioners. He was indeed a hard worker who laboured tirelessly to bring his people to the saving knowledge of God. He was always willing to go the extra mile to assist others and he has set a high standard for others to follow.

Bishop Brown even at his age and stage is still concerned for the name of his God and the church. He wonders sometimes whether we are keeping the faith alive. But he is comforted when he looks across at the office and sees us (the other ministerial staff) going and coming to the office, he feels the business of the church is continuing and it gives his heart some comfort and ease.

Bishop Neville Cleofoster Brown we love you. We honour you and thank you, for your selfless sacrifice. We thank God for you and may He continue to bless you richly. Indeed may all who come behind you continue to be faithful.



By Rev. Denise Smith-Lewis

PEC NEWS

1. **Ministers in Training Retreat 2011**—The Ministers in Training Retreat will be held at the Provincial Headquarters on Monday, 16th and Tuesday 17th May, 2011.

The Retreat being held is to prepare the Ministers in Training for their assignment in the respective Conferences and also to assist them as they look ahead to concluding their studies at UTCWI and enter into the pastorate.

2. **Summer Assignments** - The Summer Assignments for the Ministers in Training are as follows:

Moise Jean	- Tobago	- May 18 - July 18
Onita Samuel	- Barbados	- May 18 - July 18
Erwin Warner	- St. Kitts	- May 18 - July 18
Catherine Governor	- Virgin Islands	- May 18 - July 18
Yvanne Jean	- Antigua	- June 19 - Aug 19



Condolences

Your prayers are requested for Bro. Edgar Gonsalves Barreiro, on the death of his Sister-in-Law Pauline Gonsalves Barreiro. Pauline passed into the nearer presence of God on Wednesday April 13, 2011 in St. Croix US Virgin Islands.



The PEC expresses sympathy to the family of Sis. Utah Downes, the wife of the late Fitzgerald Downes who passed into the nearer presence of God on Wednesday April 13, 2011 in Barbados.

A Service of Thanksgiving was held on April 19, 2011 at the Sharon Moravian Church in Barbados.

Let us remember the families in our prayers.



Birthday Greetings for the Month of May is extended to:

Bro. Samuel Jacobs	8
Bro. Patmore Smith	10
Sis. Ivy Vessup	10
Sis. Joan Thomas	10
Sis. Karen Bowers-Jones	21
Sis. Deborah Challenger	27
Sis. Menelva Samuel	31



Anniversary Greetings for the month of May is extended to:

Bro. Adrian & Sis. Andrea Smith	14
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A Case of Mistaken Identity

A middle aged woman has a heart attack and is taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she has a near-death experience. During that experience she sees God and asks if this is it. God says no and explains that she has another 30 to 40 years to live.

Upon her recovery she decides to just stay in the hospital and have a face lift, liposuction, breast augmentation, and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair colour. She figured that since she's got another 30 or 40 years she might as well make the most of it.

She walks out the hospital after the last operation and is killed by an ambulance speeding up to the hospital.

She arrives in front of God again and asks, "I thought you said I had another 30-40 years?"

God replied, "Sorry, I didn't recognize you."