

The Information

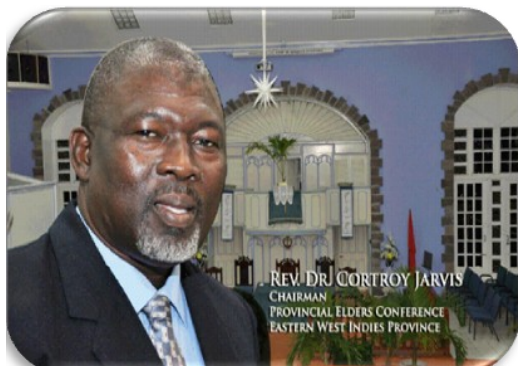
“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” II Timothy 2: V 15 [NIV]

January, 2013



New Year, New Walk with God

As we exit one year and enter a new one, it calls for Reflection and Introspection. Reflection speaks to the whole idea of:



- ◆ Consideration,
- ◆ Thinking,
- ◆ Thought,
- ◆ Contemplation,
- ◆ Deliberation,
- ◆ Rumination and Musing.

Introspection speaks to self examination...The detailed mental examination of your own feelings, thoughts and motives.

Let me therefore pose some questions to us:

- a. Am I any better today than I was last year?
- b. Have I sought to improve myself mentally, physically, financially or spiritually?
- c. Have I been a blessing to others, even as God has blessed me?
- d. Is my cup half full or half empty?
- e. Have I walked in alignment with God's will and God's way during the past year?
- f. Have I allowed my light to shine so that those in the darkness would see Jesus?
- g. Have I been just in all of my dealings, doings and undertakings?
- h. Can I testify like the prophet Amos, that I did, "Let Justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream? (Amos 5:24).
- i. Did I extend the hand of reconciliation and forgave those who wronged me during the year?
- j. Have I sincerely prayed the Lord's prayer and still find it hard to forgive my brother/sister?
The Lord's prayer says in part, And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
- k. When we examine our community with the rise in Gun related crimes, are we part of the problem or are we part of the solution?
- l. Have we sought peace and goodwill or are we mere mischief makers?
- m. If Jesus were to come tonight, this very moment, would we be ready to meet him or would we offer myriad of excuses why we are not ready? We must be always in a state of readiness to meet King Jesus. You see, no one promised us tomorrow. One song writer puts it this way:

*I don't know about tomorrow
I just live from day to day*

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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

PROVINCIAL THEME 2013

**Fulfilling the Mandate
Thematic Focus:
Submit to God's Rule**

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*I don't borrow from its sunshine
For its skies may turn to gray*

*I don't worry about my future
For I know what Jesus said
And today He walks beside me
For He knows what lies ahead*

*Many things about tomorrow
I don't seem to understand
But I know who holds tomorrow
And I know, who holds my hand*

Jesus told a parable in Matthew 25, of 5 wise/5 foolish Virgins. The wise ones took their Lamps with extra oil, while the foolish ones took their Lamps with no oil. Bridegroom delayed—they slumbered and slept. At midnight a cry went up, “Behold the bridegroom cometh. Come to meet him”. Those who were ready went in and the door was shut. The foolish ones then went in search of oil. When they returned, the door was shut. In response to their cry, they heard, “I do not know you. Watch therefore for you know neither the day nor the hour”. (Matt. 25: 12-13).

We all have a past. Some people wish that they could erase the past. Some people curse the past, because it was painful, difficult and challenging, while others embrace the past. You cannot change the past, but you can do something about the future. No matter how difficult the past was, give thanks that God has brought you this far on the journey, that you are here to tell the story of where God took you from.

You can do three (3) things about the past:

You can let it Define you; Destroy you or Develop you.

Ephesians 4: 25-32, speaks of the Rules for the New Life. It says:

²⁵ So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸ Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, ^[b] as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³² and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ^[c]

The text gives Five (5) specific instructions:

1. Take Off Lying - Put on Truth (verse 25).

In times gone by there was a saying, “stick and stones can break my bones, but words can do me no harm”. This saying has no grounding in reality. While some persons might believe it, most if not all of us realize that words can be very destructive, especially falsehood. It hurts deeply when someone deliberately refuses to be truthful and LIE on you. On the other hand, the truth liberates. It frees us from any shackle that enslaved us. Indeed, it brings deliverance. Jesus declares, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8: 31-32).

“²⁵ So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another.”

2. Take Off Sinful Wrath - Put on Righteous Anger (verses 26-27).

The text acknowledges that we all get angry at times, however, the anger must be dealt with swiftly. We ought not to allow the anger to take root in us and destroy our relationship with God.

“²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil.”

3. Take Off Stealing - Put on Sharing (verse 28).

There ought to be a radical shift in our life style. The things we used to do, we will no longer have any appetite for, instead, we begin to do things that will please God.

“²⁸ Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy.”

4. Take Off Doubtful Conversation – Put on Holy Edification (verse 29).

Sometimes, our mouths are filled with negativity. Most things that come from us seek to destroy rather than build up. As we enter into 2013, let us seek to edify or build up each other rather than being destructive.

“²⁹ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, ^[b] as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.”

Take Off Hot Heads - Put on Warm Hearts (verses 30-32).

The text challenges us to put away those things that cause us to be hot headed. Too often, we hold and carry a lot of baggage which weigh us down and cause us to be sick.

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My Experience in the "Holy Woods" (Part III) A Good Moravian and Methodist

This month I will conclude a three-part series on my visit to the Holy Woods while I was on furlough in September. In the first part, I gave a general overview of what one would find at United Theological College and Jamaica compared with what one would find twenty or more years ago. This was accompanied by a presentation I made to the student body on church growth. In the second issue, I reflected on the course offerings at UTC and how they may be impacting ministerial formation of our pastors. I included a presentation I made on the Czech Reformation to the "Church of the Reformation" class. This final issue I will look at morality in the church and discuss a presentation I made at a joint denominational session attended by Baptists, Methodists and Moravians.

Thanks to the social, audio-visual and written media, the proclamation of gospel of the Jesus Christ is accessible 24/7. The move of the Holy Spirit is not confined to certain charismatic communities but is accessible to all Christian churches. The result is a heightened interest in spiritual things. There is a growing desire for more in the Moravian church. Unlike years past, some with renewed zeal are not leaving the Church but are remaining to challenge the complacency associated with "being a Moravian." Some have risen up against the comfort-zone belief that as long I was baptized, confirmed and take communion, I will make it to heaven.

Today, members of the Moravian community are making appeals to pastors and spiritual leaders to avail themselves to the miraculous, the supernatural and the mysterious. A powerful few are not satisfied that the will of God is done unless something extraordinary happens in the context of worship. So we sing, we pray, we seek God, we fast, we express our adoration to God in many ways, we hope that God will show up and show off.

From personal and pastoral experience, I believe and proclaim that we have to move from false security of membership to the assurance of eternal life. Yet as I reflect and research, I recognize that the excitement that is accompanying our charismata, is not effecting a moral change in behaviour. With all the supernatural, there have been more scandals, confessions and moral falls than ever before. Why is it that we are learning of a decrease in Christian virtues and values among the saved?

Why are our spiritual leaders living under clouds of suspicion of questionable ungodly lifestyle? Some are having to vacate posts because of these revelations. There seem to be a disconnect between spirituality and morality.

I have often said to my members that I am more comfortable with someone saying to me "Pastor I don't know Jesus so don't expect me to live according to the Bible" than another who is shouting Hallelujah, Praise the Lord" every Sunday but is openly living in sin. Have expressions of spirituality taken the place of good Christian moral behaviour?

This was a large part of the discussion and presentation that I shared with joint denominational class. I informed the students that the Moravians and Methodists made every attempt to ensure that their members were moral people. Say what you like about the rigours and rituals of the church then, but one thing was for sure, members knew right from wrong. Here's the presentation:

Greetings

Good evening. Let me express my thanks to the Wardens of the Methodists and Moravian communions for facilitating this discussion this evening. I'm also glad to have the Baptists joining in the discussion as well. As you are well aware by now, my doctoral research was on the Methodism and the Moravianism in Barbados and Antigua. Yesterday with the faculty and graduate class, I looked at the task of converting the Africans to Moravianism and Methodism. We looked at the successes and failures of this effort.

Well this evening I want to look at who was considered a good Methodist or a good Moravian by 1914 standards.

EVANGELICAL BLACK

The Baptist Horace Russell interestingly observed that as a result of Christian missions in the Caribbean that for an extended time there arose a stereotype or image of the West Indian Christian. He referred to this stereotype as the "Christian Black." The Christian Black was simply a "Black moral person." According to Russell this Christian Black "became, for the European a symbol of true West Indian, and in time a model for future understanding and development of African and Africans."

This Christian Black, historians have since argued was no more than a European Christian of African descent who happened to be geographically located in the Caribbean. Because the Moravians and Methodists in Antigua and Barbados were intentional in ensuring that their followers were true to evangelicalism, a more accurate description of them would be Evangelical Black.

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Congratulations

The PEC
congratulates Mr. and
Mrs. Myron
Floyd who

were united in Marriage on December 8, 2012. The wedding ceremony took place at the Montgomery Moravian Church, Bethel, Tobago.



My Experience in the "Holy Woods" (Part III)
A Good Moravian and Methodist
(Cont'd from Page 3)

What was the mark of this Evangelical Black?

1. Overcome an African past
2. Adhere to Christian ideals
3. Become an ambassador of evangelicalism

These were all part of the characteristics of evangelicalism that I mentioned last evening.

It was very important for the Moravians and the Methodists that the behaviour of the former slaves reflected the Christian ideals of an evangelical. The three main behavioural patterns that the Methodists and Moravians struggled with were:

1. Sexual purity
2. Sobriety
3. Civility

Sexual Purity

While missionaries were interested in many Christian values like truth-telling, godly entertainments, etc., there was clearly an obsession with sexual purity.

"West Indian sexual ethics were, by British Evangelical standards, scandalously lax." Osbourne and Johnston.

Let us look specifically at the views of Wesley and Zinzendorf on sexuality.

Wesley

Wesley's view was different from most evangelicals. He believed that his followers should remain single rather than marry. He believed that when one was converted one received a gift of continence which enabled one to remain pure as a single person. However if one were married before conversion one should continue to satisfy the sexual wants of one's partner. But you should marry only cannot maintain purity of singleness. (Works of Wesley, vol 11, 456-465)

Henry Abelove, *The Evangelist of Desire: John Wesley and the Methodist* (Stanford University Press, 1990)."

Singleness according to Wesley made you more suitable to be a worker for God. He later accepted married people as being able to be holy. And he himself got married.

Methodist ministers always arrived as single men. And this caused problems because they found it difficult to find suitable wives often marrying in the planter class.

Methodists did not discourage marriage among their followers, but they were very concerned about purity in single life. Sexuality was, however, a private matter. Unlike

the Moravians, they didn't have too much open discussion on sexuality.

Zinzendorf

Zinzendorf was far more open on sexuality. Zinzendorf wrote about the embodiment of Christ in explicitly sexual terms. The sexual terms that Zinzendorf used are surprising.

Craig Atwood : "Sleeping in the arms of Jesus" *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 8 no. 1 (July 1997).

The Moravians preached that "the sexual act itself is the highest expression of spirituality." But you need to be married and have sex only with someone who is converted.

Both Methodists and Moravians in the Caribbean had to manage the sexuality of their followers. The Moravians were far more obsessed than the Methodist on recording deviance on the matter of sexuality.

What both the Moravians and Methodists found was that they were not able to control the sexual expressions of neither females nor males.

Female Sexuality

They intended to create this pure, holy, chaste Christian female.

The Moravian instruction said: "in many countries, peculiar difficulties are thrown in the way of the unmarried females by the circumstances under which they have been brought up."

But the missionaries found about female sexuality

1. Females were having sex from an early age 12-15.
2. Unmarried candidates for members were pregnant
3. Females were having sex with married men
4. Female were having multiple partners
5. Females were having sexual relations with whites
6. Married females were having sex and bearing children for men who were not their husbands.

The efforts to control these only exhausted the missionaries. Is that still true today?

Male sexuality

Male sexuality was just as challenging. The Black male was stereotyped from slavery as the Black stud. Kempadoo, who wrote on male sexuality, said that "the darker the man is, the more sexually attractive he is considered."

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My Experience in the "Holy Woods" (Part III)
A Good Moravian and Methodist
(Cont'd from Page 5)

The missionaries hoped that the word of God would curb this free sexuality.

1. Males were polygamous. They had many wives.
2. Christian male leaders were living in adultery.
3. Males were having sex with females who were married.

The hope was that faithful marriage would help.

Moravians even had an award system for those who were married. They gave a pig for every child born in wedlock.

Punishment for deviance

When the Methodists and Moravians realized that they couldn't control the followers they resorted to punishment.

These were the main forms of punishment

1. Exclusions became very common for both the Methodists and Moravians. This started to decrease after a while
2. Refusal to baptize children
3. Death was likened to punishment from God

Because some of the pastors themselves struggled with sexuality it became more difficult for the church to discipline their members.

Could it be that the aggression of the Moravians and Methodists to Christianize the sexuality of the former slaves was a western imposition which failed to engage European and African sexuality? Have we gotten any closer in challenging members to follow the Christian ideals of sexuality?

Sobriety

One of other issues that reflected an Evangelical Black was that of soberness. One of the hallmarks of a good Methodist or Moravian was abstinence from any strong drink. The Methodists were more passionate about members not getting drunk than by the matter of sexual purity. Drunkenness was viewed as not having conquered the Christian life.

The Moravians were therefore instructed to counter "the fatal use of spirituous liquors which is so common among barbarous nations."

But drunkenness was prevalent. Drunkenness was blamed for personal injury, and, physical and verbal abuse of women.

By 1856 the Moravians resolved that church members should neither sell nor get permits to sell alcohol; otherwise they would be disciplined.

Temperance societies were formed in an attempt to encourage sobriety.

A large number of persons who once used spirituous liquors immoderately, have entirely relinquished the use. Some who were once intemperate have been reclaimed; and in some instances an adoption of the principles of the temperance society has been followed by the vital enjoyment of religion.

The Methodists insisted on having their own temperance societies so that they could have complete control. The Methodist missionaries launched the slogan "cold water drinkers," as motivation for their members to stop drinking.

The Moravians believed that the whites encouraged blacks to drink to keep them as "beasts of burdens."

Again some of the missionaries became drinkers. A Methodist missionary who was the Superintendent of the Antigua circuit became a "slave of strong drink." Many Moravian missionaries who supposedly used rum innocently suffered premature deaths.

Drinking was commonplace at funerals and weddings.

Civility

The Methodists and Moravians were concerned about their members knowing how to behave themselves in public. They were supposed to be decent, law-abiding citizens who acquired homes, spoke well and avoided certain places of entertainment.

Moravians and Methodists encouraged members to join and participate in Friendly societies both in Antigua and Barbados. These helped to save money to get ahead.

However, while the Moravians were a little bit more lenient on the matter of secret societies, the Methodists took a very clear position against them.

But the Evangelicals eventually formed their own Christian societies to achieve similar objectives. There was a plethora of social groups, Wesley Guild, Boys and Girls Brigade, Women's guilds, Men's groups, KDS, Dorcas Society etc.

These societies were formed to teach the girls to be ladies and the boys to be gentlemen.

Along with the formal instruction in schools, the Methodists and Moravians were expected to be responsible and intelligent.

Moravians said: the intellectual condition of the peasants of Antigua will compare favourably with many European countries. Our schools stand high in the esteem of government."

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Ordination Service for
Rev. Camille James



New Year, New Walk with God
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We are challenged to forgive as Christ has forgiven and to be kind to one another. There must be a new heart implanted in us.

... ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you."

As we leave from one year into the next, let us resolve to be the men and women that God desire for us to be. Let us walk good; Walk with God and Walk with one another. Let us Bless each other. Jesus leaves us with these words: Let your light so shine before men, so that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven (Matt. 5:16).

Happy and Blessed New Year to you.

My Experience in the "Holy Woods"(Part III)
A Good Moravian and Methodist
(Cont'd from Page 6)

The Methodist said:

Not only is the ordinary negro with whom we come into contact in our work a sane and sensible person, but the careers of many of our young men have shown that there exists in the race a capacity for intellectual work and accomplishment of which no European need be ashamed.

Methodist Superintendent wrote:

Christianity leads the way to all other improvements if they are to be permanent. Christianity may employ her auxiliaries but she is the Parent of good and Christianity is winning and her genius is love.

The argument of the Methodists was that when you are intelligent you do not need emotional stimulation from questionable forms of entertainment. Therefore they frowned on dances and other frivolous activities. The Moravians believed similarly. Both groups tried to replace these dances with evening entertainment of intellectual stimulation. This apparently worked for some.

Conclusion

Generally the image of the evangelical did not quite fit the formerly enslaved Africans in the Caribbean. They continued to freely practice their sexuality, they drank as habit and for leisure, and they gravitated towards other means of entertainment. However, they used the tools they were given them to assist to advance themselves socially.

Today we continue to wrestle with issues of morality. Perhaps the time has come for structured Christian Education throughout the Province on sexuality, sobriety and civility. Clearly we need to have more than a passing conversation. And even an increase in spiritual interest has not resulted considerable behavioural change.

Respectfully Submitted by
 Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts

Unity Board Update

- ◆ Brother Paul Gardner completed his tenure as President of the Unity Board on December 31, 2012. Brother Robert Hopcroft, President of the P.E.C. of the British Province has been elected to succeed Brother Gardner.
- ◆ The Moravian Church in Haiti has been accepted by the Unity Board as a Mission Area. The Jamaica Province has been asked to supervise the Mission work in Haiti.
- ◆ Hurricane Sandy has done severe damage to the church and affected the members in Haiti. We have been able to get financial commitment for relief and emergency response through the British Mission Agency, the German Mission Agency and the Moravian Church Foundation.



Unity Board Members in Herrnhut, 2012



NEW HERRNHUT MORAVIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 275 YEARS OF WITNESS

The *Unitas Fratrum* "Unity of Brethren" better known as the Moravian Church, delineates its origins to the early fifteenth (15th) century in the regions of Bohemia and Moravia. The Moravian Church is known in Christianity to have the most impressive missions movement of the 18th and 19th centuries. Our progression in the mission field helped pave the way for later missionaries, and impacted icons such as William Carey, George Whitefield, and the Wesley brothers.

The Moravian Community was not without its trials and tribulations. Persecution and oppression are marks of this mission, but thanks be to God, it did not lead to our extinction, but to our rebirth. We are a Church, "Transformed, United and Victorious in Christ." We've been battered, tried and proven and we're still here praising God's holy name.

Over the past five hundred and fifty years, the Moravian movement lives on. We are passionate and committed to winning souls for the Lamb. We strive to live our motto every day, *"In Essentials, Unity; in Non-Essentials, Liberty; In all things, Charity."*

This year marks the 275th Anniversary of the New Herrnhut Moravian Congregation; and we've chosen for our theme: ***"The Bell Still Tolls."*** The bell is significant

because it summoned our forbearers from the fields of labor, to join together, for times of prayer and praise and even in



times of revolt. The bell still serves as a call to worship at New Herrnhut on Sunday mornings at 9:25 a.m. and it rings out the old, and rings in the New Year as we celebrate our new beginnings in Bethel, "The House of God." The bell that sits at the front of our sanctuary is 275 years old, and it is still going strong."

The New Herrnhut Moravian Church is the first Moravian Mission in the Western Hemisphere. Its Sanctuary, Christian Education Building and Manse, sit on a hill that was known as Estate Pausanaberg, *"Trumpet Hill"*, which was later changed to Estate New Herrnhut.

The sanctuary was built in 1737. Its walls are approximately eighteen (18) inches thick. The roof is called a tray roof and was repaired in 1999 after it was damaged by termites and the weather.

The Christian Education Building houses



the Church Office, Pastors Office, Library, Bathrooms and two Meeting Rooms on the upstairs.

The first floor is currently used as kitchen and hall. Every effort is being made to repair and maintain these structures as close to their original construction as possible.

The theme for our 275th Anniversary Celebration, *"The Bell Still Tolls"* was submitted by Sis. Arline David Swan. We pray God's continuous blessings upon her and God's people everywhere as we fulfill the Great Commission. *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world"* **Matthew 28:19-20.**

God has been faithful; and has sustained the New Herrnhut Congregation with His grace, and by supplying our daily needs from our inception to the present. During 2012, the New Herrnhut Congregation achieved much fulfillment of our vision and mission statements by touching our community with the Word of God, and making Christ known by ministering to the various needs of others through a broad range of forums and activities in celebration of our 275th Anniversary. Additionally, the Church remained mindful of the Eastern West Indies Province's vision and mission statements through a plethora of services, sermons and meditations to enforce and invigorate transformation and unity in our growing faithfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ. We were on a course to celebrate, confront and address the challenges to produce a year-long celebration of this humble ancestor of the Moravian Church in the western hemisphere.

January, 2012 was a month of regular and special meetings

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for the Deeper Life Services scheduled for mid-February. However, education - an initial mission of the Church - led to meeting the needs of our members and others by sponsoring a tax preparation workshop on January 11th. In addition to Church members, numerous residents from throughout the Island received the highly valued experience of personal and business tax preparation. The audience interacted with the presenter who also provided insight to property, inheritance and other tax related matters. The general feedback was that future sessions can benefit more people and equip them with the ability to prepare their own taxes, thereby avoiding pitfalls and return losses due to inadequate and improper preparation of documents.

The month of February offered a more celebratory production on the 12th with the Senior Choir Sunday – a Sermon in Song – during the regular service and the Anniversary choral Concert held that evening by the Music Department. The participants included senior and youth members as hosts. The Senior Choir, Men's Chorale, Gospel Choir, Women's Chorus and A Capella Niambi rendered 2 hours of inspirational, festive and God - glorifying music for an overflow and enthusiastic audience.

The month of March was filled with Lenten activities including the regular Wednesday services, Sunday Lawn Evening Services and a Women's Fellowship Prayer Breakfast on the 17th at which one of Memorial's Acolytes, Sis. Bereniece Jonas offered the meditation. On the 31st which was Transfer Day, the Annual Easter Concert was held. It should be noted that this holiday commemorates the formal transfer of the Islands from Denmark to the U.S. seven (7) months after its purchase for \$25 million in gold.

On April 11th, as the Lenten season came to a close, another anniversary workshop was conducted. The focus was on estate planning. The audience, made up of Church members and interested community residents, gained a greater insight into wills, deeds, gifts, bequests and other matters of distributing ones property prior to mortal passing. On Sunday, April 15th, the Deeper Life Services scheduled for mid-February.

Young Adults Ministry (YAM) hosted a luncheon for the youth in order to demonstrate appreciation for their involvement and to encourage greater participation by others. On the 21st, an evening of seafood delights offered to patrons, native, regional, continental and other cuisine and delicacies, with demands for similar feasts in the near future. St. Thomas Carnival was in full swing. However, it did not dampen the spirit of the enthusiastic participants and audience at the Women's Fellowship "Singspiration" held on April 22nd.

During May, the YAM conducted a Fry Fish/Johnny Cake activity. On the 9th, V.I. Conference Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Robert addressed the History Forum audience on the theme, "A History of the Moravian Church From 1732 to Present." The presentation segued through the sub themes – Hope to the Oppressed 1732 through 1848; The Meaning of Freedom 1849 to 1917 and Prosperity and the Struggle for Independence 1918 to the present. On the 31st, which was a national holiday – Memorial Day/Spend Day was held with a creative segments such as cultural dances including the Maypole and Quadrille were introduced, unusual local fruit drinks and 13 flavors of locally made ice cream. While the patrons enjoyed the native and regional cuisine, they were allowed to participate in the various performing and culinary arts demonstrations.

On June 6th, Dr. Eddie Donoghue addressed an interdenominational mix at New Herrnhut on the theme, "Reclaiming our Heritage." He shed some light on the importance of continuing the effort to have Moravian lands returned to the Church. To the surprise of many, they developed a greater appreciation of the importance of the New Herrnhut cemetery that holds the remains of great historical figures such as the renowned evangelist, Brother Cornelius.

Planning continued during the month of July for the 30th Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province. On the first day of arrivals, the New Herrnhut Congregation hosted the arriving delegations with lunch and dinner as registration was facilitated on sight.

September provided the opportunity to engage several generations in interactive discussions around Anniversary PRE-Labor Day & Back-to-School Bonfire on the 2nd. Senior citizens shared experiences of their youth ranging from chores and school to family, intergenerational relations and recreation/cultural activities. Comparisons were made regarding then and now. A highlight of the evening was the telling of local folktales rendered by an apprentice storyteller, freshman college student, Yohance Kaleem Henley who received numerous rounds of enthusiastic applause and compliments.

The October 12th Fish Fry served up a wide variety of fresh, locally caught, reef and seine fish. For many it was more than an evening of dining, but they learned the names of many of the day's catch.

On December 8th, the Island Conference held on St. Thomas, gave honorable mention and recognition of the 275th Anniversary being celebrated by New Herrnhut.

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In culmination of our 275th Anniversary Celebrations, we hosted a lecture series from December 10-12, 2012. The facilitator was Mr. Jon Sensbach, a professor of history at the University of Florida, where he teaches courses on the African Diaspora, religion, and colonialism in the Americas. He has published two books on the connections between the Moravian Church, and people of African descent in America: *A Separate Canaan: The Making of an Afro-Moravian World in North Carolina*, and *Rebecca's Revival: Creating Black Christianity in the Atlantic World*.

Professor Sensbach lectured on the theme, "The Legacy of the Moravian Church in Missions and Rebecca Protten. On the 10th, he spoke on the sub-theme "Rebecca's Trial." On the 11th his sub-theme was "A People's History of New Herrnhut" and on the 12th, the sub-theme was "New Herrnhut as a Chapter in Moravian and World History." One of the most memorable notes of Professor Sensbach's presentation is that New Herrnhut is the first black protestant church in the new world. Each night of Professor Sensbach's presentation, the audience included researchers, historians, other scholars and members of various Christian communities. Several questions were asked that allowed for meaningful dialogue.

On December 13th, the Rev. Dr. Conrad Spencer, who celebrated his 30th year of ordained ministry in the Moravian Church, EWIP, brought the message. Dr. Spencer indicated that "when the bell tolls, it is an Advent call; a call to keep watch for the glorious return of our Lord; a call to solace and compassion. The bell calls us to freedom: freedom from sin, freedom to worship God, to love and serve Him; thus, experiencing His matchless love and mercy."

At Marriott's Frenchman's Reef and Morning Star Beach Resort, the Anniversary Banquet was attended by over 275 persons. Seven members of the Moravian community were recognized for their work and dedicated service to the church and the community. They were Rena Thomas (New Herrnhut) Hilderene George (Memorial), Mary Stephen (Nisky), Elsie Thomas-Trotman (Moravian Churches - St. John), Stefan Jurgen (Memorial/Community Member), Howard Francis (New Herrnhut) and Michael Francis (New Herrnhut).

The Rev. Dr. Paul Gardner, President of the Jamaica Province and the Chairman of the Unity Board keynoted the affair on the theme, "The Mission must go on." Another highlight of the evening was the Delegate to the US Congress' (The Honorable Donna M. Christiansen) pres-

entation to the honorees and a plaque placing the anniversary of New Herrnhut into the US Congressional Records. The next day, the March of Witness was held with members from all the Moravian congregations along with members of other denominations. The marchers stepped, sang and danced for 3/4 mile from Tutu Park Mall to New Herrnhut, bringing to closure the formal celebration - remembering that "The Bell Still Tolls."

The charge echoed by our Pastor, the Rev. Anique Elmes-Matthew was, "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised! He is worthy of all our praises for 275 years of ministry and leadership of the New Herrnhut Moravian Church in the Western Hemisphere. We are thankful to God and to those who inspired us and led the charge in winning souls for the Lamb. Over the past 275 years, we journeyed through the seasons and persevered through the storms of life, and today we continue to praise God, knowing that we are kept by the Lord God Almighty. Let us then be fervent in our prayers, circumspect in our walk and faithful in our service.

God has a wonderful plan for the New Herrnhut Moravian Congregation; thus, we are challenged to remain diligent, devoted and disciplined as God does a new work in us. I embrace the words of the author who stated, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." My family in Christ, dream big, step big and do big things for God. There are many challenges ahead of us, but let us continue to grow deeper, aim higher and serve better until we become the church God intends us to be.

As we celebrate our 275th Anniversary under the theme, "The Bell Still Tolls," we are reminded of the sacrifice of the saints who have gone on before us. We are reminded that God still calls us to faithful service.

My husband, Charles Colin and our family, join me in congratulating all the honorees and extending best wishes and prayers for the family of our New Herrnhut Moravian Church.

Be faithful to God, as God is faithful to us.

A Luta continua, victoria ascerta. "The journey continues, victory is certain."

275th Anniversary Committee Members

Conchita Benjamin – Chairperson

Cheryl Thomas – Vice Chairperson

Arline Swan – Secretary

Joycelyn Claxton – Treasurer

Pacita Donovan – Ass't Treasurer

Rena Thomas // Corey Joseph // Verna Rollins // Eltera Mercer // Patricia Carty

Laurie Smithen // Allison Bussue // Sylvia Thomas // Michael Francis

Scribes: Rev. Anique Elmes-Matthew, Bro. Glen Davis and Sis. Conchita Benjamin



Hymn of the Month
January ~ March 2013
Mikie Roberts (Rev) Chair,
Provincial Hymnal Committee.



As we begin 2013, we continue observing within the Province our hymn of the month. For this first three months, we will give attention to the following three (3) hymns. The hymns are:

1. Father, give us now thy blessing (#544) is the hymn of the month for **January**. The recommended tune is also the set tune which is **SICILIAN MARINERS**. This hymn falls in the 'Close of

Worship' section. The text of the hymn is a prayer with a series of petitions that draws attention to what God can do for the faith community from one week to the next.

2. O Saviour, the truest, the best of all friends (#166) is the hymn of the month for **February**. The recommended tune is also the set tune which is **O URSprung**. As we sing this hymn might we be reminded of the immeasurable love of God which was manifested in the life, suffering and final victory of Jesus Christ. This is a fitting focus as we also begin the 40 day Lenten journey during the month of February.

3. Praise God forever (#391) is the hymn of the month for **March**. The recommended tune is also the set tune which is **GOTT SEI GELOBET**. It is hoped that as we sing this hymn we will be able to join with our Moravian brothers and sisters throughout the unity as we celebrate the 556th anniversary of the worldwide Moravian Church. This hymn reminds us that as a Church we are also Jesus' chosen flock.

The Provincial Hymnal Committee expresses its sincere thanks for all who see to it that the hymn of the month is observed within the congregations. For 2013, we will also continue to share with congregations a number of revised litanies that have been completed thus far. Our main goal this year is to complete all of the editorial work on both the hymns and litanies in time for the Jamaican Provincial synod which is scheduled for April 2013. We are also working towards securing permission from all of the copyright holders

As always we continue to seek your prayerful support as we move ahead each month to these goals and to ultimately produce our Caribbean Moravian hymnal.

Here are the words for the hymn of the month for January:

87.87

Father, give us now thy blessing,
 Take us all beneath thy care;
 May we all enjoy thy presence,
 And thy tender mercies share.

Let the seed which has been scattered,
 Bring forth plenteous fruit to thee;
 Let this day be crowned with praises,
 Now, and in eternity.

Keep us through the week from danger;
 May we all by thee be led;
 Grant that for our souls and bodies
 We may still have daily bread.

Clothe and feed us, guard and bless us,
 Bless our friends and all we love;
 All through life, O Lord, be near us,
 Then receive us all above.

Then we hope to praise thee better,
 When we join the heavenly host;
 But e'en now our praise would give thee,
 Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Sicilian Mariners

1863. E. Holde

PEC MEETING

The Pec will meet in the Barbados Conference from January 25 - 27, 2013.

The Superintendents Conference will be held in Barbados from January 27 starting at 6.p.m. - January 28, 2013.

Quote of the Day

A New Heart

"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so you will obey my laws and do whatever I command."

Ezekiel 36:25-27





The Two have become One



The Grenada Mission has registered its first wedding. When the Moravian mission team rolled up the Mt. Tranquil hill top on that fateful Friday evening of 15th July, 2011, Miss Dale Celestine never knew that it was history in the making. Miss Celestine sat on her porch and listened as Rev Hilton Joseph delivered a powerful word from God which was sharp and powerful and really cut through her bone and marrow and left her weeping. Sis Hyacinth Taylor observed her throughout the worship experience and went to her assistance. The journey to life began as she related her almost twenty years of decreased immobility to Sis Hyacinth, who enlightened her of the fact that healing is the children's bread; however you must be a child of God not merely His creation. She said she never gave her life to Christ before, even though she was in this state for so long because she doesn't know what it's about. To cut a long story short, the inevitable took place, as she responded to the call of God and accepted Jesus into her heart. From that day, Sis. Dale Celestine never looked back, and therefore her common-law husband Br. Alvin Thomas St Bernard knew he had to do things differently if he wanted to stay around her, because his partner's eyes are now opened to truth, as she kept asking for the Lord to "open the eyes of her heart" in song. Br. Alvin St Bernard didn't want to depart from his thirty plus years of investment, as he saw his darling going steadfastly after her new found lover. Therefore he began to seek the Lord also and his eyes begun to be opened to God's truth, and declared that he wants to get out of this dirty life. Attending Sunday morning worship, midweek bible study and prayer meeting, even all night prayer vigil have become Sis Dale's passion.



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After thirty plus years, Mr. Alvin Thomas St. Bernard and Miss Dale Celestine, have finally covenanted with God and each other, "until death do us part". At ages fifty-five and sixty, they feel they have experienced the worst already and only the best can come now, therefore

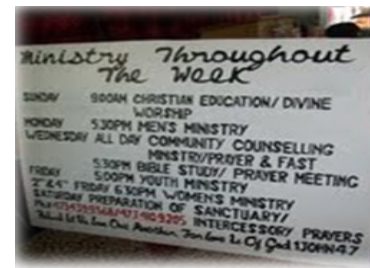
Br. Alvin begun his testimony by saying that he thought he had a good time in life already, but Saturday, 15th December, 2012, was the best day of his life and he wishes every-day could be like that day. He didn't realize that obedience to God's laws could only redound to blessings and joy.

Officiating at the wedding ceremony were: Rev. Emasseau Pierre, Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Grenada, Rev Devon Mannix, Moravian Minister representing Tobago Conference and Missionary Hyacinth Taylor. It was truly a memorable day for the community. The first part of the reception was held at the church and continued at the residence in real community style. Sis Dale says she never knew people cared and respected them so much, the wedding brought the family together. Sis Hyacinth keeps pointing her back to the word of God that she'll see that it is because God has been added to their equation that they



are now experiencing a different result. I ask us to pray for the family and the many other families who continue to live in darkness, not

only there, but all over the world, even though God has sent His son Jesus as the light of this world. It is truly wonderful what the Lord is doing and it is marvelous in His sight. How great is our God, and greatly to be praised.



The Grenada Mission Sanctuary



Photo Gallery of the Dedication of the First Phase of the Tortola Sanctuary





**Birthday Greetings
for the month of January is
extended to:**

Sis. Margaret John	04
Sis. Jovanca Lewis-Smith	05
Bro. Glenvil Gregory	08
Sis. Sonia Spencer	11
Bro. George Ramsay	27
Bro. Ray Joseph	27
Sis. Andrea Smith-Lorde	29



To
Sis. Hyacinth Taylor who celebrated her birthday
on December 10, 2012



**Anniversary Greetings
for the month of January is
extended to:**

Bro. Nevin Lewis and Sis Billie Sterling Lewis 05



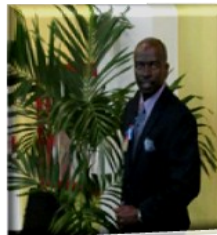
"The Cana Moravian family anticipates with joy the upcoming year, as 2013 marks the Church's 150th Anniversary year. Guided by the theme, "Affirming the Past, Celebrating the Present, Charting the Future", we will begin our year long sesquicentennial celebration with a Service of Thanksgiving to God.

This service will take place on Sunday, 24th February 2013 at 4:00p.m in the Cana Moravian Church sanctuary, Swetes Village, St. Paul's, Antigua."

All are invited to attend and join with us in communal praise to God. Moreover, we crave your prayers and that of the Provincial family, as we continue in our endeavour to offer Christian witness and hope in the village of Swetes, the wider Antiguan society, and throughout the world.

Appointment

The Rev. Algernon Lewis has been appointed Acting Superintendent of the Antigua Conference effective, January 01, 2013.



Please remember our brother in prayer, as he responds to the call of God and prepare to assume this new responsibility.

On behalf of the Province, The PEC expresses heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing Superintendent of the Antigua Conference, the Rev. Nigel Daniel. May God continue to bless his ministry.

Story Corner

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey.

He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

MORAL :

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a steppingstone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up.

Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred - Forgive.
2. Free your mind from worries - Most never happens.
3. Live simply and appreciate what you have.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less from people but more from yourself.



Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province Provincial Women's Conference 2013

Theme: Daughter of Virtue: Submit to the Sovereignty of God



Calling All Women!

- To consider their ways
- To embrace a lifestyle change
- To come under the rule of God

*Wednesday, 17th - Sunday 21st July,
2013*

*The Grand Royal Antiquan Resort
St. John's Antigua*

*Keynote Speaker:
Pastor Lucille Harris
Presenters:*

*Rev. Denise Smith-Lewis
Rev. Belinda Manswell-Daniel*

*Please Contact the Minister of Christian
Education for further information.*

Hotel Rates:

Mountain View—Single Occupancy US\$105.00/ Double Occupancy US\$192.00 per room, per night.

3rd person in the room US\$75.00 per night

Day Rate —US\$55.00

Room Rates are inclusive of 22.5% tax and service

Final payment on or before 29th March, 2013.

A **late Fee** of US\$ 50.00 will be charged after 29th March, 2013.

Rooms consist of one king bed or two double beds



Happy New Year!



Moravian Multipurpose Complex

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Conference Center & Apartments



Contact us

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