

# The Information

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Timothy 4:2

February, 2016



## Why do people leave the Church

One disappointment I have had in ministry is watching people come to church, get excited for a time, then disappear. You spend energy and heart on people, grow to love them and get excited about them, and suddenly they are nowhere to be found.

What is even more disappointing is when Pastors seem not to care whether people leave the Church or not. A Shepherd takes care of the sheep. Some are wounded; some are bruised; some are weak; some are strong; some are confused and disoriented; some feel disappointed; some are frustrated; some feel that they are victimized and disregarded; some are able to ride over any and every storm; some feel unloved; some are wayward; some are disobedient; while others, are loved and favoured and seem to be the apple of the Shepherd's eye.



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis  
Chairman of PEC

The biggest disappointment is not people who transfer to another church. I feel good if it helps them grow better in their relationship with Christ. I am reflecting about people who quit going to church altogether. They are in the front door one day and they are out of the back door the next.

The question is what happened to them? Why do they leave? These are questions that one should not take lightly. Serious research must be done to find out what went wrong. There ought not to be just an emotional response, but one that is based on facts and immersed in reality. One must not just skim the surface, rather, it is important to dig deep. Permit me therefore to share a few reasons why people leave the Church:

**Too many persons are injured in the Church.** People inside the church can be cruel. I hate when that happens, but it's true. These people experienced some of those persons, and they could not move passed it.

**People have a lifestyle change.** These people had a lifestyle change, such as a divorce or re-marriage or they move to a new community and never re-connected with a church.

## 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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*Why do people leave the Church?*  
*Cont'd from page 1*

**Lack of forgiveness in the Church!** We all have our faults and imperfections. We mess up! We made a mistake that may be public or at least we feel that it will be known and the Church, the place that should dispense grace appears to either refuse to or they feel that it would not. Many times when a person feels that way it is more perception than reality, but the way a person feels about him/herself may determine whether they remain committed to church.

**Some people come into the Church with an agenda.** They were pursuing an issue of power or a position and when their demands were not met and they could not overpower the system, they left. Such persons needed to be converted to Christ first before seeking position or power.

**Some persons never get grounded or connected in the Church.** These people never get connected with others on a deeper level. As a result, they never felt as if they were a part of the church. Such persons never remain in the Church too long.

As Shepherds, we need to do all we can to help and disciple people. In turn, a disciple, disciple others. Knowing why they leave may be helpful. There are some issues that are out of our control, but there are many things which we can deal with and which we must deal with as a matter of concern. The more we understand the more we can help people as they experience issues in their lives.

As Shepherd's, we should be deeply concerned when one member leaves the Church. We should feel it in our bones and should want to find out why. We should go searching or seeking after them. The three parables Jesus enunciated in Luke 15 about the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin and the Lost Son become very applicable in this discussion. In fact, one of those parables is suffice to drive home the point. Allow me to quote the parable of the Lost Sheep: "And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

<sup>4</sup>What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

<sup>5</sup>And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

<sup>6</sup>And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

<sup>7</sup>I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." (Luke 15:3-7)

This is the Biblical mandate for all Shepherds and those whom they lead in the name of Jesus, the Christ.

One of the things the Bible speaks about persons who know Jesus is this; "the people that know their God shall be strong and do exploits." (Daniel 11:32). However, in any area of life disappointments will come. There are times when we will fail and come short of the glory of God. Denis Watley said one time, "Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end. Failure is something we can avoid only by saying nothing, doing nothing and being nothing."

Jesus told His followers, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Jesus did not shy from telling His followers about the troubles they would face. In fact, He told them the world would hate them (John 15:18-21); see also (Matthew 10:22-23 and 2 Cor. 2:15-16). But Jesus' forecast was tempered with cheer. He followed His prediction of trouble with a sparkling word of encouragement: He has overcome the world. Jesus is greater than any trouble we face.

Without encouragement, hardship becomes meaningless, and our will to go on wanes. The prophet Elijah struggled with discouragement (1 Kings 19:3-10), and so do we. It is important to remember that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against...the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12). This truth makes encouragement all the more important. It is not just that we face the world's displeasure; we are caught in a spiritual battle. When we are encouraged in Christ, we have strength to put on our spiritual armour and remain steadfast.

Without encouragement, life would soon feel pointless and burdensome. Without encouragement, we can be overwhelmed by the very real pains of our lives. Without encouragement, we feel unloved. Without encouragement, we begin to think that God is a liar or is unconcerned with our welfare. So, the Bible tells us to encourage one another, to remind each other of the truth that God loves us, that God equips us, that we are treasured, that our struggles are worth it.

Proverbs 16:24 says, "Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." I challenge us to remember, "we can't scale fish until they're caught".

**Congratulatory Message to  
The Rev. Esther Moore-Roberts on the  
occasion of her 25th Anniversary  
of Ordination.**



Earl Nightingale once said, “The Key that unlocks energy is desire. It’s also the Key to a long and interesting life. If we expect to create any drive, any real force within ourselves, we have to get excited.” I believe that desire was at the heart of the Rev. Esther Moore-Roberts. She has a desire for God in her own unique way.

Today, we thank God for Jesus and the blood that heals and makes us whole. We thank God for the transforming message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which has made a difference in the life of Sis. Esther Moore-Roberts. The Eastern West Indies Province has been richer for the unselfish service offered by Sis. Moore-Roberts.

Sis. Moore-Roberts had her formative years as a Pastor/Minister of Christian Education in Trinidad, where she served with distinction. Since her Call to the Tobago Conference, she has served in many different capacities to include Minister of Christian Education, Pastor and Superintendent. She is very sound theologically and she takes her time and prepares well in whatever she is doing. I remember presenting her to the Bishop on the night of her Ordination on July 22, 1990 at the Moriah Moravian Church. She must be congratulated on staying the course as she celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination. She has endeared herself to the membership of our Church and Community.

She is also a family woman. As Chairman of PEC, I had the distinct honour of being the officiating Pastor at her wedding when she and Bro. Rudolph Roberts were united in holy matrimony at the Montgomery Moravian Church in Tobago.

The Tobago Conference and indeed the Eastern West Indies Province are richer for having such a wonderful person, Pastor, educator, counselor, leader, Superintendent and friend within the Church. To you I say Sis. Esther, Continue to connect and reconnect to persons within and around the community. Continue to call the community of faith to make itself relevant where it is planted. Continue to let others know that the Church does not exist in a vacuum.

It has to minister to real people as they face the challenges and the vicissitudes of life. I challenge you, never to lose your zeal and determination to tell people of the love of God, through Jesus Christ. Our young people are crying out for guidance and are looking for role models. You must be that model. You need to model before our people, what God would have them to become.

On behalf of the Eastern West Indies Province, we wish you every blessing as you celebrate this milestone in your Ministry. Sis. Esther, remember this, God did not call you, for you to turn back. The journey has just begun. Congratulations and may God Bless you more than you can ever imagine. Congratulations and walk good my Sister!

Best Regards

Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis  
Chairman of PEC





Hymn of the Month for February, 2016  
Rev. Dr. Mikie Roberts  
Director, Provincial Hymnal Committee.



With the arrival of the month of February, the Christian community embarks on the 40 day journey of Lent. Ash Wednesday observances will mark the start of this most solemn season. Awe remember our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection and as we embark on this year's Lenten season, ***Follow His Feet that goes*** is the hymn of the month for February. The hymn was written by Samuel Rowlands in 1598. In our current hymnal it is #85 and the tune that has been designated is ***ST. BRIDE***.

The text of the hymn extends an invitation for us to be engaged in a journey that is like no other. As we move from one verse to the next, we have been afforded a front row seat in this unfolding divine drama. With each step that we take we are in essence putting our feet where His have just been. And along the way, we come very near to the cross of Christ. In addition, we stand in the crowd rubbing shoulders with the women who are mourning and weeping. Why? They know fully well where and how this journey will end. There is no escaping that we are heading to mount Calvary where Jesus will be put to death!

Even though we are haunted with the knowledge of what awaits Christ there, this hymn beckons to us to see that this is more than just a journey of death. It is for sure life-giving. Yet, as we sing through this hymn, there is no getting away from the truth that in the same way that we are following one who bears His cross, we too in our journey of faith will also bear our own crosses. But as we follow His example, we are comforted with the knowledge that like the thief who also carried his cross was remembered by Christ, so too will we. So as we journey through this Lenten season, let us sing this hymn that challenges us to faithfully follow Christ as we too bear our cross.

Below are the words and music for this hymn:

Follow his feet that goes  
For to redeem thy loss,  
And carries all our sins with him  
To cancel on his cross.

Then press among the throng,  
Thyself with sorrow wed;  
Get very near to Christ, and see  
What tears the women shed.

Follow their steps in tears  
And with those women mourn,  
But not for Christ; weep for thyself,  
And Christ will grace return.

The voluntary death,  
That Christ did die for thee,  
Gives life to none, but such as joy  
Cross-bearing friends to be.

Up to mount Calvary  
If thou desire to go,  
Then take thy cross and follow Christ;  
Thou canst not miss it so.

When there thou art arrived  
His glorious wounds to see,  
Say, but as faithful as the thief,  
O Lord, remember me.

1598. S. Rowlands.

Follow His Feet That Goes

1598. S. Rowlands

ST. BRIDE  
S.M.

S. Howard, 1762

6. When there thou art arrived  
His glorious wounds to see,  
Say, but as faithful as the thief,  
O Lord, remember me.

## Status Update on Caribbean Moravian Praise Hymnal

The historic publication of the first Caribbean Moravian hymnal – Caribbean Moravian Praise – is near completion. Upon completion of the hard cover hymnal, each congregation will also receive a database that will contain a reference to the hymn tunes. In this database the music for the new hymns will be provided. However, in cases where the tune for the hymn is unchanged the actual music for that hymn will not be provided. Instead the database will indicate the name of the tune and the number of that hymn in the current music edition. By so doing, it is our desire that the new hymns will soon be incorporated into the congregation's hymnal repertoire since the tunes will be at the congregation's disposal.

Work on the musical edition has been ongoing and is in the advanced stages. It is hoped that its completion should be finalized within 12 – 16 months. The compilation of the musical edition entails giving attention to some details that are not required in the words only edition of the hymnal. For example, in addition to the authors and translators index, there must also be added an index for hymn tunes and composers as well as the alphabetical listing of the hymn tunes. Furthermore, we have to once again negotiate with international copyright holders to secure permission for the printing of the tunes for the hymns that are still under copyright. Mindful that this process may be lengthy, the provision of the hymn tune database will therefore serve as a temporary but necessary measure until the musical edition of the hymnal is completed.

The other component of the provision of worship material for the Province that has also begun is the production of the Liturgy Book. We anticipate that this volume will be published locally. It will contain the revised Liturgies, Litanies and Orders of Public Worship. The publication of this volume will be the second worship resource we intend to have available within the Province. We anticipate that it will follow not too long after the publication of soon to be released words only hymnal.

The final phase of the work that will be engaged will be the provision of the hymnal and Liturgy books in an electronic downloadable format. There has been numerous request for the materials to be presented in this format and we are seeking to meet that request. However, we currently do not possess the resources (financial and human) to give attention this matter.

In summary, there are four phases to the overall mandate of the Provincial Hymnal and Liturgical Committees: (1) Hard copy words only hymnal; (2) Prayer Book with Liturgies; (3) Musical edition; (4) Electronic format of hymnal and Prayer Book.

## PEC Meeting

The PEC will meet in the Antigua Conference from February 8-10, 2016.

In addition, the Superintendents Conference for 2016 will take place in Antigua from February 11– February 12, 2016.

Please bear up the members of the PEC and Superintendents in prayer.



## Unity Watchword for the EWIP for 2016

Every year, the Provincial Board of the European Continental Province facilitates the drawing of the individual Watchwords for the Unity Board, Unity Provinces, the Mission Provinces, and the Unity Undertakings of the Moravian Church. The Common Watchword for the year 2016 for the entire Unity is taken from Isaiah 66:13, "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem" (NRSV).

The Watchword drawn for the Eastern West Indies Province for the year 2016 is the one drawn on May 4th, 2016 taken from Psalm 118: 15-16, "***There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly***" (NRSV).

This Text is to be used as often as possible throughout the year as a reminder of God's promise to us.



## Unity Offering 2016

Sunday March 07, 2016 is Unity Sunday. It was on March 01, 1457 that the Moravian Church was born. We ask for your continued prayers for the work and witness of this Church that will never die.

A special offering will be taken in all Moravian Churches worldwide to go towards the Construction of the church building in Tortola.

**See report on the Tortola Moravian Fellowship on page 6 and 7.**



# Tortola Moravian Fellowship

## Introduction



The Tortola Moravian Fellowship is located on Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. The British Virgin Islands (BVI), are located in the Caribbean to the east of Puerto Rico. The British Virgin Islands consist of the main islands of Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost Van Dyke, along with over fifty other smaller islands and cays. The Tortola Fellowship is a part of the Moravian Church Virgin Islands Conference which consists of the islands of St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix and Tortola.

The Fellowship was established in November 1993 with a mission to evangelize and expand the growth of the Moravian Church and to witness to God's people in the British Virgin Islands. It was attached to and received support from the Memorial Moravian Church St. Thomas for a number of years. Currently, the pastor of the Tortola Moravian Fellowship is the Reverend Alicia Ross-Floyd. The current membership stands at 13 with one inactive, one non-communicant, 2 children and 17 adherents.

Pastors who have served the Tortola Fellowship include: Rev. Dr. Charles Peters, Rev. Glenvil Gregory, Rev. Anique Elmes-Matthew, Rev. Vankys Isaac, Rev. Dr. Mikie Roberts and Rev. George Bedford (Retired). After years of worshipping at various sites, under the leadership of Rev. Bedford, the Fellowship completed the first phase of construction. On November 11, 2012 it dedicated the building's first floor, which is the parking garage. This space is temporarily being used as the sanctuary and seats 100 persons. It has also been used for retreats. All of this was made possible by a donation of land by a faithful Moravian in 2007. The entire project is estimated to cost US\$1.0 million dollars. The first phase of the project cost approximately US\$300,000.00.

## Mission

The Mission/Vision of the Tortola Moravian Fellowship is "To grow spiritually, build relationships, and bring changes in the community through diverse resources which ultimately will create a church for all people, through love and compassion, ministering and teaching the Word of God." Seeking to renew its mission, in April 2015, an assessment was conducted by Bishop Samuel Gray, at our request. This assessment was timely and insightful as it engaged the members of the Fellowship, former Pastors and the leadership of the Conference in evaluating the focus and mission of the fellowship, the talents and gifts of members, the challenges and opportunities, with a view towards meaningful growth and missions. To facilitate this process, a self-assessment was conducted.

Subsequent to the assessment, a questionnaire was developed to gather information that would better assist the fellowship to serve its members and the community. The Fellowship currently has several active ministries which provide spiritual guidance to the membership and critical support to the community. Additionally, the Fellowship's Steering Committee has identified several recommendations for implementation. Some have already been implemented and are current ministries such as the Dorcas Ministry and others noted below will be pursued in 2016 and beyond:

## Current ministries

The current ministries of the Tortola Fellowship include the following:

**Radio Ministry** – Weekly broadcasts entitled the "The Voice of the Lamb" are aired on ZBVI, 780 AM at 7:30 a.m. Greater advantage is being taken of this public relations opportunity by sharing noteworthy events of the Fellowship and extending invitations to worship, programs and other functions.



**Bible Study and Prayer meeting** – Sessions are conducted weekly with some studies based on missions and outreach themes in order to support evangelism and church planting efforts.

**Visitation** – Visitations have resumed after overcoming participation challenges. The Fellowship is encouraged by its efforts and will endeavor to make visitation a priority.

**Lovefeast** – Missionary Lovefeast takes place annually on Tortola and is well supported by the Moravian Community on St. Thomas and St. John who journey to Tortola in large numbers for this event. Over the past two years, a March of Witness became an added feature. Future plans include attracting more local attendance and participation.

**The Dorcas Ministry** - The “Dorcas Ministry” was launched on December 6, 2015 with a focus on distributing care packages as well as information about the Fellowship to the community. This ministry will allow the Fellowship to reach out to the most vulnerable in the community. The items for the care packages are donated by members.

**Social Activities** – The Fellowship hosts several special and social events such as Friends & Family Sunday, Game & Movie Nights, picnics, etc. throughout the year to strengthen relations and to provide opportunities for fellowship among members and the community.

### **Future Plans**

In faith we boldly move forward and outward with our ministry. We look forward to the implementation of the following activities and events in 2016 and beyond:

- 1) Launch Phase 2 of the construction – Erecting the sanctuary would create a permanent space for worship.
- 2) Erect a “Tortola Moravian Fellowship” sign on the main road to increase visibility and attendance.
- 3) Landscape and fence the current premises – Beautification of the premises will enhance the worship experience.
- 4) Construct a manse to house the resident pastor.
- 5) Resume Sunday school, acquire materials and train Teachers in order to strengthen the Christian growth and development of members.
- 6) Establish a Pre-School – This ministry would fulfill the need for loving and nurturing child care.
- 7) Adopt a School – This ministry will foster a closer working relationship with schools in the community.

**“And though you started with little, you will end with much” (Job 8: 7 NLT).**

The Tortola Fellowship of the Moravian Church Virgin Islands Conference is truly humbled and grateful to be designated as the recipient of the 2016 Unity Offering. The funds will provide much needed financial assistance towards our construction efforts as well as to support the implementation of our proposed activities, programs and events for 2016 and beyond.



Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Eulencine Christopher  
Superintendent





## Cloud of Witnessess by Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton Roberts

*This monthly feature is to re-tell the stories of ordained Pastors who served in the Eastern West Indies Province in recent past. It is intended to inform us of the life and witness of these ministers and their spouses so that we can better appreciate the sacrifices they have made. Moreover, it is hoped that both the ordained and unordained will be inspired to continue our ministry diligently knowing that our labour will never be in vain in the Lord.*

The following biography of Bishop Neville Brown (April 12, 1926 - January 03, 2012) was submitted by his Son Sylvester Brown.

Our Father Bishop Neville Cleofoster Brown was born in Newfield Village on the 27th of April 1926; he was the second to last of nine children for his parents Walter and Ellen Brown. The mother and baby were so weak that the doctor told his father to come to his office to collect the child's death certificate the next day. Only God knew that certificate would not be required for another 85 years.

Although poor, with the care of his mother our father grew from strength to strength. At the age of 12 one Sunday afternoon, as was his usual practice, he came home to recite his "Golden Text which was taken from Acts 16:10 and I quote-

*"Immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them".*

His Mother who had been ordered to bed rest came to the door and spoke to his father, the last words "Daddy" heard from her were "and Neville must become a

Minister." She was dead within the hour at the age of 55.

In 1943, however, our father became a school teacher and was very proud of his first salary of 12 shillings, which he counted several times before handing it over to his father. He soon became disenchanted with teaching.

In 1945 Dad became the first boy from Newfield to go to Grammar school in preparation to enter the Ministry, he was however subject to a detour as there was uncertainty as to which College he could attend, so in 1947 he was given a job at Montpelier Sugar Factory, he later summed up that experience in one sentence, "Dealing with adults in a responsible manner on a daily basis was a learning experience for the work of the ministry"

Our Dad entered Theological College in Jamaica in late 1947, he was the first student from the Eastern West Indies Province of the Moravian Church to receive training for the Ministry in Jamaica.

On his return, he was launched into Pastoral Ministry and took up residence with Rev. Peter Gubi at the second mission house on St. John's Street and worked as his assistant at Greenbay and also served regularly at Five Islands, Potters and Spring Gardens.

The newly elected and consecrated Bishop Peter M. Gubi at the Provincial Synod held at this very spot on 11th April 1951 ordained him as Deacon. Our father had become a Minister of the Moravian Church; his mother's dying wish was realized. He was stationed at Lebanon and also served Gracehill.

In 1952 he was transferred to Moriah in Tobago and it was at his first Palm Sunday service that he noticed a girl who arrived at the head of her six siblings; he observed that she was in full control ensuring they behaved themselves and thought she would make a very caring mother.

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### *Cloud of witnesses - Cont'd from page 8*

Dad's investigative skills kicked in and his discreet questioning over the next few days revealed all the information he needed:

- ▶ Her name was Ida Lyons
- ▶ She was the first daughter and fifth child of Wilfred and Louisa Lyons
- ▶ There were eleven children in the family
- ▶ That she earned a Senior Cambridge Certificate at Bishop's High School
- ▶ That she excelled in Sports and had left a sprinting record
- ▶ That she was awaiting a call from the Nursing Council

Dad dubbed her his "Tobago Rose" and within short order they were married. That union lasted 59 years and I am the first born, Lennox the second, third was Trevor, he died in St. Kitts and Louise (we call her Dad's favorite) was fourth, Rawle was fifth and Marie the sixth died at age six in Trinidad.

Our father's fourth call was back to Antigua, Cedar Hall, and Gracebay where Lennox was born. In April 1956 he moved with his family on his fifth call to Estridge St. Kitts where Trevor and Louise were born. His sixth call was back to Lebanon at Sea View Farm where Rawle was born. In 1970 we all moved to Trinidad it was his seventh call where Marie was born, she died in 1974. In 1980 Dad returned to Antigua, that was his eighth call.

During the Independence celebrations of 1989 Dad was given "The Order of Honor Silver Award".

At the 23rd Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church, held in St. Kitts in 1993 he was elected Bishop. It was a most unexpected event as he was not a delegate and had earlier retired in July. He was consecrated Bishop on the 11th November that year, here, at Spring Gardens Moravian Church in Antigua.

Dad was an honest and focused gentleman, he availed himself as God's mouth piece, hands and feet for the success of God's work in the Church. As his children we were sometimes oblivious to the sacrifices both Dad and Mom made, not just for us but often for the Church.

We were too young to fully understand what it meant for them to arrive at Estridge in St. Kitts or to be up-rooted and find one self on a cold dark night in a dilapidated Mission House at Lebanon without furniture, bed linens or food and no one to welcome you..... not even to light the gas lamps.

The church has warmed much since those earlier days, but in his last years Dad's heart was at times burdened that the leadership could become so engrossed with church organizing that the little things; the caring, the sharing, could often be overlooked.

For him, life had its twists and turns, its ups and downs, its stormy and calm weather; but such was life. Dad never complained.

His comfort was found in one of his favorite scriptures 2 Corinthians ch4: v8-9)

***"I have been hard pressed, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed".***



### Unity Synod

**The year 2016 has begun, and for the Moravian Unity it means that we have seen the beginning of an important year, namely the year of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Unity Synod of the Moravian Church Unitas Fratrum (the 27th Unity Synod of the Renewed Church). It is our task to keep the Unity Synod in our prayers during the coming months!**

**The Unity Synod is scheduled to be held from August 12<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Hilton Rose Hall Resort & Spa, Rose Hall, Montego Bay, St. James, Jamaica.**

As a new year begins we all aspire to make this year better than the past. We all strive to get better, but improving ourselves and our lives takes focus, strategy and goals.

Many of us are assessed by our employers for how we perform at work. But, all too often we neglect the very import process of appraising ourselves. Our employer may tell us in what areas we did well and how they would like us to improve. We take this feedback into consideration and plan for our work for the upcoming year. This translates into goals.

But what about us personally? We do our best at work when our life is in balance and we are strong in all areas of our personal lives. We assess ourselves when we take time to stop and think about how we performed against our expectations for ourselves – how we hold ourselves accountable for doing those things that we know we need to do. When we evaluate ourselves we should be thinking about how we are managing every aspect of our lives and how well we are making strides to improve.

**The bible talks about our spirit, soul and body. And, our ability to manage each of these areas in our life can have a direct impact on how fulfilled, happy and how well we perform on the job.**

Once we do this personal assessment we need to develop a plan for 2016 and WRITE IT DOWN so we don't forget and so we can hold ourselves accountable for doing what we said we wanted to do. When reflecting on the past year there are some questions we need to ask ourselves.

### **1. How is my spiritual health?**

Being a Christian means to recognize that we never arrive but are on a constant journey of spiritual growth. We all have seasons of growth, seasons of stagnation and sometimes seasons of spiritual decline, but we can't ever give up the fight to continue our walk toward spiritual growth.

The beginning of the year is a great time to make a new goal for bible intake and personal time with God. It is difficult to hear from God when you don't ever talk to Him!

### **2. What Am I Doing To Stay Physically Healthy?**

Anyone who has ever been sick understands the importance of good health and feeling well. It is difficult to get much accomplished when we don't feel well so it is important to make living a healthy lifestyle a priority. Taking the time to plan what you eat, when you exercise and how you manage your stress are all ways to make sure you keep your physical body in peak condition.

DO YOU DO A  
SELF APPRAISAL?  
HERE ARE  
8 QUESTIONS  
TO ASK YOURSELF

### **3. What are my financial goals for the year?**

Financial well being is an important part of Christian living and being off balance can result in undue stress.

We can't give if we don't have so we need a plan to improve our financial health for the year so we can plan to give more.

### **4. What are you doing to pay down debt, increase savings and give.**

Andy Stanley talks about starting with simply understanding what percentage you give. It doesn't matter as much how big that percentage is just that you know what percent of your annual income you are giving away. Once you know what you are giving away, you can set a goal to increase your giving.

### **5. What am I doing to develop my skills?**

Learning new skills requires us to use a different part of our brain and can be a great distraction from responsibilities and stressors in other areas of our life.

Regardless of what life stage we are in, we all have opportunities to develop new skills. Whether that skill is to learn a new sport, hobby or computer program – developing ourselves on a personal level keeps us balanced and more productive on a professional level.

### **6. What am I reading?**

Reading a good book is food for your brain. We need to be intentional about what we feed our brain and balance it with biblical content, insightful learning and interesting knowledge.

A good book can inspire you to take on new challenges, empathize with a cause or bring new ideas to the workplace. Reading can help you improve yourself or just relax in a fictional novel.

I am one who has always struggled with finding the time to read but I am committed to increasing my book time in 2016!

### **7. What am I doing to strengthen personal relationships?**

Personal relationships are an important part of life and strong relationships don't happen by accident. Developing and maintaining those important relationships takes time and commitment. Whether those relationships are with our co-workers, spouse or children, we need to make the time to strengthen them.

*Continue on Page 11*



Continue from page 10

## 8. How successful was I last year doing what I said and hoped I would do?

Look back over the past year and think about all those accomplishments you had and then think about those things you wanted to do and just didn't. Often times we don't get things done for lots of good reasons but that is the beauty of a new year. We have a fresh start and hopefully new inspiration to accomplish those things that will help take us to the next level.

We assess our employees so why not assess ourselves. Take the time to ask yourself these questions and perhaps this year will be better than last!



Bro. Dufferin Culpepper 01, Sis. Adelyn Binta Mgonela 3,  
Bro. Cortroy Jarvis 7, Sis. Shirley Joseph 8, Bro. Sean Roberts 10,  
Bro. Willard Prout 10, Sis. June Mcmillan 17, Bro. Adrian Smith  
21, Bro. Errol Connor 21, Sis. Billie Sterling-Lewis 22, Sis. Esther  
Moore-Roberts 24



Sis. Georgette John-Cotton &  
Bro. Vondell Cotton 15

Bro. Kingsley & Sis. Maureen Lewis 19

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

It is with a great sense of honour and profound pride and Joy that we celebrate the graduation of Dr. Rondalyn Dennis Bradshaw who graduated with a Doctoral degree



in Nursing Practice (DPN) from Walden University. Dr. Rondalyn Dennis Bradshaw is the wife of Bro. Levi Bradshaw, former Treasurer of the PEC and also a

member of the Estridge Moravian Church in St. Kitts. We are proud of her pioneering achievement and scholarship and wish her every blessing in her future endeavours.

## Joke of the Day

Every morning John would drive by Waterloo Road and every morning he would stop and give the resident beggar \$100.00. After a period of time John started to give the beggar \$50.00. The Beggar noticing that his money has been reduced was not too pleased, but said nothing. John then dropped it to \$20.00. The Beggar noticing this further decrease became noticeably upset and decided to speak to John about it. He stopped John one morning after accepting the \$20.00 and said,



John replied,

"Wah really a gwann man....  
Yuh use to give me \$100.00,  
den yuh cut it down to \$50.00  
now is \$20.00  
Wah yuh really  
a gwaan wid"

"Boy, times get hard enuh. Mi oldest boy just start university and mi daughter deh a High School now.... So you know how it guh."

The now irate beggar asked in a tone of disbelief,

"So wait deh, no man ...  
wah yuh a try tell me say,  
a outa MY money  
yuh a send YUH pickney  
dem go a school?"



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