

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

May, 2016



Spiritual Growth of the Church



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis
Chairman of PEC

Peter Wagner in his book, *Spiritual Power and Church Growth* says "body life builds healthy churches."¹ The idea for Wagner is that, "when just about every member of the Church is active in some Ministry or other, the church is bound to grow".² Part of the action of the body involves instructing new believers. It is this which helps to build up the body of Christ, when the entire body is working in unison, encouraging and feeding each other. Donald Mc Gavran indicates that there are four crucial stages if the church is going to grow³.

Seeking ❖ Finding ❖ Folding ❖ Feeding

Mc Gavran is positing the idea that the church must always be on the lookout for lost sheep. There are so many persons who have been so corrupted, contaminated and messed up that the church must always be in a seeking mode. Every Christian must seek opportunities to point the sinner to Jesus Christ. It is critical though, that once the sinner has been found, that folding takes place. One must make sure that the person becomes a part of the Church and does not feel like an outsider.

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The Brownes on their arrival in Tortola on Friday April 29 to begin their mission there.

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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Fulfilling the Mandate - Advance the Kingdom

Spiritual Growth of the Church

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The problem over the years has been that many persons come in through the front door and leave through the back door as quickly as they come. Too many of them feel isolated, disconnected and simply not made to feel a part of the fellowship. On the contrary, the one who is sought and found must feel and know that they are a part of the family of God.

If seeking, finding, and folding take place, then they must be properly fed. One must be properly fed the discipline of walking with God; the discipline of worship; the discipline of the study of God's word; the discipline of prayer; the discipline of fellowship.

The new convert must see example in the believers to follow and emulate. In short, the lost sheep must be brought into the fold and properly fed.

I believe that if the church is going to grow, prayer must be at the heart of everything we do. It was Rick Warren who said, "A prayer-less church is a powerless church".⁴ The growth of the church then is going to depend on all its members earnestly seeking God's guidance in prayer. Prayer must be the life blood of the church. Persons must not only talk about prayer, but Christians must band together as prayer warriors to destroy the works of the devil and glorify God. Once that has been done we must pay attention to 4 needs:

PERSONAL NEEDS

In exercising personal needs, five things are especially important:

1. Ask God to give you the spirit of humility.
2. Ask God for wisdom to know His agenda.
3. Ask God to allow you to develop positive relationships, especially with difficult persons within your congregation.
4. Pray for the fruit of the spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.
5. Ask God for good health.

One needs to be focused on God the giver of all things and to remember that you are on the Lord's business.

FAMILY NEEDS

The demands of Ministry can severely damage a Christian family's life. One might seek to be all things to all persons and neglect his or her own family.

Ask God to allow you to spend enough time with your family and meet their needs first. In addition, pray that they would love the Lord with all their heart.

SPIRITUAL NEEDS

1. Ask God to make your prayer life, scripture reading and worship, daily priorities in your life.
2. Ask God for His Anointing, for without the power of the Holy Spirit, you can do nothing.
3. Ask God to allow you to be a person of integrity. As a Christian, you struggle with temptation just like any other person. In fact, the enemy will try to tempt you more than others.
4. Pray for protection from spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6: 10 -18)
5. Ask God to make you accountable in every area of your life. In fact, pray that God will bring into your life, other Christians who will cause you to be accountable.

CONGRAGATIONAL NEEDS

1. Evangelism: Pray that your Pastor and Leaders within the church will have a heart for the lost and that evangelism will be a priority.
2. Pray that each member will grow spiritually.
3. Pray that the members will be mobilized, motivated and equipped to do the work of ministry.

When a farmer puts a seed into the ground, he does not get back just one seed. When he puts that seed into the earth, it produces a stalk of corn, the stalk produces an ear of corn, and the ear produces hundreds of seeds, all from one seed the farmer planted. In Genesis 26, God's servant Isaac fought a battle in his life. There was a famine in his land. Fearful he would starve if he stayed in Israel, Isaac decided to go into Egypt to avoid the famine. God warned Isaac not to go into Egypt. In fact, God instructed him not only to stay in the land, but he instructed him to sow in the midst of famine, hunger and drought.

Now, Isaac had to make a decision. He could ignore God, give into his fear, and see only his circumstances of drought and famine, or he could see beyond his circumstances, exercise his faith and be obedient to God. He chose to stay in the land and sow. He chose to obey God. He chose faith over fear. By his actions, Isaac released the power of God in his life. He sowed in the midst of drought and God blessed him a hundredfold in the same year. **"Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year a hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him." (Genesis 26: 12)**

God is faithful, and as you act, he will multiply your action back to you.

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HYMN FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2016

Rev. Dr. Mikie Roberts
Director, Provincial Hymnal Committee.



As we get closer to launch of the new hymnal for our Province, over the next few months we will be focusing on some of the new hymns that have been included in the hymnal – **Caribbean Moravian Praise**. By drawing your attention to such hymns, we hope that this will result in our having an appreciation for the hymns that have been penned by our own Moravian brothers and sisters. The success of this hymnal will require of us, in particular, to embrace what is new so that eventually they will become as familiar as those hymns that we have been singing for ages. So for the month of May, the new hymn that will be highlighted is **O Lord of Hosts, today**. This original hymn was written by the late Sis. Ashley Clarke, a Barbadian, who wrote this hymn 50 years ago in 1966. The accompanying tune, **BISHOP-BROWNE**, is also original and was composed by the Rev. Dr. Patmore Smith to commemorate the memory and legacy of the late Moravian Episcopal Father, Bishop Neville Brown.

In the opening stanza, the writer presents us with a double posture on our part. It begins with a choice that is made – to enter in a space and time where we have chosen to worship God. As we worship, God responds to our posture of humility and grants us nothing less than his presence. As the hymn continues we are reminded that this place of worship into which God's people have gathered is also a place where there are other important elements of worship: (1) we gather to pray; (2) we experience 'harmonious' fellowship with our brothers and sisters and (3) we sing songs of thanksgiving for all the blessings that we have received. Through these various expressions of corporate worship, we are encouraged in our Christian witness and work. In fact, our gathering to worship together edifies us as believers and boosts our faith and trust in God.

Recognizing the spiritual blessings to be had, even though we may have entered into the worship environment feeling worn, tired and probably discouraged about following the Lord, when we engage in worship through which we encounter God's presence then we are renewed and revived. The result is a determination to keep on pressing ahead in pursuing God's purpose for our lives. Whereas at the start of the hymn, the image that is presented points to our posture in worship, the hymn closes with God's posture towards us in worship. It is one in which God will direct his attention to us so that God may hear our worship and the prayers we make. That is a comforting image to hold to. Though our prayers in worship may be of an intercessory nature which results in our being renewed, the last verse reminds us that we are also obligated to offer doxological prayers to the Triune God who we have gathered as a community to worship. Below are the words and music for the hymn of the month for May:

Below are the words and music for the hymn of the month for May:

O Lord of Hosts, today
We'll worship and adore;
Then meet us as we kneel to pray
And make us love Thee more.

To this Thy house of prayer
We come with willing feet.
A loving fellowship we share
Harmoniously sweet.

We thank Thee, Lord, for heaven,
While here to Thee we sing.
But chiefly for Christ Jesus given,
And then for everything.

Grant us the faith, that we
Thy servants may remain;
And toiling on continually,
Thy great cause to maintain.

This prayer we offer here,
For all these souls are thine.
O bend from heaven Thy gracious ear,
Thou Majesty Divine.

1966, Ashley Clarke

O Lord Of Hosts Today

BISHOP-BROWN
S.M.

1966, Ashley Clarke

Rev. Ulston P. Smith



1. O Lord of Hosts, to - day we'll wor - ship and a - dore; Then
2. To this Thy house of prayer we come with will - ing feet, A
3. We thank Thee Lord fo heaven while here to Thee we sing. But
4. Grant us the faith, that we Thy ser - vants may re - main. In
5. This prayer we off - er here for all these souls are thine. O
6. To Thee all glo - ry be and to Thy Bless - ed Son all

meet us as we kneel to pray. And make us love Thee more.
lov - ing fel - low - ship we share har - mo - ni - ous - ly sweet.
chief - ly for Christ Je - sus given, and then for ev - ery - thing.
toil - ing on con - tin - ual - ly, and Thy great cause main - tain.
bend from heaven Thy gra - cious ear Thou Ma - jes - ty Div - ine.
glo - ry Ho - ly Ghost to Thee while end - less a - ges run.

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.



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 SYNOD 2016

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 43rd 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 prayer during the coming months!

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

Moravian Mission News

An Encouraging Story of a Woman in Tanzania

Rachel Lwali, 63 years old, comes from Tabora in the Moravian Church in Tanzania, Western province. She recently participated in the »4. Unity Women's Consultation« in February 2016 in Suri-

nam and shared her life experiences and successes with other women. After a divorce when she was still young she was left alone with five children. With help of the womens' work of the Moravian Church and a small loan she managed to be economically successful. At first she was selling self-cooked rice with beans at a stall in front of her house. Then she extended her business and offered delicious food in the marketplace. With the achieved profit she was able to give her children a good education. Four of her children even studied at a university.

Bad Accommodations, Don't attract good Teachers

Altogether there are more than 70 schools of the Moravian Church in Suriname, many of them are located in the economically underdeveloped inner land. To make these schools more attractive for good teachers modern accommodations are built. In several



cities flats could already be renovated or newly built over the last years, not in Klaaskreek (district Brokopondo) though. The accommodations for teachers there don't meet present requirements anymore.

This is why »[Zeister Zendingsgenootschap](#)«, the Dutch sister organization of the Moravian Mission Society in Germany, wants to help the Moravian Church in Suriname to renovate these houses during this year. 5000 Euros are being estimated per house.

Feeding Program in Cuba

Since a few years the small but active »[Iglesia Morava en Cuba](#)« offers every week a meeting including a meal for 20 to 40 children from the poor district of Havana. The helpers tell stories from the Bible, talk with the children about current topics and try to teach them Christian values. So far the meetings were held open-air in a church members' backyard, which isn't always ideal. But a solution was found: Thanks to a grant of »[Zeister Zendingsgenootschap](#)«, the Dutch sister organization of the Moravian Mission Society



in Germany, and of other donors the church was able to purchase a building for their children and youth work. It was cheap but in need of

renovation. The church members are going to take care of this themselves.

Quote of the Day

Start where you are.
Use what you have.
Do what you can.
Arthur Ashe

Williams-a member of the Tortola Fellowship, honoured, recalls 'driving' The Queen

When the much younger Joseph Williams was given the task to chauffeur Queen Elizabeth II during her first visit to the British Virgin Islands in 1966, he had absolutely no idea he would have been awarded 50 years later.

Now 74 years old, the retired police officer was thrilled yesterday when Governor John Duncan handed him a glass plaque for his service to The Queen.

“I never expected it really, but I’m very humbled and happy to know that, before I go, my offspring will have something to remember me,” Williams told BVI News Online after the official ceremony held at the Festival Village in Road Town to celebrate The Queen’s 90th birthday.

Recalling The Queen’s visit as though it were yesterday, Williams said: “[It was a very nice day. She landed at West End on her ship – Royal Yacht, Britannia... I worked for the then administrator Martin Savery. I was his driver. He wanted me to drive the Queen when he heard she was coming. I think that’s why I was selected.”

“He (Martin Savery) had confidence in me; he liked the way I drive. I think he thought I was very careful and I was the right man for the job. I felt good after the job was done.”

Asked if he was stunned to eventually be in the same vehicle with the Queen, Williams replied, “At first, yes. But after I drove her around the island, I felt quite comfortable.”

“All she said to me [was to] just do what she want – when she tell me to stop; I must stop. When she tell me move on; I must move on. As a matter a fact, in the end, I got a little medal from her,” Williams further said.



The retired law enforcer also boasted that, during The Queen’s second visit to the territory 10 years later, he briefly crossed paths with her.

“She came here a few years later and she recognised me. At the time, I wasn’t driving but I was stationed in Virgin Gorda. When she came to Virgin Gorda, she recognised me. Perhaps she was very impressed with the first visit; I don’t know,” Williams further told BVI News Online.



Spiritual Growth of the Church Cont'd from Page 2

God wants to make a mighty witness of your faithfulness, just as he did with Isaac. As you become obedient and faithful to God, you will see walls and mountains tumbling around you.

If we are true to God and our calling, the church will certainly grow, both spiritually and numerically, but all hands must be on deck.

Notes

- ¹. Peter Wagner, Spiritual Power and Church Growth (p. 71) 1990, Strong Communication Company, Altamonte Springs FL
- ². Peter Wagner, Spiritual Power and Church Growth (p.71)
- ³. Donald Mc Gavran, Understanding Church Growth (p.76) 1980, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans.
- ⁴. Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven Church 1995, Zondervan Publishing House Grand Rapids, Michigan

Mathematics Enrichment Program!!

If you are a fourth or fifth form student in Antigua and need to sharpen your skills in mathematics, help is on the way. The Moravian Church will once again be conducting its Mathematics Enrichment Program geared specially for you. It will run from 8th to 19th August, 2016 at Tim O'Reilly Auditorium on St. John's Street from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The lecturers will include Antiguan born Dr. Vanere Goodwin and the Rt. Rev. Dr. Conrad Spencer, both professors of mathematics. The course fee is only \$110 which includes a non-refundable registration fee of \$10. The committee organizing the event may give concession to households with two or more students enrolled in the program. Kindly register by 15th June.



Joke of the Day Do You Remember



Grandma and Grandpa were sitting in their porch rockers watching the beautiful sunset and reminiscing about "the good old days". Grandma turned to Grandpa and said, "Honey, do you remember when we first started dating and you used to just casually reach over and take my hand?"

Grandpa looked over at her, smiled and obligingly took her aged hand in his. With a wry little smile, Grandma pressed a little farther, "Honey, do you remember how after we were engaged, you'd sometimes lean over and suddenly kiss me on the cheek?"

Grandpa leaned slowly toward Grandma and gave her a lingering kiss on her wrinkled cheek. Growing bolder still, Grandma said, "Honey, do you remember how, after we were first married, you'd kind of nibble on my ear?" Grandpa slowly got up from his rocker and headed into the house. Alarmed, Grandma said, "Honey, where are you going?"

Grandpa replied, "To get my teeth!"

Bro. Adrian Smith & Sis. Andrea Lorde-Smith 14

Bro. Edgar and Sis. Angella Barriero 25



Moravian Multipurpose Complex

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- ◆ Seminars
- ◆ Weddings
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