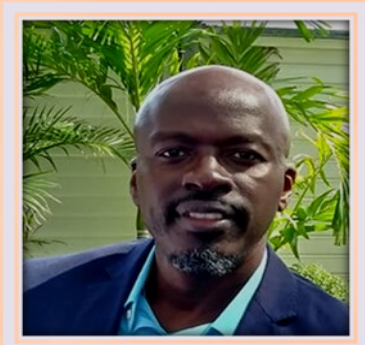


The Information

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'
Matthew 4 vs. 4

August, 2019



Rev. Algernon Lewis
Chair of PEC

LET'S GO

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me!

These words penned by Henry Francis Lyte seem appropriate when one considers the present age. We live in a time of an existential crisis characterized by massive disruptions and dislocations. Most of what we know to be reliable and stable are being challenged and replaced with new norms. This can be disorienting for most who have built their lives and convictions on traditional principles and values; and the church is not an exception.

The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province is undergoing massive changes. Changes which are disruptive and disorienting. I grew up in a church that was vibrant and viable. A church that had a many youth and youth activities. A church that commanded the attention of many. A church that was able to meet its financial obligations. A church that had enough volunteers for the various ministries. Those realities have changed quite a bit! This view is shared by many and they would further agree that the church, as we know it, is threatened.

Consequently, the low hanging fruit is to play the blame game and or to run quickly for answers to fix the aforementioned realities. It is my humble opinion that **the church cannot be fixed**. Fixing is a short-term measure and trivializes the real issues. **The church is not a human institution but a divine organism**. We will recall that the church was birthed on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was released on all who were present and waiting. If the church is a divine organism, then maybe we should be asking "God-questions" in relation to where the church is at this time.

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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.

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"Advance the Kingdom" ~ Live as Kingdom Citizens

What is meant by “God-questions?” God-questions force us to quiet the noise of self-will and personal agendas and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in the unfolding of God’s story among us. In other words, God-questions shift the focus away from us and our efforts to save the church, as if that is possible, to the actions of the divine which are happening around us. “What is God up to in the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province?” “Why has God led us to this place at this time?” Following the leading of the Holy Spirit is not unfamiliar territory for us as Moravians. It was the experience of our spiritual forebears at Herrnhut when the Holy Spirit visited them and renewed the church. The experience of August 13, 1727 is part of our useable past that we need to embrace and embody.

The witness of scripture is also part of our useable past and present. It is my view that this church can locate itself in the story of Israel’s exodus from Egypt. God broke them out and brought them into an unfamiliar place. They were confident at the beginning it was God but as time went by, the focus shifted from God to the local leadership. It became about what Moses did and not what God was doing. The people soon started to react to Moses and not respond to God. Their complaining, rebellion, disobedience and ungratefulness are legendary. All this time, God is there with them and that did not inform their behaviour. These people had been formed by Egypt. Egypt had infected their Hebrew mentality and a new hybrid mentality had been produced that none of them knew how to deal with.

Is this not part of our reality? In addition, the world has changed so much around us and the church, at its core, has not adjusted to what it means to be church in a smartphone generation. Much of the church is concerned about a fixed location while the smartphone generation is all about mobility.

Readers may expect that answers will be provided in this article as to how we will navigate the wilderness. Let us be clear, just as Israel could not see a clear path through the wilderness, we will not be able to see our way out of where we find ourselves. That is not a posture of hopelessness. On the contrary, it is a posture of deep faith – looking for the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21-22). **God has not left us!** God is very present. God’s presence is seen in the youthfulness and skill of our pastors, in the commitment of members, in the quality of ministry being done in various places, in the mission field in Grenada and St. Maarten to name a few. We need to

develop the art of listening to God and discerning the promptings of God around us.

Psalm 11 provides guidance for us in times like these. When David was counselled to flee like a bird in the time of trouble as the foundations were being destroyed, he said, *The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord’s throne is in heaven. His eyes behold, his gaze examines human-kind.* This was a quiet reminder that God was still in control, even in the mess and confusion. We will do well to remember that the wilderness is a divine construct. It is a place to rediscover the God who calls and sends and provides. The God who is transcendent yet immanent and knows the way. When we find ourselves in the wilderness, only God can bring us out. The wilderness should force us to look away from self and look only to God.

The wilderness should force us to rearrange our priorities. Maybe we should be more concerned about our purpose in the world rather than our existence. What occupies our minds as church? Is it reaching people for Christ – “souls for the Lamb” – or is it our bottom line – numbers attending and bills to be paid? We usually speak of the mission of the church. Maybe we should focus on the mission of God in the world. In this way, we discern what God is doing around us and partner. It is one of the things that John Hus did – he listened to what God was doing among the people and was able to translate God’s word to the people where they were. Missiologist, Dwight Zscheile (2014) notes that translating Christian faith into new cultural vernaculars requires deep listening to God, to the tradition and the neighbours. He goes on to say that it also requires prayer, patience, discernment, creativity, vulnerability and risk. This posture pushes the church deeper into the central narratives of faith. It is inherently uncontrollable and inevitable messy. It calls for new imagination (ways of seeing the world), habits and practices. It is about learning and growing – in other words, innovation.

Let us as members of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province continue on this journey through the wilderness, being careful not to repeat the mistakes and missteps of Israel and trust that God has made the way amid all the changing scenes of life for us to get to the land of promise. I am excited!...Let us follow God!...Let’s go!

Statement on the 32nd Provincial Synod of the Eastern West Indies Province

The Thirty-Second Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province met at the **Duncan C. Moore Centre at Sharon, Barbados** from July 15 – 19, 2019. The Synod began with a retreat for all participants on Monday July 15, 2019, under the Theme: “Advance the Kingdom – Live as Kingdom Citizens – A Missional Approach”. The retreat was led by Bishop Conrad Spencer.

The Rev. Neilson Waithe, Tutor/Warden at the University of the West Indies and United Theological College, served as Chaplain to Synod and guided all the devotional activities.

Rev. Dr. Adrian Smith was selected as Chairman of Synod in advance by the PEC. In the morning of the first session, Bishop Conrad Spencer was selected as Vice Chairman by the Synod. The Rev. Denise Smith-Lewis was selected to serve as Secretary in advance by the PEC and the Rev. Onita Samuel-Warner was elected as Assistant Secretary at the first session of Synod.



The Synod Opening Service was held at the Calvary Moravian Church on Monday, July 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The sermon “**Why Has the Lord Done This for Us?**” was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis, Chairman of PEC. Both the Governor General and Prime Minister of Barbados were in attendance.

The Synod Closing Service was held at the Sharon Moravian Church on Thursday July 18, 2019 at 7.00 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Errol Connor preached a sermon “**Lead with love and avoid condemnation**” based on Matthew 7:1-6 at the closing service.

The Synod celebrated and unanimously voted to grant the Tortola Fellowship congregational status after it met all the requirements. The congregation was given the name Trinity Moravian Church. Synod also celebrated Faith Moravian formerly St. Phillip’s Fellowship of Barbados.

The socio-economic realities of the region and the challenges they pose to the ministry of the Church were acknowledged among other challenges. There was an overwhelming call for partnership as we look to the future with hope. Synodals were asked to go back the way they have come, to go back to the communities and connect with the people there and serve them. Twelve (12) resolutions and eight (8) recommendations were passed on matters including Administration, Christian Education, Ministry,

Evangelism, Youth and Social Action, Constitution and Finance. The Synod Journal will be made available very soon to all Ministerial Staff, Board of Elders and Stewards for study, reflection and implementation in all Congregations.

The Synod held elections for another Bishop; however, after 14 ballots, there was no election. A total of seventy-two (72) Delegates and thirty (30) Observers attended the Synod.

Synod elected as Chairman of PEC Bro. Algernon Lewis and without reference to office: Bro. Errol Connor, Bro. Adrian Smith, Bro. Anselm Richards and Sis. Karen Challenger-George.

The responsibilities of the individual members were agreed on as follows:

Bro. Algernon Lewis, Chairman - Administration, Staff Relations, Church Redevelopment, Fraternal Relations and Finance.

Bro. Errol Connor, Vice Chairman - Mission and Evangelism
Bro. Adrian Smith, Secretary - Ministry, Theological Education and Social Media Relations

Bro. Anselm Richards, Lay Member - Development

Sis. Karen Challenger-George, Lay Member - Christian Education, Youth and Communication.

Sis. Elisa Hodge was re-appointed to serve as Treasurer, in the interim.



Before adjournment, the Tobago Conference invited the Province to convene the 33rd Provincial Synod in the year 2022 in Tobago.

Profound thanks was expressed to the outgoing PEC for their tireless efforts in leading the Province through these times of great uncertainty and disruptions such as the devastating Hurricanes of 2017. We especially thank Bro Cortroy Jarvis for leading the Province these twelve years.

The Barbados Conference must be highly commended for hosting a successful Synod. Thanks to the Superintendent, the Synod Planning Committee, the Choirs, Staff and the rest of the team that came together to have made it the success it was.

We ask for the continued prayers of our membership as we continue to minister in these challenging times.

At God’s Command,
Reverend Algernon Lewis, Chair of PEC

"Advance the Kingdom" - Live as Kingdom Citizens

32ND PROVINCIAL SYNOD PHOTOS



TRINIDAD DELEGATION



ST. KITTS DELEGATION



TOBAGO DELEGATION



BARBADOS DELEGATION



VIRGIN ISLANDS DELEGATION



ANTIGUA DELEGATION



"Advance the Kingdom" - Live as Kingdom Citizens

Tips for Managing Money by Carol Martin

It is said that many of us just allow financial life to happen. We start working and earning money and we do little or no savings and very heavy spending. Suddenly it hits us 'we are living pay check to pay check by paying bills, rent and paying loans' and have no monies available for eventualities and emergencies.



So, before you make owners of clubs, restaurants, fete organizers and stores owners get richer, make sure that every time you get paid that you transfer money to a savings account. You have worked hard for your money so let your money work for you.

Experts say that if you want to get rich you should save 10% of your gross salary every week or month and if you want to get very rich save 20% every week or month.

One should ensure that in the event that there is a job loss, extended leave be it maternity or sickness, or death in the family, you are able to meet your monthly obligations. So plan for these eventualities

The first step when you start working is to open at least three savings accounts. Set up standing orders to transfer funds from operating savings account to other accounts to prevent any physical intervention by you.

These accounts should be labelled as follows:

- Operating or Transactional account for your salary deposits which will assist in day to day living expenses to include food, utilities, insurances, loan payments
- Compulsory or Mandatory savings 10% - 15% of salary to assist with long term goals to include retirement fund, purchase or deposit on land or home and children's education (university fees)
- Another to save minimum 5% of salary for short goals to include emergency funds for medical expenses, death in family, annual vacation, furniture, school fees, day care, wedding expenses

It is essential to have a budget. A budget is an itemized list of your planned expenses and monthly or weekly income. Your budget is calculated on your Gross income. Gross income (100%) is monies earned before taxes are deducted by Government.

To be included in your budget:

- Tithe 10%
- Savings 20%
- Government Taxes 12%

Then you determine what percentage goes to

- Transport whether riding public transport or paying for vehicle loan

- Entertainment – socializing, going out to restaurant
- Clothing
- Insurance – medical for personal; vehicle and home
- Home maintenance
- School fees and expenses

Additional Tips

- Ensure that for the first two years of your working life you concentrate on saving and not borrowing
- Do not overspend on unnecessary items, stay within the budget allocations, you may have to deposit or lay away on some items
- Do not be afraid to borrow; however, borrow wisely. There is a limit on the amount that you can borrow on your salary. Use loans to purchase essential items such as land, home, vehicle or education expenses and not for frivolous wants!
- Repay loans as agreed. Repayment history is very essential in determining credit worthiness – (financial institutions can trust you to pay back)
- Do not borrow unnecessarily especially if you don't have a worthwhile purpose – this behaviour can become chronic and create financial burden

Cost-Cutting Tips for Parents

Purchase quality school gears this will ensure that they have a longer life and can be reused

- Reuse school book bags and lunch bags. It is not necessary to purchase these items every school term or every school year
- If shoes still fit and are in good condition, clean polish and reuse for another term or school year
- If uniforms are still in good condition and still fit it is not necessary to get a new batch, you can add an additional one.
- Exercise books can also be used from one grade to the next to ensure continuity in note taking and lessen the expense of purchasing additional new books
- Do not encourage children to have cell phones, and more so with data which is a money pit. In most instances the phones are not used for any worthwhile purpose. School phones are still available in the event there is an emergency
- Make home-made lunches and snacks for both children and adults to reduce costs of purchasing
- Instead of purchasing these expensive water and juice bottles you can reuse plastic bottles such as Oasis and Gatorade
- Use local fruits that are in season for snacks
- Open a savings account for your child and encourage him/her to save! This will create good habits
- It is essential to have a passport for your child so that it can be used for identification purposes such as account opening, and also aid in the event the child needs to travel for medical emergency overseas

Let's cultivate good savings habits and take control of our financial life!

PEC NOTICES

The PEC makes the following Announcements:

1. The Rev'd Nevin Lewis, Pastor of the Montgomery and Buccoo Congregations on Tobago, has accepted a call to serve as Pastor of the Montgomery Congregation on Tobago, with effect from September 01, 2019.
2. The Rev'd Belinda Manswell-Daniel, Pastor of the Moriah and Evangel Congregations on Tobago, has accepted a call to serve as Pastor of the Buccoo Congregation on Tobago, with effect from September 01, 2019.
3. The Rev'd Andrew Roberts, Pastor of the Fulnec Congregation on Barbados, has accepted a call to serve as Pastor of the Moriah and Evangel Congregations on Tobago, with effect from September 01, 2019.
4. The Rev'd Kevin St. Hill, Associate Pastor of the Lebanon and Enon Congregations on Antigua, has accepted a call to serve as Pastor of the Lebanon and Enon Congregations on Antigua, with effect from July 01, 2019.
5. The Rev'd Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts, Pastor of the Memorial Moravian Congregation on St. Thomas, requested and was granted four (4) months Furlough from August 01-November 30, 2019.

In addition, the Rev'd Dr. Kirton-Roberts has been granted Leave of Absence from December 01, 2019-November 30, 2021.

6. The Rev'd Denise Smith-Lewis, Pastor of the Cedar Hall and Cashew Hill Congregations in the Antigua Conference requested and has been granted four (4) months furlough in two parts, from January 10-14, 2019 and August 15 to December 12, 2019.
7. The Rev'd Dr. Cortroy Jarvis, Chairman of PEC will serve as Interim Pastor of the Memorial Moravian Congregation on St. Thomas during the Furlough period from August 01-November 30, 2019. Plans for filling the position of Pastor of the Memorial Moravian Church is currently being addressed.
8. Sister Judy Winspeare-Philip who recently completed theological training at the United Theological College of the West Indies in Jamaica and who will serve in the Supplementary Ministry, has accepted a call to serve as Associate Pastor of the Spring Gardens Moravian Church in Antigua, with effect from August 01, 2019.

9. Sister Marleen Browne has been accepted as a candidate for the fulltime Pastoral Ministry of the Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province. Sister Browne will enter UTCWI in Jamaica in August 2019 to commence her preparation for the Ministry of the Church.



Election of New Provincial Board

Members of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province, meeting in its 32nd Provincial Synod at Duncan C. Moore Centre at Sharon, St. Thomas, Barbados, elected a new Administrative Board (Provincial Elders Conference, PEC) to govern the affairs of the church for the next triennium.

The Chairman of the PEC is the Rev. Algernon Lewis who currently serves as the pastor of the Spring Gardens Moravian Church in Antigua. Other clergy elected are Rev. Dr. Errol Connor, Vice Chairman, who is pastor of the Nisky Moravian Church in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and Rev. Dr. Adrian Smith, Secretary, who is pastor of the Calvary and Gracehill Moravian Churches in Barbados. The Lay persons elected are Bro Anselm Richards of Tobago who will have responsibility for Development and Sis. Karen Challenger-George who is responsible for Christian Education and Youth. Sis. Elisa Hodge was coopted as Interim Treasurer of the Province.



Quote of the Day

God doesn't expect me
TO KNOW IT ALL
HAVE IT ALL
OR DO IT ALL.
He just wants me to
TRUST HIM
THROUGH IT ALL.

- Rick Warren-

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday Celebrants for August

Sis. Marleen Browne	1
Sis. Belinda Manswell-Daniel	4
Sis. Winelle Kirton-Roberts	20
Bro. Reuben Vessup	22
Sis. Anique Elmes-Matthew	22
Erwin Warner	24
Bro. Conrad Spencer	29
Sis. Angela Frederick	30

Happy Anniversary

Wedding Anniversary Celebrants for August

Bro. Winston & Sis. Bernadine Chase	12
Sis. Matthew & Sis. Jasmin Crooks	13
Bro. Daniel Mark & Sis. Callisha Greenidge-Mark	18
Bro. Selvin & Sis. June McMillan	20
Bro. Kevin. St. Hill & Dr Shanele Chase-St. Hill	25
Bro. Dion & Sis Eulencine Christopher	29



Ordination Anniversaries in July

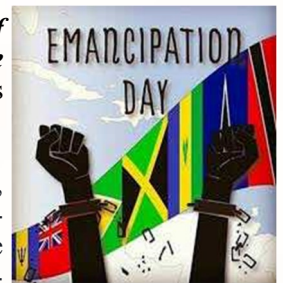
Bro. Algernon Lewis	July 19, 1995
Bro. Elroy Christopher	July 24, 1983



Ordination Anniversaries in August

Bro. Alvin F. Barker	August 15, 1963
Bro. Selvin McMillan	August 11, 1974
Bro. Charles Peters	August 24, 1975
Bro. Neilson Waithe	August 08, 1982
Bro. Matthew Crooks	August 16, 1993
Bro. Mikie Roberts	August 16, 1993
Sis. Vera Waithe	August 17, 2003
Bro. Adrian Smith	August 17, 2003
Sis. Catherine Governor	August 16, 2015
Bro. Kevin St. Hill	August 01, 2017

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.” Marcus Garvey



..It's been a few years since 1834, and as it relates to freedom, my prayer is for so much more. That all the shackles be gone: slavery itself, foreign domination, self doubt, partisan small island politics, victimization...and the list goes on. We should continue the fight against all of these. But remember that most deadly enemy called mental slavery.... for if that battle is not won the war is always lost.

So I encourage all to take heed from the apostle Paul, "Renew Your Minds."

With love to all celebrating emancipation today.

Written by: Rev. Dr. Patmore Smith
Superintendent,
Moravian Church Trinidad Conference

Diagnosis Explained

A 90-year-old man goes for a physical and all of his tests come back normal.

The doctor says, “Larry, everything looks great. How are you doing mentally and emotionally? Are you at peace with God?”

Larry replies, “God and I are tight. He knows I have poor eyesight, so He’s fixed it so when I get up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom, poof! The light goes on. When I’m done, poof! The light goes off.”

“Wow, that’s incredible,” the doctor says. A little later in the day, the doctor calls Larry’s wife.

“Bonnie,” he says, “Larry is doing fine! But I had to call you because I’m in awe of his relationship with God. Is it true that he gets up during the night, and poof, the light goes on in the bathroom, and when he’s done, poof, the light goes off?”

“Oh sweet Jesus”, exclaims Bonnie. “He’s peeing in the refrigerator again!”

"Advance the Kingdom" ~ Live as Kingdom Citizens



Moravian Multipurpose Complex

Conferences Seminars
Weddings Banquet
Meetings Dinner
 Graduations



Only ten minutes away from the stores, shops and banks in St. John's.

Our International airport is also just ten minutes away.

Our balcony provides a refreshing view of undulating hills and valleys.

The conference center has a seating capacity for 200 persons.

We are situated on a hill overlooking the picturesque out-skirts of the city of St. John's, Antigua.

There are **EIGHT LARGE APARTMENTS** which are available for rental. Each room is self contained with kitchenette. The rooms are air-conditioned with Available internet and cable TV. All utilities are included with the exception of telephone.

Conference Center & Apartments



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