



## The Information

"I must turn aside and look at this great sight..." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses" And he said, "Here I am." Exodus 3 vs 3-4 (NRSV)

May, 2021



**Rev. Algernon Lewis**  
Chairman of PEC

### What is the Missional Church?

The word "missional" has become part of the church's vocabulary in recent years. Often, it is assumed that this is a new way to speak of the mission that has been part of the church's discourse from the very beginning. Whereas there is some truth that there is a relationship between mission and missional, their approach to the work of the church is vastly different.

The missional conversation is more than a church growth strategy or the latest fad to describe ministries. Being missional is a clarion call to the church back to its roots, to its original purpose of being the representative of God in the world. Being missional represents a "recalibration of the form and function of the church of Jesus" (The Missional Network Blog, n.d.). This article will share three characteristics of the missional church.

The missional conversation begins with the understanding that God is a missionary God or a sending God. Mission is the result of God's initiative (Roxburgh, 2015). The missional conversation is rooted in God's purpose to restore and heal the created order. The central biblical theme is about God's action of redemption through God's participation in the world. "God's mission in the world is related to the reign, or kingdom, of God" (Roxburgh, 2015, p. 43).

This missionary God is ever sending into the world. God the Father sends the Son. Later, God the Father, the Son sends the Spirit. Then, God the Father, the Son, the Spirit, sends the church into the world. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus sends his disciples out. In the post resurrection narrative in the Gospel of John, we hear Jesus as the one who was sent by the Father into the world saying to his disciples, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20: 21)

I can almost hear someone asking, "Isn't that what the church has been doing, sending people on mission?" That is an excellent question. What the church has done over the years is send people out on its own initiative based on the Great Commission. The missional church orientation is to discern what God is doing in the communities around and join God in doing it.

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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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### Mailing Address

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### *What is the Missional Church? Continued from Page 1*

Noted theologian Jürgen Moltmann puts it this way, "It is not the church that has a mission of salvation to fulfill to the world; it is the mission of the Son and the Spirit through the Father that includes the church, creating a church as it goes on its way" (Lau Branson, 2014, p. 37). The picture here is of a God who is active in the world meeting people where they are and creating space for them to enter into a deeper awareness of the presence of God in the world. The church gets to discern where God is active and joins God there. The initiative is God's, the action is God's, and the church gets to participate with God. Orthodox theology tells us that God is everywhere and that the Holy Spirit is active among us. God so loved that world, that God continues to act in the world to draw people to God. When we understand that God is waiting on us to move beyond our confined notions of where God is active, we may lift our eyes to see and hear the things beyond the gathered body that beckon for the redemptive presence of God. The COVID-19 pandemic seems to be sending the church out to meet people with their basic needs. Listening to the daily news provides information on how we might be active where God is already active, creating a need within hearts waiting for justice, salvation, relief, and redemption. The missional church follows Jesus into the community to meet people where they are and journey with them to God's preferred destination. The missional church is about its Father's business.

The missional church listens. Quite often, churches do whatever they do. Sometimes the ministry connects with the context and other times it does not. The focus is normally internal, the general membership, while ignoring those who are not there yet. The missional church prioritises the neighbour – the people God is calling them to reach. Reaching people requires getting to know them. In Luke 10 Jesus sent out the disciples without their vital supplies – money, clothes, food. They were "Like strangers in need of hospitality who have left their baggage behind, enter the neighborhoods and communities where you live. Sit at the table of the other, and there you may begin to hear what God is doing" (Lau Branson, 2014, p. 39). Jesus expected the disciples to be hosted by the community and he expects the same of us. In the process, they learnt about the people and about what God was doing among them. In such engagements, the church thinks less about strategies and programmes and more about people.

In going to communities, the missional church gets the opportunity "to embody and enfold the word, deed, and life of Jesus into every nook and cranny" (The Missional Network Blog, n.d.). The missional church is concerned to represent Christ accurately in the world. In interacting meaningfully with people without reference to office, we

increase the possibilities of being God's agents of healing, love, deliverance, affirmation, and salvation. The posture of listening while embedded in community, allows the missional church to freely participate in the unfolding purpose of God.

The missional church also focuses on boundary crossing. Boundary crossing is more than going into the neighbourhood. The Great Commission calls us to go into all the world which in this case speaks of ethnicities. It is human nature to retreat into sameness even when we know better. Jesus reached across religious and cultural barriers to reach the Samaritan woman (John 4), and the Syro-Phoenician woman (Mark 7: 24-30). Crossing boundaries puts us in places of discomfort but it ultimately expands the reach of the gospel and the presence of Jesus in the place where the mission of God is needed. It means that God is concerned for more people than those in our sphere of influence. The mission of God encompasses the whole world. Being the missional church requires taking risks to encounter people whose situations may challenge our sensibilities. Notwithstanding, like Jesus who ate at the Pharisee's house (Luke 7: 36-50) where the sinner woman came and washed Jesus' feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair, the missional church goes where it is sent even when its presence might be misunderstood.

The church is facing a great challenge in this current era with many questioning their faith and the relevance of the church. Our best response is to embody a missional posture following God to journey with people and help them encounter the God who loves them unconditionally. Winning an argument does not grow the kingdom, but pointing someone to hope in Jesus brings restoration, joy, and peace. The greater the sense of confusion in the world, the greater the need for a church that wants to be missional and join God in the world.

How do we get there? Like everything else, there are no easy answers. Yet, I venture to say that when we ask questions of our current ministry activities as to how they align with missional posture, we must be willing to recalibrate when they do not align. How does our ministry connect with the missionary God? Does it have any impact on the people God is attending to in the world? Are we required to move out of our comfort zone to reach others? Maybe a more fundamental question is, "Do we care to be missional?"

I pray that as we lean into the SHIFT it becomes clearer how we transition from a conveyor belt type ministry to a mission that responds to the action of God around us. Let us all be praying for greater discernment to recognize the space that God is creating for us to join the mission in progress.



## Friedensberg Moravian – 250th Anniversary Service Sunday, May 02, 2021

Shouts of praises and thanksgiving rang out from within the walls of the Friedensberg Moravian Church in Frederiksted St. Croix. The occasion was the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service of the congregation formed in 1771. The sanctuary, decorated in blue, white and silver, the members also dressed in those colors, the colors chosen for the celebration which was themed, “Loving the Lost, Living the Message, Lifting the Savior” was abuzz with expectancy.

Leading the worship was the Chairperson of the Anniversary Committee, Sis Evannie Jeremiah. The welcome was extended by the pastor of the congregation, Rev. Dr. Jeremy B. Francis. He welcomed Bishop Conrad Spencer, pastor of Faith Congregation on St. Croix; Rev. Eulencine Christopher, Superintendent of the Moravian Church, Virgin Islands Conference, Rev. Alicia Ross-Floyd, pastor of the Friedensthal congregation in Christiansted, and the guest preacher for the day, Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis of the Memorial congregation in St. Thomas. Special welcome was extended to their spouses who were also present. The Lt. Governor, the Honorable Tragenza A. Roach who was also in attendance was also warmly welcomed.



**Host Pastor, Rev. Dr. Jeremy B Francis, Rev. Alicia Ross-Floyd of Friedensthal and Superintendent, Rev. Eulencine Christopher celebrate in praise and Worship**

Congratulatory greetings were brought to the congregation from the Chairman of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province, Rev. Algernon Lewis;

the Superintendent of the Virgin Islands Conference Rev. Eulencine Christopher; former pastor of the congregation who served for 20 years, Rev. Dr. Dion Christopher; and from Lt. Governor Roach on behalf of the Government and people of the United States Virgin Islands.



**Lt. Gov. Tragenza A Roach, greets the gathered congregation.**

Taking part in the service were the Women's Fellowship who started the service with a sign language item to “Total Praise”,



**The Women's Fellowship offer a sign of “Total Praise” to begin the worship. In the background is the bell that was rung from the previous church building.**

The Men of the Congregation rendered a well-received item entitled, “One Church, One Faith, One Lord”. Three Young Men did an instrumental of music much to the delight of the congregation. The lessons were read by one of the oldest and youngest members of the church, Sis. Almira McIntosh and Sis. DeAndrea Brewley, respectively.

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*Friedensberg Moravian – 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service  
Continued from Page 3*

The guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis delivered a powerful and impacting sermon based on John 15:4 under the title, "Stand firm in the Power of God." He encouraged and challenged the church gathered to be connected, convicted, and converted in our attempt to reach communities as we love the lost, live the message and lift the Savior.



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis delivering the message for the day.



The congregation gathered in Worship and praise.

The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service of the Friedensberg Congregation was indeed an inspiring, wonderful, and challenging experience. Heartiest congratulations and encouragement are extended to the church as it seeks to represent Christ in the western end of the beautiful Island of St. Croix while loving the lost, living the message and lifting the Savior.



Gift boxes for all attendees in celebration of the anniversary

## Moravian Music Sunday

Moravian Music Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday June 6, 2021. The thematic focus this year is Trust in God.

Life has always had its share of challenges however, the Covid-19 pandemic has intensified the struggle for many, and significantly changed the way churches around the world conduct their public worship and ministry to those in need. We are encouraged therefore in the face of this health crisis reality to trust in the most powerful and limitless ability of God to actively remain faithful to us.

Our trust in God is not a mere reflective, somber or muted undertaking. We are trusting in the limitless ability of the infinite God. Our trust therefore enlivens a worship that is not only quiet and pensive, but boisterous and exuberant – filled with an unrestrained praise.

The following songs are suggested in the hope that they will capture the full gamut of our trust in God through congregational singing.

Worship leaders should experiment with a wide range of instruments (especially percussive instruments) to encourage a celebratory atmosphere for worship.

Please note that pastors and worship leaders may augment this list as needed, mindful of time constraints with regard to COVID protocols in their respective territories.

# 518 Our Father By Denise Smith-Lewis

Canticle #7 The Hosanna Anthem By Christian Gregor

#367 We have this hope By Edris M V Roberts, GOM

# 30 You are wonderful You are marvellous By Alberta Titus

# 494 In the morning Lord By Ulston Patmore Smith

### Quote of the Day

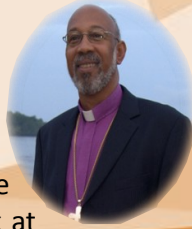
"You're off to great places, today is your day. Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way."

Dr. Seuss Author/Poet



## God Calls us to Ministry

### The Minister as Prophet



We have previously looked at the Minister as Priest. We now come to look at the Minister as Prophet.

What is a prophet? A very popular idea among many Christians is that a prophet is a person who foretells coming events before they occur. There is an element of that in the work of a prophet and in many cases in the Old testament, we find that prophets did foretell what came to pass at a later date. However, foretelling was not the primary role of a prophet in the Bible, but *forthtelling*, that is, speaking God's word to his people. When one lives close to God and is able to hear God speaking in distinct tones, his message certainly has the character of foretelling future events.

God's prophets made his will and intention known. They were the preachers of God's word. The prophetic role of the minister is that of preaching God's message--the Gospel in succession to the biblical prophets. So, what was the message of the prophets?

In the Old Testament, we have what are called *Major Prophets* and *Minor Prophets*. Let us consider some features or functions of preaching from different Old Testament prophets. One of the famous words of the minor prophet Amos is found in Amos 5:21,24: "I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream." This was an invective against the injustice, corruption, immorality and love of wealth of his day.

We hear the prophet Isaiah preaching a message of encouragement to God's people in Isaiah 40:1, and in later chapters. He proclaimed, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people," as God's word through Isaiah.

When we turn to the prophet Jeremiah, we find that God called him "to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant," (Jeremiah 1:10). In other words he was to preach words of condemnation and destruction as well as words of affirmation and encouragement from God according to the times and circumstances.

It is important that we preach the message given to us by God and not our own message or we shall be like the false prophets spoken of in the Bible, because as the Fourth Century Archbishop of Constantinople, John Chrysostom, noted, "most of those who are under authority refuse to treat preachers as their instructors. They rise above the status of disciples and assume that of spectators sitting in judgement on secular speech-making."<sup>i</sup>

Some words of wisdom come to us on the role of the minister as prophet or preacher from the Scottish theologian, P. T. Forsyth. Of the preacher, he said: "He is to preach to the Church from the Gospel so that with the Church he may preach the Gospel to the world."...True preaching presupposes a Church, and not merely a public...The first *vis-à-vis* of the preacher, then, is not the world, but the Gospel community...He has to declare the Church's word, and to utter the Church's faith, to itself, in order that he and the Church together may declare them to the world...When the preacher speaks to believers it is to build them *up as* a Christian community; when he speaks to the world it is to build them into a Christian community...The Christian preacher is no prophet sent to the public till he is a voice of the Church to the Church...The preacher, therefore, starts with a Church of brethren that agree with him and that believe with him; and in his power he goes to a world that does neither."<sup>ii</sup>

John Groenfeldt makes the important observation, "In Ephesians 4:11, Paul makes specific reference to apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, but these terms are not always used to describe distinctly separate functions...In many instances the difference is probably more in the "setting" than in the message. The evangelist was probably one who went from place to place, preaching. The pastor was probably related more to one congregation and the teacher worked informally with small groups rather than speaking to large assemblies. The apostles were the leaders of the church but they, too, preached and taught."<sup>iii</sup>

The minister in his prophetic role, then, is forth-teller, proclaimer and communicator of God's message—the Good News, the Gospel.

<sup>i</sup> St. John Chrysostom, *Six Books in the Priesthood*

<sup>ii</sup> P.T. Forsyth, *Positive Preaching and the Modern Mind*

<sup>iii</sup> John Groenfeldt, *We have this Ministry*

## The Honorable Wilma A. Lewis

Honorary Doctor of Law

The Moravian family offers heartiest congratulations to the Sis, the Honorable Wilma A. Lewis on being awarded



an honorary Doctor of Law by the University of the Virgin Islands for distinguished and superlative service to the judiciary both in the Virgin Islands and the United States mainland. Judge

Lewis is a trailblazer in many respects including being the first woman to serve as federal judge in the US Virgin Islands and as Chief Judge in the District Court. Judge Lewis has served on the Board of Trustees of The Moravian Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, on the Congregational Leadership Board on the Mainland and in St. Croix, and currently serves as the director of the Friedensfeld Handbell Choir. Congratulations to our Sister, Hon. Dr. Wilma A. Lewis.

## Mr. Alexander A. Moorhead

Doctor of Humane Letters

The Moravian family offers heartiest congratulations to Bro. Alexander Moorhead on being awarded an honorary

Doctor of Humane Letters by the University of the Virgin Islands for his distinguished and superlative service to the University of the Virgin Islands, the Virgin Islands Legislature, and the wider Virgin Islands community in many capacities.

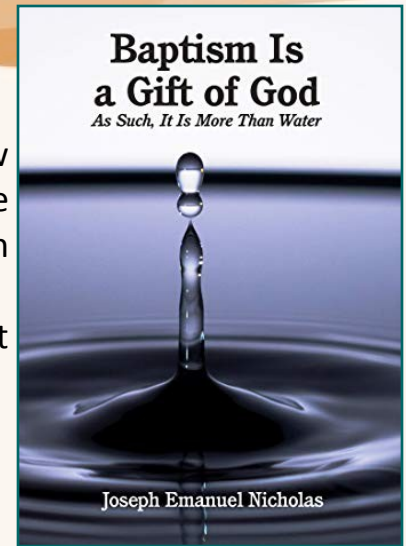


Bro. Moorhead is a graduate of the Moravian College, Harvard University, and is a member of the Friedensthal Congregation. Congratulations to our Brother, Dr. Alexander A. Moorhead.

## NEW BOOK

We are pleased to announce the publication of the book by Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Nicholas,

Books are now available at the Moravian Headquarters at Cashew Hill at EC\$46.00 each



*Happy Birthday*

### To Celebrants - May 16th —31st

Sis. Cletus Bowers-Jones	21
Sis. Deborah Challenger	27
Bro. Daniel Mark	31



### To Celebrants - June 1st—15th

Sis. Stacey Herbert-Mannix	2
Sis. Sharon McCurdy-Joseph	5
Bro. Nigel Daniel	5
Sis. Bernadine Chase	7
Bro. Charles Peters	7
Sis. Rena E. P. Warner-Francis	11
Bro. Calvin Isaac	13

*Happy Anniversary*

Bro. Edgar and Sis. Angela Frederick-Barriero	May 25
Bro. Reuben & Sis. Ivy Vessup	June 01



### Animals of the Bible

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters to form the **mystery answer**.

Adder,	Eagle,	Jackal,	Scorpion,
Ant,	Falcon,	Leather,	Serpent,
Bee,	Feathers,	Leopard,	Sheep,
Calf,	Fish,	Lice,	Shepherd
Camel,	Flock,	Lion,	Sparrow,
Cattle,	Fly,	Locust,	Sponge,
Cheese,	Fowl,	Ox,	Strength,
Cobra,	Fur,	Peacock,	Swarm,
Crowing,	Goat,	Plague,	Swine,
Den,	Graze,	Predator,	Turtledove
Doe,	Hawk,	Quail,	Whale,
Dog,	Honey,	Raven,	Wolf,
Donkey,	Horse,	Rooster,	Worm
Dromedary,	Ivory,	Sacrifice,	



1. In what city was Jesus born? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many books are in the New Testament?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What type of insect did John the Baptist eat in the desert? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who were the first apostles called to follow Jesus?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How many people did Jesus feed with five loaves of bread and two fish? \_\_\_\_\_
6. After Jesus was arrested, which apostle disowned him three times. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented at the Temple as a baby? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who asked Pilate for Jesus' body after the crucifixion? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Paul was shipwrecked on what island? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the shortest book in the New Testament?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Who is the author of the Book of Revelation?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Matthew was a \_\_\_\_\_.
13. To what city was Saul traveling when he encountered a great and blinding light? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Who was the first person to come upon the injured man in the parable of the Good Samaritan?  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. Finish this verse. "In every battle you will need faith as your \_\_\_\_\_ to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan."

C G R A Z E D O G C H E E S E  
A O T E L G A E N L E M A C V  
L Y B N P N I L I A U Q I O O  
F E E R E O E V W O L F L R D  
S N E C A P S O O D I R O P E  
W O U A C S R D R R O E C I L  
A H G T O M O E C O Y S U O T  
R S A T C N H A S M R B S N R  
M I L L K P S T R E N G T H U  
R F P E E P E U H D M T H F T  
A A Y H A R F T J A C K A L X  
V L S R O T A D E R P L W O F  
E C R P E E H S D Y L F K C G  
N O I L F A L E O P A R D K L  
W N D S W I N E R E D D A N T

# Moravian Multipurpose Complex

Conference Center & Apartments



Conferences

Weddings

Banquets

Meetings

Dinners

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 over-looking 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 cable TV. All utilities are included with the exception of telephone.

**Lamb  
mystery answer**

- |              |                        |            |                   |                  |                   |
|--------------|------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bethlehem | 2. 27                  | 3. Locusts | 4. Peter & Andrew | 5. about 5000men | 6. Peter          |
| 7. Simeon    | 8. Joseph of Arimathea | 9. Malta   | 10. 2 John        | 11. John         | 12, Tax Collector |
| 13, Damascus | 14. Priest             | 15. Shield |                   |                  |                   |

**Answer to Bible Trivia**