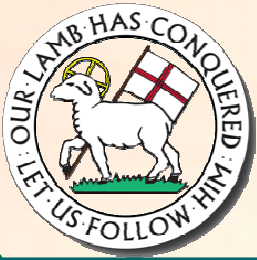


A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF PEC - EWI PROVINCE



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)

Reasons to Believe



Rev. Algernon Lewis
Chairman of PEC

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed. This is probably the most popular statement of the Easter season. At Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus after the crucifixion and burial for three days. Easter is therefore about the triumph of life over death through the power of God. The resurrection opens a path for reconciliation between God and humanity because blood was shed for the sins of the world (Hebrews 9:22). Without Jesus's death, there is no possibility of salvation – being saved and inheriting eternal life. The Apostle Paul puts it this way, "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith..."

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Cor. 15: 14 & 17). Everything hangs and rides on the validity and reality of the resurrection.

Some may ask, can we really believe that Jesus died for a few days then came back to life? How can know this is true? Those are good questions. It has been said that most Christians are two to three questions away from denying the faith. For too long, we have simply accepted the doctrines of the faith without requiring more explanation. To require explanation is not doubting the faith. In fact, asking for an explanation is referred to as faith seeking understanding. Let us be clear that faith and reason are not opposed to each other. They are inextricably bound because they originate from the same place – God our Creator and Sustainer. Christ-followers need to know thy "why" behind their faith.

This is where the ministry of Christian Education is vital. Christian Education as a discipline is the intentional and unintentional teaching of the Christian faith so that the hearer may come to believe fully in Jesus Christ and be equipped for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4: 12-13).

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April, 2022

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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, Evangelist discipleship and service.

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Advance the Kingdom ~ S.H.I.F.T

Christian Education is about growing faith or faith formation as it is currently known. Christian Education is vital to the ministry of the church. One possible reason for the lack of growth among many believers might be found in a reduced emphasis on the Christian Education ministry in many churches. Where the formation is weak and lacking substantial input, the long-term effects will soon be felt.

As we celebrate Easter another time, are you curious about Easter and the validity of the claims that Jesus rose from the dead? Curiosity is good. It helps us to get behind the veil to the deeper things of our faith. Faith seeking understanding is to be encouraged. Following are some thoughts towards establishing the validity of the resurrection claims after sharing a thought on the origin of the word "Easter."

It is true that Easter is not original to Christianity. There was a pagan festival called Easter that was held around Spring. It was at one of the early Church Councils (Nicaea) that the decision was taken to adopt that Festival for Christianity with a focus on the resurrection of Jesus. This might have been a strategy to draw people but there was no loss of the meaning of the resurrection.. The resurrection of Jesus is limited to Jesus only so far. When Lazarus came back to life (John 11: 38-44), that was a resuscitation. That was also the case with the widow of Nain's son (Luke 7: 11-17). Life returned to the bodied and their physical state remained the same.

Internal validity – Biblical evidence

When Jesus got up that first resurrection morning, the mortal had put on immortality. Jesus had a glorified body. What does mean? Well...it means that Jesus's body was now doing things that it had not previously done. Recall that Jesus appeared to the disciples who were locked away for fear of the Jews. The doors were locked but that did not stop him from entering (John 20: 19, Luke 24:36). Resurrection means that material changes had taken place as with Jesus and that is the promise for each believer (I Cor. 15: 50-55). The change in Jesus's body proves that he was resurrected. It was not a ghost or a fantasy. It was a real body, fully alive that even needed food for sustenance (Luke 24:41b). Even the disciples were afraid because they had never seen Jesus enter a locked room before.

Jesus was alive and with them as he had been in previous times. Jesus was caring enough to appear to boost the faith of Thomas who found it hard to believe, even though his friend told him. These appearances with the disciples proved that his was a physical, actual resurrection.

The Bible also records that Jesus appeared to other people. The writer of 1 Corinthians 15: 6 notes that Jesus appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time. Jesus was not reserving his appearances. He wanted people to know that he was alive and that the things he spoke about before the crucifixion, were trustworthy.

Beyond this, the actions of the disciples after Jesus's ascension are a powerful indication that the resurrection is credible. No matter how convinced the disciples were that Jesus was resurrected, if they did not have the evidence of Jesus's resurrection, they would not have given their lives to the process. Furthermore, if they wanted to be delusional, all the Roman authorities needed to do was to produce the dead body of Jesus. Remember the church started at Pentecost which was only fifty days after the resurrection. Producing the body would have blown up their story. Further, it suited Rome's purposes to quash this new movement. However, they could not produce the body and there were enough people alive who had seen Jesus after his crucifixion. The Roman authorities persecuted the church as it was subversive to the Roman emperor who was seen as god. Even though the disciples were persecuted and some of the worse ways, they held to their faith because they had seen the risen Christ.

External validity – non-biblical claims

What if someone says they do not believe in the validity of the Bible. As problematic as that might be from a faith perspective, we can still establish that Jesus's resurrection was not a fabrication. There is external evidence that records events in the life of Jesus. Josephus, a Jewish, military historian was one such recorder. He mentions Jesus and his disciples. He talks about Jesus's crucifixion and the reports that the disciples kept to his teaching after his death. While he does not declare faith in Jesus, he notes that Jesus was real and was crucified. If there was evidence that the stories of Jesus were found to be untrue, it is likely that he would have included that information.

Continued on Page 4



Christian Education Offers CARE!

By J. Joefield-Parris (Rev.)
Minister of Christian Education
Barbados Conference

God's people are called to advance the Kingdom of God and it is necessary to make that shift which is needed to move forward despite the existing conditions of the present age. We are currently trying to make headways despite our fears and in spite of what can be challenging, sometimes even overwhelming circumstances. The church is called to comfort, sustain and bring some measure of relief to burdened souls. Missionary work is right here in our front yards. Evangelism is to the strong as well as the weak and faint of heart. Christian Education within our churches, when reshaped, can have a powerful impact on God's people.

The question becomes as to how willingly are we to listen to and heed the call of God on our lives in the area of Christian Education. In looking at the various prophets of the Old Testament, despite their backgrounds and lifestyles, they availed themselves to the service of Almighty God. Some hesitated to answer the call of God, some ran away but returned, others willingly went into service.

In defining Christian Education, according to The Christian Education manual as produced by the E.W.I. Province, foremost to be considered is the Biblical Foundation. It is where the Bible commands us to teach God's Word as it is necessary for our people to learn the basic facts of the Christian Faith. Also, the Bible defines teaching as an important ministry "for the edifying of the body of Christ". Further, Christian Education is considered as the educational arm of the church, and being a holistic ministry, enables persons at all stages of life to become aware of the love of God, respond in faith and sustain a vital relationship within the Christian community.

The focus therefore should be on effective programmes which must be person-oriented and where the teaching/learning experience seeks to nurture persons as well as point them towards developing a right relationship with Jesus Christ. This teaching/learning experience must offer C.A.R.E. (Challenge, Adventure, Response and Excitement) and it is in the context of relationships at all levels that Christian Education will become more effective.

It then brings to the fore as to whether we change our modus operandi, how do we do so and remain effective in this area of ministry. To accomplish this, we must be able to do the following:

1. Answer the question as to what are the current needs of our people.
2. Have persons determine where are they in terms of balancing, among other things, their emotional and physical lives, finances and most importantly their spiritual lives.
3. Help persons to identify what are the factors most likely to be the 'straw to break the camel's back' and to diffuse the situation.
4. Seek to have persons differentiate between what is needed, what is wanted and what is necessary to survive.
5. Have persons evaluate as to how are they coping with the pressures of today and what are the coping mechanisms they employ so as not to be overwhelmed by it all.
6. Should it be a case where current programmes and activities remain the same, or be rebranded, revised, remodeled and/or revamped to meet the needs of our people.

Even as the church seeks to engage our people, membership must be convinced of the following for there to be effectiveness as well as development:

1. **Ownership** – too many times we seek to pass the buck, to say that it is their church, their work and not as my mission, my calling, my church. Our task is to see that even if we have different abilities, together we can exercise our God given talents and combine forces to achieve the same goal. When we take ownership of our church, our groups and organizations, we give the care and attention needed for progress of the said, not to mention the growth in Christ of the people.

Continued on Page 4

Christian Education Offers CARE! Continued from Page 3

The Sunday School is ours to grow and the organizations are ours to nurture. There is strength in unity. It is for us to apply the knowledge in order to accomplish our goals. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

2. Intentional and Total Involvement – Half-hearted efforts give half-hearted results. A major factor of ministry is that God has given us much and we in turn must give of our all in the service of God. It is essential then to take the time to identify and strengthen the gifts and abilities given to us by Almighty God. These skills and talents are among the tools with which we have been equipped to carry out the work of the Lord. We must all participate with purpose and a zeal guided and strengthened with wisdom. (Deuteronomy 10:12,13)

3. Responsibility – It is our responsibility to respond to the call of God on our own lives. We are to hear and heed our Saviour when He says ‘come, give up all and follow Me’. In the same vein, we are our brothers’ and sisters’ keeper where we must take responsibility to take the gospel to them and to bring them to Jesus Christ as we have been so commissioned to do. When we give our commitment to Jesus Christ, He empowers and emboldens us to take the next step which is to bring others to a saving knowledge of Him. Taking our responsibilities seriously and denying self is what we are called to be and called to do so as to fulfill the mandate of bringing others into the Kingdom of God. (Mark 8:34-38).

Participants in sound Christian Education programmes are:

- ⇒ Given that crucial foundation which is elemental in living the life of Christ and how important it is to grow in the likeness of Jesus Christ.
- ⇒ Challenged to respond to the truths of God’s Word and to live a life which reflects such.
- ⇒ Taught to see themselves as an active part of the Kingdom of God, bringing others to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, achieving and developing individual as well as collective potentials.

⇒ Enlightened through deep study of the Bible, how to face and overcome the many challenges they may encounter. Also, through a strong and purposeful relationship with the Lord, there will be a change in outlook, perspectives on things and of people.

The ‘what’ in the shift in the focus of Christian Education may be easy to identify. The ‘how’ is based on the realities of the sphere of reference as it unfolds in our Province and Conferences. Vital is that we maintain our focus no matter the external forces which may threaten to derail or hamper the effectiveness of this ministry. Essential is that we achieve the goals of nurturing, developing and sustaining our people through this vital arm of the church. The mandate to teach is even more crucial now so we do not lose generations through apathy, negligence or sheer blindness to the needs of our people. Christian Education must continue to offer C.A.R.E.

Reasons to Believe Continued from Page 2

Roman governor and historian Tacitus also made reference to Jesus’s crucifixion. He confirms in his reference that Jesus was a real figure, that Christianity had spread across Rome, and that the authorities were concerned because Christian practices undermined the rule of the emperor. There are other external sources that corroborate that the story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are historical facts. If they are historical facts, then they are worth our attention.

Personal encounter

Christianity is a religion of faith. People do not become Christ-followers because of intellectual ascent. We follow Christ because of a personal encounter with God, through Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, you will believe in the resurrection because you met Jesus for yourself. The person with an experience is not at the mercy of a person with a theory. Christian Education provides supporting information – theories that point in the way of truth. But it is the Holy Spirit who does the work of changing hearts and lives.

Conclusion

We can believe in the resurrection because the people who lived it shared the events with us in the Bible. We can believe because there is evidence outside the Bible that support the faith claim of the Bible. We can believe in the resurrection of Jesus because, like Paul on the road to Damascus, we met Jesus for ourselves.

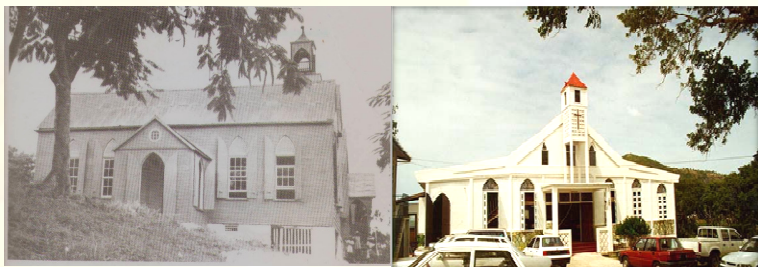
Advance the Kingdom ~ S.H.I.F.T



On April, 7, 2022, Cedar Hall Moravian Church celebrated its two hundredth anniversary of mission. Two hundred years! What a testimony of God's faithfulness! Cedar Hall, you have come a long way!

When the Cedar Hall congregation was established in 1822, just twelve years before Emancipation, and the church school established 7 years later in 1829, no one could foresee what God would do. Through its mission, Cedar Hall transformed the educational, moral and spiritual landscape of the island. The spiritual and educational foundation which Cedar Hall offered improved the well-being of the people, and contributed significantly to the community and to the nation of Antigua and Barbuda. Judges, lawyers, politicians, teachers, nurses, doctors, accountants and every kind of artisan have come from the loins of Cedar Hall.

As we reflect on these two hundred years, we cannot deny God's faithfulness, and so as a thankful people, we celebrate a faithful God. We know God is not finished with us, yet. So, by God's grace we continue to grow deeper, get stronger and reach higher. We give all the glory to God.



Cedar Hall Moravian Church, Then

Cedar Hall Moravian Church, 1997



Cedar Hall Moravian Church, Now

MORAVIAN CHURCH EWIP 33rd Provincial Synod SYNOD ADVISORY #2

The Provincial Board makes the following announcements:

1. The date for the 33rd Provincial Synod has been adjusted to July 17-22, 2022. The Opening Service will be on July 17 at 9.00 a.m. This will be a provincial service with input from each Conference.
2. The Synod Retreat will be held on July 17, 2022, at 5:00 pm. The theme for the Retreat is: Embracing the change: Thriving amidst the crisis.
3. Synod sessions begin at 8:30 am with Devotions led by the Chaplain each morning with participation from all Conferences throughout the week.
4. Conferences are required to designate a location that allows all synodals to meet in the same space while also allowing for adequate personal space for Committee meetings.
5. Two Pre-Synod sessions will be held May 26 & June 16, where the Synod reports, procedural matters for the hosting of the 33rd Provincial Synod virtually, and other issues will be discussed.
6. The other officers of Synod - Vice Chairman and Assistant Secretary will be elected at the first pre-Synod meeting.
7. The Registration form for the 33rd Provincial Synod will be shared shortly.
8. The election of a Bishop has been added to the 33rd Provincial Synod agenda.

Please be in prayer for the 33rd Provincial Synod that all the logistics come together and the will of God is done.



Advance the Kingdom ~ S.H.I.F.T

Celebrants Corner

Birthday Celebrants April 26th & 27th

Sis. Rosalind Prince 26
Bro. Mikie Roberts 27

Birthday Celebrants May 1st—11th

Bro. Patmore Smith 10
Sis. Ivy Vessup 10
Sis. Gloria Barker 11

Anniversary Celebrants April 22nd—April 28th

Sis. Esther Moore-Roberts & Bro. Rudolph Roberts 22
Bro. Elroy Christopher & Sis. Jane Thomas-Christopher 27
Bro. Jeremy Francis & Sis. Rena Warner-Francis 28

Anniversary Celebrants May 1st—14th

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

Quote of the Day

Jesus did not die on the cross just so we could live comfortable, well-adjusted lives. His purpose is far deeper: He wants to make us like himself before he takes us to heaven. This is our greatest privilege, our immediate responsibility and our ultimate destiny.

[Rick Warren](#)

Condolences



The Provincial family expresses condolences to the following:

1. The family of the late Lay Pastor Joseph Charles of the Cana congregation in the Antigua Conference. Bro. Charles died on March 28, 2022, at age 93 years. Bro. Charles served as Lay Pastor of the Zion and Judges Hill Congregations and worked extensively in the founding of the Judges Hill, Cashew Hill, and Urlings Congregations. The service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lay Pastor Joseph Charles, takes place on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church, St. John's Street, Antigua. Tributes begin at 1.30p.m. Interment will be at God's Acre (Swetes Village).
2. The Rev. Errol Connor on the tragic death of his uncle, Mr. Arthur Henry of St. Kitts. Mr. Henry was reported missing on March 24, 2022. His body was later discovered on April 5, 2022, buried in a shallow grave. The funeral service for Mr. Henry will take place on April 21, 2022.

Please pray comfort and peace for the family of the late Lay Pastor Joseph Charles. Let us also pray for Rev. Errol Connor and family in their time of grief, distress, and loss.

May the Lord's
Sacrifices Reflect
Upon Your Actions.
Have a Blessed
Good Friday and a
Lovely Easter.



Advance the Kingdom ~ S.H.I.F.T

ALL the words listed below are in this **EASTER** 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 left-over letters to form the **Mystery Answer**.

Alive,	Emmaus,	Peter,
Angel,	Garden,	Pilate,
Apostles,	Gethsemane,	Priest,
Appearance,	Golgotha,	Redeemed,
Arrest,	Ischariot,	Risen,
Barabbas,	Jerusalem,	Romans,
Betrayed,	Jesus,	Rooster,
Calvary,	Joy,	Salvation,
Christ,	Judas,	Sanhedrin,
Church,	Magdalene,	Spring,
Cross,	Mary,	Tomb,
Crucified,	Parade,	Trial,
Death,	Passover,	Worship
Eggs,	Peace,	



- Palm Sunday is the week before Easter. What does it mark?
 - When Jesus was put on the cross - it took a long time for him to die.
 - Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem
 - Jesus going on trial.
- Why was Jesus coming to Jerusalem?
 - He was being put on trial
 - He was visiting his home town
 - To celebrate the Passover
- On what day was the Last Supper held?
 - Maundy Thursday
 - Good Friday
 - Easter Sunday
- How did Judas betray Jesus?
 - He marked out Jesus to the Roman soldiers by kissing his cheek
 - He disclosed where Jesus was eating his Passover meal
 - He stabbed him in the back
- Who was Pontius Pilate?
 - One of Jesus's disciples
 - The Roman Emperor
 - Roman governor who oversaw the death of Jesus
- Who was the criminal that was set free so that Jesus could be crucified?
 - Barrack
 - Barbosa
 - Barabbas
- Who else was crucified alongside Jesus?
 - No one. He was on his own
 - Two thieves
 - Two murderers
- What words did Jesus, according to the Bible, cry out while on the cross?
 - 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me'
 - 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die'
 - 'He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces'
- Who came to visit Jesus at his burial site only to discover he'd been resurrected?
 - Mary Magdalene
 - His mother, Mary
 - The Bible doesn't specify
- When did Jesus leave Earth to join God in heaven?
 - Immediately
 - After he appeared to his disciples
 - After he'd spoken to the women who visited his grave



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.

Resurrection

Mystery Answer

Bible Trivia Answers

6. C

1. B.

7. B

2. C

8. A

3. A.

9. A

4. A

10. B

5. C