

# 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)

### Shifting into Discipleship



**Rev. Algernon Lewis**  
**Chairman of PEC**

Stepping into this new year that God has gifted us, the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province, will SHIFT into discipleship among other things. Discipleship is fundamental to the identity of the church. A disciple is a follower, a student, one who sits at the feet of another. In discipleship, one leader/teacher gets to transfer knowledge and experiences to a follower/student. Discipleship from the biblical perspective is not power over but power with – we are in this together.

As Christ-followers, our example has been set. Jesus gave the church strict instructions to go and make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19-20). If we are to be faithful to the call of God, then we must follow the Great Commission and make disciples. It means being active in the world for Jesus's sake. However, that is not often the case. We prefer to stay within our comfort zones and do our best there to please Jesus. No matter how meaningful that ministry might be, if Jesus did not specifically call you there, then you are out of place. Discipleship requires that we respond to the call of Jesus.

In thinking about discipleship, Luke 10: 30-37 comes to mind - the parable of the Good Samaritan. I am not an academic biblical scholar so there may be nuances in this text that my reading does not recognize. This text is haunting in how accurately it portrays much of our ministry in modern times. Two religious leaders got an opportunity to represent their God to a man in a vulnerable position, fighting for his life, and they did nothing. The text is silent as to why they did nothing. There may have been acceptable reasons why they could not have helped, least of all that someone else will do 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, Evangelist discipleship and service.

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*Shifting into Discipleship*  
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They did nothing to help the man who was broken, battered, and helpless. As far as we know, the Jewish religion emphasized caring for people in need and God wants shepherds after God's heart. So how is it that they could walk pass the man and not show any signs of caring?

Could it be that the hymn-writer described them accurately with these lines:

*For many learn the doctrine and lose in their rules,  
 And many drown the Gospel in clamour of the schools;  
 But thy true saints have found thee in all things as thou art  
 These followed thine example, the orthodox at heart.*

Could it be that this is really a problem of the heart? Could it be that the priest and Levi were tethered to the principles of Judaism academically and not spiritually? Could it be that they were so focused on the rules that they forgot about people? The Rev. Vera Waithe said years ago in a meditation at Synod "People are more important than programmes."

This raises the question of the formation of their hearts. We have been discipled by the culture and the world and they have formed our hearts and minds how to act like the world. That is our normal disposition. Most of us spend time consuming media for entertainment and information. In the process of consuming this media, our opinions and principles are formed. We generally do not see it happening while it is happening. We only discover it when we slow down and take an honest look at our thoughts, lives and actions.

When we encounter Jesus in a deep and personal way, Jesus invites us into his kingdom (the rule of God), to take off the old and put on the new. Jesus calls us to be his representatives in the world and to be his disciples.

Discipleship at its deepest level is about reforming people's hearts to reflect the image of the teacher. More specifically, Christian discipleship is about mirroring the ways of Jesus to the core. Truth is, we are taught the doctrines of the faith and we later learn how to apply them to our satisfaction. Discipleship is

meant to change the heart and the actions of the believer. So, I do not just believe that Jesus loves everyone and cares for everyone, but I practice it with my neighbours. I care about my neighbours even when their behaviour is offensive. Jesus calls us to be an alternate community. A community that operates on divine principles such as those found in the Sermon on the Mount - "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you."

How do you digest this text? My first response is to raise an objection. Doing good to anyone who does not care for me is a stretch. That is neither normal nor natural for me. In order for me to do that, my heart has to be changed to resemble the heart of God. Theology, doctrine, mentorship, and even worship are all great but they do not change people's heart. Change is the prerogative of the Holy Spirit. Only God can form and fashion hearts to mirror the divine.

As a Christ-follower, I must embody the ways of Jesus, I must walk my faith out. "What would Jesus do" was popular about a decade ago. Doing what Jesus does should not be a fad for the Christ-follower. It should be the compass that directs our lives. It is crucial that our actions reflect the ways of Jesus rather than the culture we live in. Christ-followers should stick out not because we are seen as super-spiritual but because our ways of following Jesus cause them to show levels of compassion and action that are not normal.

The Samaritan in the story came along and saw a man in need. Being a Samaritan means that he was outside of the Jewish religious system of caring for others – he was an outsider. The text records that he had compassion – his heart moved him to act in solidarity with the wounded. Unlike the previous men who were well schooled/discipled in the theory, he was schooled/discipled in acting for others. The Samaritan saw a need and he acted. Others saw a need and looked away, likely, because they found an excuse.

This passage is also troubling in that it is showing us that people outside the religious system may operate at higher moral levels than people inside the religious system. Of what benefit is my faith in God if it does not make me more loving and kind?

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## Chairman's New Year's Message

All praise, glory, and honour to the immortal, invisible, only wise God for having brought us into a new year, 2022.

I am Rev Algernon Lewis, Chair of the Eastern West Indies Province.

Greetings to you and your families as we begin this new journey together. We pray that goodness and mercy will be your constant companion for 2022.

Our traverse through 2021 had its challenges like any other year. However, God carried us through. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for your support through the changing scenes of 2021. Whether it was the Provincial Days of Prayer, the Lenten meditations, the Engagement and Empowerment sessions, the offering raised for brothers and sisters in Haiti and St. Vincent, the offering for our widows or other causes, you showed up and offered your support. The Provincial Board is profoundly grateful.

We face a New Year of new possibilities through faith in our sovereign God. We will continue to make the SHIFT – Seek and Submit, Hear and Heed, Imagination and Insight, Focus and Function, leading to Total Transformation. Making the SHIFT means the work of equipping our Pastors and Leaders will continue. We will be more deliberate in our work of discipling and nurturing faith. Stewarding the resources that God has provided is a necessary part of this move – looking for ways to attract more resources to finance the work of ministry. Making the SHIFT also means being deliberate about our missional posture. Being missional helps us to be a church that is outward facing, being the hands and feet of Jesus in our communities. All of this will be done while we move towards the 33rd Provincial Synod to be held virtually in July 2022.

In relation to Synod, you can expect conversations to be held about matters to be discussed at Synod so that the time at Synod is more effectively used.

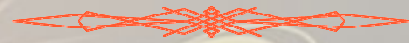
All of this requires more effort and time to get done. However, we are not doing this work by ourselves.

I am encouraged by Caleb in Joshua 14: 12 who shouted, “give me this mountain,” the place where the giants were.

He knew that as God led him, the giants would fall. Our giants can fall. Our giants will fall. That is why we need to continue to pray every month. That is why we need concentrated times of equipping and re-tooling. That is why the Provincial Board needs your full support.

It has been my absolute pleasure to serve as Chairman. Sure, there are moments of consternation. However, these have been met by the unexplained, undeserved grace and favour of God. The other members of the Provincial Board and our Bishops are likely to say the same. We serve at God's pleasure.

Once again to the Provincial family, a Happy, Blessed, Peaceful, Bountiful New Year to you and your families!



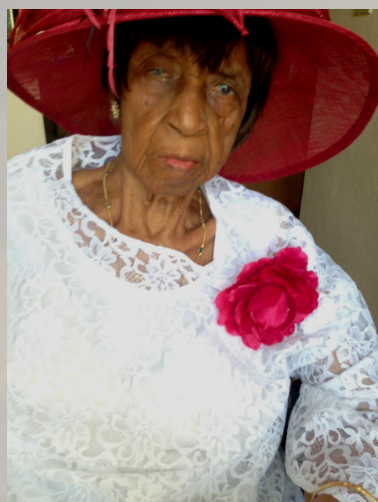
### *Shifting into Discipleship continued from page 2*

Of what benefit is my knowledge of Jesus if it does not help me be useful to women caught in adultery, men who have fallen among thieves, and children who are lost? Discipleship must help the disciple to shine light on Monday when the world's system comes to steal, kill, and destroy.

This kind of discipleship is costly. For the Samaritan it was time and money. For us, it might be something else. What is important is that we respond to the situations and people God has brought into our path so that we can represent him there. If we become a church that really meets people where they are and love them and care for them, what do you think would happen? What I know is that people generally go where they feel love and acceptance.

This is a call for us as a church to be intentional about representing Christ in the world. Our hearts need to care for others as Jesus cares for us. We must be willing to go the extra mile and represent the values of the kingdom as disciples and leave the rest to Jesus. May God help us to SHIFT into discipleship so that we can more accurately represent the heart of God.

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



**Tribute to  
Mrs. Margaret John  
January 4th, 1923 -  
October 11th, 2021**

On behalf of the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC), I share this tribute to Mrs. Margaret John.

Woman of virtue! Woman of noble character! Woman of excellence! Woman of God! Let her name be re-

membered in the annals of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies as she exemplified what it means to be a woman in support ministry.

Sis. Margaret John followed her husband into the ordained ministry of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies. She was as much called as her husband because she understood the need to impact the lives of people for good and for God. Whenever Sis. Margaret's name was called people remembered her warmth and welcoming nature. One person who experienced her ministry spoke of her as redefining the manse from being a walled fortress to a welcome zone. That is significant in how it impacted the lives of youth and drew them to church and the pastoral family. Proverbs 31: 30 says "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised." Sis. Margaret John embraced all those characters and carried them well.

In my interactions with Sis. John, she displayed a witty, sharp humor. She did not speak much but there was usually something there that brought a smile to my face even though she remained stoic. She did not see herself as being shut-in so the monthly communion for shut in members was not for her. In her mind, she might be found in church on any given Sunday.

The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of Sis. Margaret John. She trusted God for her salvation, and we believe she has entered the eternal rest prepared by God before the foundations of the earth. We pray the peace and comfort of God for her mourning family and friends. Deuteronomy 33: 27 reminds us that, "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." May all Sis. John's family and friends have that personal encounter with God that Sis. John had and come away with the same testimony of the faithfulness of God.

May her soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Tribute to  
Mrs. Bernadine Samuel-Chase  
June 07, 1946 - December 25, 2021**

The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Provincial family pauses to pay tribute to a woman of virtue in the person of Sis. Bernadine Chase. Sis. Chase gave of herself as



she supported the ministry of her husband, Bro. Winston Chase as they moved from Antigua to Tobago and later to St. Croix in response to the call of God. Moving into unfamiliar territory is difficult but she did it with grace. The Province records her devotion to the call and offers thanks to God.

The Book of Psalms is replete with ques-

tions for God resulting from the catastrophic occurrences in the life of the faithful. It is not often that we get answers from God that explain our circumstances and quiet our souls. What we do get is the word of encouragement and exhortation to "hope still in God" or to wait for the morning when joy will come, or return and rest, or "be still and know that I am God." Each time, God reminds us that God never intends ill or to seek our demise. The Good Shepherd cares for the sheep, even laying down his life for the sheep.

The Provincial family stands with you, Bro. Chase and family, in this time when the pain of death is most potent. We remind you, you are not alone! We stand in solidarity with you in and through prayer, believing that the Holy Spirit will carry you through.

As we pay our last respects to the mortal remains of Sis. Bernadine Samuel-Chase and close that chapter, we know that the hand of God will continue to be active in your lives, doing new and different things. May all family and friends find comfort and salvation in the same God Sis. Bernadine trusted.

May the soul of Mrs. Bernadine Samuel-Chase rest in peace and rise in glory.

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





**Tribute to  
Mrs. Ida Brown O.M  
July 03, 1934 -  
December 26, 2021**

Sis. Ida Brown, born 1934, first met her husband Bishop Neville Brown at Moriah in Tobago in 1952, they were married three years later. Their first child Sylvester was

born that year and Bishop and Ida moved from Tobago to Cedar Hall in Antigua at the end of that year. The following year their second child Lennox arrived and a year later Ida accompanied her husband to St. Kitts where she describes conditions as less than favourable.

Their third child, Trevor, was born amidst these conditions, suffered head damage during childbirth and died a few years later after a fall and succumbing to a concussion to the brain. The first girl Louise was born later that year.

In 1961, Ida was again relocated when Bishop was called back to Antigua where she landed her first job, as a receptionist at Antigua Horizons Hotel for several years, breaking the tradition of the Moravian Church in Antigua that a minister's wife should not work.

Rawle was the fifth addition to the family and was born late April in Antigua and Marie the 6th child was born 1968. She died from cerebral tumor at the age of 6 in Trinidad soon after Bishop's seventh call.

Mrs. Brown worked as a senior bookkeeper at International Trust of Washington in Port-Of-Spain for the eleven years they were stationed in Trinidad. On Bishop's eight call back to Antigua in 1980, Mrs. Brown worked at Antigua gasses for many years until their closure.

Her passion has always been working with the youth and women's groups. Most Moravians would testify to her love of organised events especially the church's beach picnics.

Soon after the death of Bishop Brown, Mrs. Brown suffered increased memory loss that resulted in full-blown Alzheimer's and she resided at the Sunrise Nursing home in All Saints for a while. Sis Brown, in her latter days, resided at the Bishop John E. Knight home.

May her soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

**33rd Provincial Synod  
of the Moravian Church Eastern West  
Indies Province**

The Provincial Board has set the date for the 33rd Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province for July 18-22, 2022. Living within this period of uncertainty necessitates that Synod be held using a hybrid/virtual model. Mindful of the local pandemic protocols, each Conference in the Province is asked to prepare for the event by doing the following:

1. Elect Synod delegate(s) in accordance with the provisions of the Book of Order paragraph 4.4.7.
2. Submit the names of all delegates by March 31, 2022.
3. Prepare all reports for submission to the Provincial Office by April 29, 2022.
4. Prepare and submit to the Provincial Office all proposals to be considered at the 33rd Provincial Synod by April 15, 2022.

Information will be circulated later with pre-synod processes and procedures.

The Provincial Board has appointed Rev. Adelyn Mgonela to serve as the Synod Chaplain. The Rev. Dr. Jeremy Francis has been appointed Chairman of Synod. The Rev. Onita Samuel-Warner has been appointed Secretary of Synod.

One of the businesses of the 33rd Provincial Synod is to approve the updated Book of Order 2020. This document has been circulated to Pastors for onward circulation to members for reflection, discussion, and amendments where needed. Please take time to review this document that governs our operations and share your feedback.

Making the SHIFT for the 33rd Provincial Synod means that we must re-imagine Synod. The presentation of reports, Committee meetings, worship, elections, and participation of delegates and observers will be adjusted to suit the virtual platform. We have the benefit of learning from others who have gone this way before us.

Please add the 33rd Provincial Synod to your prayer list that God's will be done among us.



## Birthday Celebrants

Sis. Andrea Lorde-Smith	Jan 29
Sis. Adelyn Mgonela	Feb 03
Bro. Cortroy Jarvis	Feb 07

## Prayerful Support

The Provincial family requests your prayers for Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis who is recovering in Miami, Florida. Please pray for his Family as they stand in support of him.



## Anniversary Celebrants

Sis. Georgette John-Cotton and Bro. Vondell Cotton Feb 15

## Congratulations

Tsamara Roberts, Daughter of Revd's. Dr. Winelle and Mikie Roberts graduated with Bachelor of science in biology with honors from Seton Hill University Pennsylvania. Tsamara will pursue her doctoral studies in medicine from July. She intends to specialize in sports medicine.



Let us remember her in prayer.

## Condolences

The Provincial family expresses condolences to:

- ♦ The Rev. Dr. Errol Connor on the death of his uncle, Mr. John Connor, who died in Anguilla on December 18, 2021. Mr. Connor was 84 years old.
- ♦ The family of the late Sis. Olga Baird-Joefield of Tobago, former missionary to the Grenada Mission. Sis. Olga Baird-Joefield was also the mother of Rev. Julie Joefield-Parris, Minister of Christian Education in the Barbados Conference. Sis. Olga died in Tobago on December 21, 2021.
- ♦ The Rev. Winston Jones on the death of his eldest sibling, Ms. Jacqueline Jones, who died in Barbados on December 23, 2021. Ms. Jones was 59 years old at the time of her death.
- ♦ Rev. Adelyn Mgonela on the death of her youngest sister, Ms. Jennifer Walters who died in Florida on December 25, 2021.
- ♦ Rev. Winston Chase on the death of his wife, Sis. Bernadine Chase who died in Florida on December 25, 2021. A Thanksgiving service was held at Prince of Peace Moravian Church on January 12, 2022.
- ♦ The family of the late Sis. Ida Brown, wife of the late Bishop Neville Brown, who died on December 26, 2021, in Antigua. A Thanksgiving service for Sis. Ida Brown, wife of the late Bishop Neville Brown, took place today Monday, January 17, 2022 at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church, St. Johns Street, St. Johns, Antigua.
- ♦ Bishop Kingsley Lewis, on the death of his Aunt Christine O'Reilly, who died on January 17, 2022.

Please Pray for All the above Families as they journey through the valley of grief and loss. May the Comfort of God surround them.

## Quote of the Day

"Whatever affects one directly, affects ALL indirectly."

-Martin Luther King Jr. -

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



**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**.

Beauty fades,	Keeps and eye,	Rejoice,
Call her blessed,	Lamp,	Rises at night,
Charm deceitful,	Makes tapestry,	Seeks,
Comforts,	Plants a garden,	Shells,
Diligent,	Prepare,	Speaks kindly,
Done well,	Provides food,	Strength,
Hand holds,	Quick to assist,	Stretches hands,
Honor,	Reaches out	Words of praise



1. When Saul conquered the Amalekites, what person did he keep as a prisoner instead of killing like God said to? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which books of the Bible record all the kings? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which books of the Bible did Solomon write? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many kings of Judah were there? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many kings of Israel were there? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who conquered Judah and took Daniel to their country? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who was the last king Daniel served under in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What did Solomon build for the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What were Daniel's three friends' (Babylonian names)? \_\_\_\_\_
10. When they refused to bow to an idol, where were they thrown? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Who returned to Israel to build up the walls of Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What Israelite saved her people from being murdered and was a wife of the king? \_\_\_\_\_
13. How did Esther get to talk to the king? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Who let the Israelites return to their homeland? \_\_\_\_\_
15. True or False: John the Baptist wore clothes made of goat's hair. \_\_\_\_\_



# 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.

### Mystery word Kindness

1. The King, Agag
2. 1st and 2nd Kings, 1st and 2nd Chronicles
3. Song of Solomon and Proverbs and some Psalms
4. 20, 5, 19
6. The Babylonians
7. King Nebuchadnezzar's,
8. A Temple
9. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego
10. In to a fiery furnace
11. Nehemiah
12. Esther
13. Went into talk without being summoned first
14. Cyrus
15. False: It was camel hair.

### Answers to Bible Trivia