

# 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)

### Going afar, upon the mountain!



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

There are such sweet memories of singing that well love missionary hymn by William A. Ogden written in 1886. As we sing it in the current context, we must remind ourselves that mission is not just far off. We need Jesus here and now. Some people joyfully singing the hymn need to make a conscious decision to embrace Jesus as "the Lamb for sinners slain."

One of the core functions of the church is to "Go and make disciples of all nations..." In this season of missionary meetings and lovefeasts, let us challenge ourselves to look at this core function and see how we measure up. Even if your missionary service has passed, you still need to determine what passes for missionary work at your congregation. Is there a tangible sign that your congregation, as a stand-alone entity, extends its arms to another outside the fold? This does not include contributions to Provincial mission projects that go beyond the Province - "going afar, upon the mountains." What does your mission report look like?

Each year, the Province is required to send out a report on the various missionary endeavours throughout the Province and beyond. The report is generally shared during the missionary service. The 2022 report is included in this publication. During my tenure, we have struggled to identify mission projects using funds generated during missionary. Is it that most congregations are not reporting the wonderful works of missionary efforts they undertake, or it is that the works of mission are scarce? Remember that mission is not limited to "going afar, upon the mountain bringing the wanders back again into the fold of our Redeemer." Mission is the effort of the church to reach beyond its borders to touch others with the love of Jesus. As people commissioned by Jesus, we must look beyond ourselves for the opportunities to make Christ known.

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**October, 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.

### Mailing Address

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



Most congregations are located within communities where schools exist. Are there any students and teachers in need in that school? Are there students in that school who are struggling to learn English or could use homework help? That is mission; that is meeting someone in need and showing that person the difference Jesus makes in the believer's life. These acts of kindness open doors for deeper mission and ministry.

The model of mission used by our Moravian Church in the Caribbean was to create missions around the needs of the people God brought before them. There was a great need for education in the early years. Therefore, schools were built to educate enslaved people. The ability to read and write opened a new world for the enslaved. They then built their own structures to facilitate their communities. We benefit from the mission of our forebears.

Responsible Christian stewardship demands that we use the same model and be mission-curious as to how we might serve the communities where God planted us. Serving our communities requires that we listen to our neighbours. This is a learnt skill. The church is guilty of deciding what people need without requesting their input. Some neighbours who have lots of mouths to feed may have greater needs than food. Some of those children may need homework assistance or a safe place, or scholarship for school. We cannot determine the needs. Needs must arise naturally within the context so that people maintain their agency – their right to make their own decisions.

Speaking of decision making, October is traditionally the time when Congregations plan for the coming year. In 2021, all Pastors and congregations were involved in a strategic planning workshop. All Congregations were tasked with identifying one or two projects that will occupy their attention for the next year or two. Congregations may focus on more mission/ministry projects, but given the limited resources, it is better to focus our efforts. As you decide which mission/ministry projects will occupy your attention in 2023 and beyond, listen to your neighbours as you listen to God.

The Provincial Board is challenging Congregational Boards and Pastors to think bigger about mission and ministry. There is too much internal focus and not enough development of the missional posture. The missional posture focuses on being God's hands extended – looking for where people are in need and being present and active there. The missional posture is not about us, it is about what God is doing and how we might join God who is ahead of us. This might be new for members who can only think of giving to other members of the church. However, Jesus calls us to adopt a kingdom perspective as seen in Luke 6: 34 - And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. The world is taken over by the ethic of selfishness. What is needed is the way of Jesus.

The way of Jesus is counterintuitive – the unexpected response. It calls us to go high, to be magnanimous, to embrace generosity, and to love unconditionally. When we study the life of Jesus in the New Testament, we realize that he calibrated his life according to the values of heaven as seen in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6) and calls his followers to do the same. Following the way of Jesus might be "going a far" for some people. Following Jesus takes us outside our comfort zone. It challenges us to act outside the norm. To paint a house or give groceries to someone who might never consider coming to worship with your faith community, requires a mature spirituality. Yet Jesus calls us to this mission.

With all the songs we will sing this missionary season, sing nostalgically and joyfully, but remember there is more. Each congregation needs to identify its one or two mission/ministry projects and plan the way forward. God is already ahead meeting people at the point of their need and waiting for the church to catch up. Let us make haste and get busy.





## Consecration to the Presbyterate

The Rev. Alicia Ross-Floyd was consecrated to the Presbyterate of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province, on Sunday, October 9, 2022, at 4:00 pm at the Friedensthal Moravian Church in St. Croix. The Presbyterate is the second order of ministry in the Moravian Church.



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## International Moravian Missions Report 2022

Warm Christian greetings in the name of Jesus, our Chief Elder.

The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province is a missionary church. Our church has been known to share in the suffering of others by our giving.

As members of the Unity, we play our part in various missional undertakings. The Moravian Church has work/missionary endeavours in many parts of the world. The fastest growing areas of the ministry in the Unity are in Africa where some of our contributions go to support emerging ministries. Our contributions help to build sanctuaries, develop skills training, and rebuild lives. Our contributions are felt in the Moravian Hospital in Ramallah, Jerusalem as well as with refugees including those from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Since our last report, out of your own concern for our brothers and sisters in need, you have provided very well. It was not long ago that the volcano in St. Vincent erupted. In conjunction with the Board of World Mission (BWM) we gave just over USD5000. As the crisis continued and the giving continued, you gave an additional USD5100 to our brothers and sisters in St. Vincent. Those monies were sent to the Methodist Church in St. Vincent which was working with shelters to provide various types of support for persons displaced by the eruption.

You responded to the crises of the earthquake and storm in Haiti and gave generously. Over EC\$17000 was collected for our sibling in Haiti. Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of many who struggle to make ends meet. The work in Haiti remains a challenge with the language and cultural differences. There are plans to acquire land and build sanctuaries in the future.

When the storm affected our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua you responded with generosity and gave. Your contribution totalled over EC\$9400. These monies will make a difference in the lives of real people. In some of these places, our Moravian brothers and sisters exist on very little. As God has blessed us, we get an opportunity to be a blessing.

Our ministries were not just beyond our borders. Con-

gregations throughout the Province have been opening their hands to their communities. Food pantries and soup kitchens are found throughout the Province at various levels. Victims of fire and other kinds of loss in communities have benefited from the extended hands of local Moravian Churches. Our pre-schools and day schools continue to offer Christian education in communities.

The mission in Grenada continues under the leadership of Bro. Devon Mannix. In recent times they were presented with an opportunity to extend the mission by incorporating a preschool. With the skills of Sis. Stacey Mannix, wife of Bro. Devon, and the endorsement of the PEC, they took on the challenge. The school was formally Taylor's Junior Academy. They have now started using the new name, Moravian Junior Academy, as of September 5, 2022. They currently have a staff of 6 with an enrolment of 58 children. The school got a recent upgrade and is doing well for the most part. Most pre-schools struggle over the vacation period as attendance and payments drop. Yet, even with a sizeable monthly rent, they have kept going with assistance from various sources in the Province, and beyond, who see this work as following in the steps of our forebears who created schools as an extension of the Christian ministry.

Recently, we learnt of a critical need in the Trinidad Conference for new desks and chairs for teachers. The furniture is usually provided by the Government. However, they have been slow in responding and the teachers walked off the job for a period. The Gloster Lodge Moravian and L'Anse Noire Moravian School can benefit from our missional efforts so that they continue to serve the cause of Christ in education.

We continue our association with Immanuel Moravian in St. Maarten. However, there has been no visits since the lockdowns. Immanuel continued to serve the mission of God well.

Mission work in different countries:

- Peru: BWM is engaged in mission work in the Moravian Church in Peru. Interesting work at this time is the work being done among indigenous people at the Amazon River.

*Continued on page 6*



## Reception of Acolyte

A Reception of Acolytes was held on Sunday 16th October at the Nisky Moravian Church in the Virgin Islands Conference, for Sis. Lois Felix and Sis. Cleone Parrot-Claxton. They are both members of the Nisky congregation in St. Thomas.



L-R: Sis. Cleone Parrott-Claxton, Sis. Lois Felix



L-R Bro. Algonon Lewis, Sis. Cleone Parrott-Claxton, Bro. Vankys Isaac, Sis. Lois Felix, and Bro. Errol Connor

## Members of the New Provincial Board of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province



Back L—R Sis. Elisa Hodge (Treasurer) Bro. Jeremy Francis (Secretary), Bro. Adrian Smith, Sis. Evannie Jeremiah, (Lay member)  
Front R—L Sis. Deborah Moore-Miggins (Lay Member) Bro. Algonon Lewis (Chairman)

## Congratula-

## tions

### Dr. Anique Elmes-Matthew Appointed as Master's Degree Programme Lead Faculty and (MLitt) Senior Tutor

The Office of Academics is pleased to announce that Dr. Anique Elmes-Matthew has been appointed as the Lead Faculty and Senior Tutor for the Master's Programme.

Dr. Anique currently teaches Mentoring and Coaching in the Master's Programme and Orthodoxy and Orthopraxis in the Ph.D./DSL Programmes at OGS. She is an advocate in her sphere of influence as a mentor and encourager to youth, young adults, and people in all walks of life healing from trauma.

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Heartiest congratulations to the Rev. Onita Samuel-Warner, pastor of the Zion and Bethel pastorate in St. Kitts, who graduated from the University of the West Indies, Open Campus with a Bachelor of Science – Social Work with first class honours. The virtual graduation took place on October 15, 2022.

The Provincial family thanks God for the favour shown to Sis. Samuel-Warner and prays God's continued guidance as she serves the people of God.

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



## Celebrants Corner



Bro. Algernon Lewis	24
Bro. Erflin Browne	25
Sis. Julie Joefield-Parris	28



Sis. Onita Samuel-Warner Nov 1



## Anniversary Celebrants

October 15th—30th

Bro. Vankys Isaac & Sis. Myrtle Isaac 26



## International Moravian Missions Report Continued from page 4

- Uganda: A small Moravian Church is working in Uganda, in the area not far from the capital Kampala. At this time, the erection of the first real church building is taking place. They have for some years worked in an area east of Kampala, where no other churches are present. Most of the land in that area is owned by so-called Medicine Men, who are supposed to have supernatural powers. In reality, people are afraid of these persons, and they are able to keep people away from purchasing land. A small pig project has been supported by the UWD. The Moravian Church has no permanent church in that area, but some groups are worshipping in schools.

- Eastern Congo: This is a Moravian Mission Area, situated in the South Eastern part of D. R. Congo, and the work has been going on for more than a decade. The area goes from Goma in the North down to the Zambian border. For many years, the area has been haunted by rebel groups that have been extremely dangerous for people. Many places are still unsafe. Many people have been killed over a long time. The government forces are generally not able to fight the rebels, who are often supported by troops from Rwanda. As is the situation for D. R. Congo in general,

the many natural resources in the country attract rebels and soldiers from neighbouring countries. The Moravian Church has about 30 churches, an orphanage, a school, a clinic and a health centre and now a main church in Uwira. The work is being supported by the Danish Moravian Mission (BDM)

- Myanmar: Just started a few years ago by a Brother Tin, this little Moravian mission is working under very difficult circumstances due to the military having taken over the country, resulting in thousands of internally and externally displaced refugees. A few small, new congregations fight to survive, but it is difficult because of the violence from the side of the army. The church is present in Rangoon, the capital and I got to know the Moravian Church, while doing theological studies in the Azam province of India in the Chin State, bordering with India. Br. Tin got to meet 2 Moravian theological students from the Moravian Church in India and decided to ask for permission to start a Moravian Church. This work is so far supported by the Unity Mission and Development Fund.

- There is a Moravian Church in Mozambique, which was started and run by Moravians from Tanzania, who have immigrated to Mozambique. It is under the supervision of the Moravian Church Eastern Tanzania.

- Angola: Some years ago, a small group of pastors from Angola were travelling in D. R. Congo and they met with leaders from the Unity Province of Congo, based in Kasai Orientale Region, in central Congo. They decided to start a Moravian Church in Angola. They have 3 or 4 churches in the area of the capital Luanda. They have some members doing theological studies online. For quite some time we have been working on getting an official registration of the church in Angola.

Let us continue to be missional as we serve our missional God.



## Quote of the Day

"You cannot fulfill God's purposes for your life while focusing on your own plans."

Pastor Rick Warren

**ALL** the words listed below are in this **Stronger Together** 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 in the correct order to form the **Mystery Answer**.

Abel,	Earth,	Plants,
Adam,	Enoch,	Raspberry,
Antelope,	Enos,	Sabbath,
Apples,	Firmament, Fish-	Seth,
Birds,	es,	Solomon,
Blackberries,	Gazelle,	Stars,
Blueberries,	Giraffe,	Watermelon,
Brazen,	Grass,	Waters,
Cain,	Heaven,	Wickedness
Canaan,	Japheth,	
Cantaloupe,	Jared,	
Cherries,	Lamech,	
Created,	Light,	
Darkness,	Moon,	
Deer,	Noah,	

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



- How old was Noah's father, Lamech, when he died?
  - 77
  - 356
  - 777
  - He didn't die
- In which direction does the Book of Genesis say God planted a garden?
  - In the North
  - In the East
  - A little bit west
  - In the metaverse
- What did God create on the second day in Genesis 1?
  - Land
  - Sky
  - Animals
  - A really good salad
- Which character in the Bible said, "This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head."?
  - King Saul
  - Jesse
  - David
  - Conan the Barbarian
- What did Moses say when God called to him from within the burning bush, "Moses! Moses!"?
  - "Hello"
  - Who's there?!
  - "Here I am!"
  - That's my name don't wear it out
- Which book of the Bible talks about gates made of pearls?
  - Matthew
  - Nahum
  - Revelation
  - The Lost City
- What did David's dad give him to take to the commander of the unit his brothers were in?
  - Wine
  - Cheeses
  - Healing oils
  - A Duck
- In what book of the Bible is the last mention of the location of the Ark of the Covenant?
  - 2Chronicles
  - Revelation
  - Lamentations
  - The Diary of Indiana Jones
- While Elijah was in hiding in the Kerith Ravine who does the Bible say brought him food?
  - His Mother
  - Ravens
  - Ants
  - Uber Seats
- After Moses entered the tent of meeting who/what would stand at the entrance?
  - Cherubim
  - Pillar of cloud
  - Pillar of fire
  - Gary



# 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 air-conditioned 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.

*Methuselah*

*Mystery Answer*

- Bible Trivia Answers*
1. Genesis 5: 31, (NIV)
  2. Genesis 2: 6, (NIV)
  3. genesis 1:6-8, (NIV)
  4. 1 Samuel 17:45-47 (NIV)
  5. Exodus 3:4, (NIV)
  6. Revelation 21:21, (NIV)
  7. Isamuel 17: 17-19, (NIV)
  8. Revelation 11: 19, (NIV)
  9. 1Kings 17:2-6, (NIV)
  10. Exodus 33:9, (NIV)