A communication from the Chair of the PEC of the Moravian Church Eastern West **Indies Province** 

To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

(Ephesians 4:12-13)



SHIFT:

Reclaiming Our Identity

Renewing Our Purpose

Re-igniting Our Passion

# The Information

August 2024 Issue

**VI** Conference

## Good to the Last Drop

There is a growing number of clergy persons who have served and continue to serve Christ and the Church with longevity, sincerity and distinction. They have been in the trenches not on the benches for forty (40) or more years; and we know that number 40 has generational theological and significance in the Bible. These soldiers of Christ have shown great devotion to duty, true dedication to the flock, untrammeled commitment to the high ideals of the faith, and untiring service to God and neighbor. They have taken Paul's admonition to young Timothy seriously, and through the years have stood ready to preach, teach, and admonish as they sought to nurture deepen commitment, encourage the service of faithful souls in and women, but we must not forget the advancing the Kingdom of God amongst laity. Lay men and women, young and people everywhere.





and We praise the service of clerical men old, can be found amongst many a clergy men and women who have served long and well through rolling years. In fact, I know of one choir member of the Nisky congregation on St Thomas who sang on the choir through 80 long years. She was invited to join the choir at the tender age of 15 years. She retired from the choir at the mature age of 95. Her name is Sis. Ina Parrott. She was 101 years old when she was called to higher service on April 5, 2014. Also, on Father's Day 2024, I gave a preaching assignment to the 85 years old, Bro. Joseph Williams. He was an important plank in the establishment of the Trinity Moravian Church on Tortola. He contributed greatly of his time, talent, treasure, and testimony to serve alongside and fellowship with the brethren and pastors. He completed the assigned task on Father's Day. Two

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## A Church for All Times

The Rev. Dr. Anique Elmes-Matthew

The Moravian Church, a beacon of inspiration, was at the forefront of change. Its pioneering spirit in missions and evangelism, from the first missionary journey in August 1732 to St. Thomas, Danish West Indies (now St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands), to the present day, continues to inspire movements worldwide to pioneer new ways of leading God's people in these changing times.

In addition to preaching the Gospel, the Moravian Church Missionaries were pioneers in education. Their unwavering commitment to providing an education for the enslaved people was a testament to their holistic approach to mission work. The Moravian Church was one of the first organized religious bodies to establish primary and secondary schools for enslaved people in the West Indies (Hutton, 2017).

The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province (MCEWIP) boasts about its rich legacy in missionary endeavors, education, music, and other contributions to religious, social, and cultural heritage throughout the Caribbean and the world. The first great revival in modern-day church history occurred among the Moravians on August 13, 1457, in Berthelsdorf, Germany (Greenfield, 2013). The first round-the-clock prayer meeting in church history occurred in the Moravian Community of Herrnhut in Saxony, Germany, in 1727. The prayer meeting continued non-stop for over one hundred years. The Moravian Church still observes the prayer watch throughout the worldwide Moravian Community (Hubbard, 2022).

Understanding the Moravian Church's legacy and its potential for even greater works today, the questions that can plague one's mind include, "What is the state of the church?" "What are the contributing factors in the decline in church health/growth?" "How do we once again become a church on fire for God while evangelizing the world?" Hebrews 10:23 asserts, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." The Moravian Church must "Think outside of the box/walls of the sanctuary." As the mother of Missions, the Moravian Church must return to basics, fulfilling the Great Commission, even if it means sacrificing some of its "sacred" traditions.

#### Leadership

The church has entered a new era in which church leaders are called to rethink and retool as they engage in ministry (Bolsinger, 2020). The Moravian Church (EWIP) leaders are encouraged to identify the necessary changes to correct the decline in church growth. Branson and Martinez (2023) stated that the church is God's change agent. God calls church leaders and members to fulfill the Great Commission while being intentional, relevant, and effective in winning souls for the Lamb of God. According to Davis (2021),

We must acknowledge, accept, learn, embrace, and master cultural change, especially those resulting from Digital-Transformation, by pro-actively becoming "Positive-Force" Change-Agents in shaping cultural attitudes and norms. The alternative is to resign the Church to the continued steady decline in attendance and membership that stems from an increasing cultural irrelevance that is well underway and which may pose an existential threat to our Church and the world it serves (p. 149).

The Church must be relevant and lead changes that will last in society.

The changing times require leadership in a new and unsettling way. Vaters (2020) asserts that change is accelerating; therefore, churches that refuse to change can experience decline or eventually die. As the Moravian Church reflects on its current state, being mission-minded, open, and receptive to change are critical for its growth. Jesus Christ was the greatest change agent in the world.

The changes required to propel the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province (MCEWIP) into greater effectiveness include the intentional development of staff and its members. Provincial and Executive Board members are encouraged to model the excellence

required of those they lead. Additionally, church leaders must be good role models to members of their congregation and their community. According to Rainer (2020),

The opportunity to lead change is likely greater than any other point in our lifetimes. Without a doubt, the world has changed. Without a doubt, western culture has shifted; and it has shifted largely against churches. Without a doubt, most church leaders have not been trained and equipped for this new season.

The church can embrace what Davis (2021) calls "Churchpreneurs," "people who make creativity and innovation part of [the church's] new DNA. ...take more risks ideating and developing new ministries, missions, and operational structures needed to bring more people to Christ" (p. 124). Davis also said "perhaps we all need to

follow Jesus' lead and simplify the Church to save it. As Church-Leaders, we must embrace change, not fear it, for otherwise, we will fail in our duties. And lastly, we need to redefine our churches for a new population that right now either doesn't know we exist because we're not a part of the daily conversation they're in or who outright reject us based on misconceptions and mistrust. The choice is ours" (p. 124).

The church's leadership must foster a work environment with clear values, priorities, and standards. To fulfill the Great Commission, church leaders must model Jesus' example as a humble and transformational leader.

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## Friedensthal Moravian Dance Group

The Friedensthal Moravian Dance Group was formed in November 2019. Its birth derived from the interest of members within the 2019 Confirmation Class.

On November 17 during the Youth Service, the group ministered for the first time with its four (4) members. However, by December, the group had increased to ten (10). Sis. Alyssa Hamilton, a member of the 2019 Confirmation Class was the choreographer.

The group throughout the years remained active. Currently, there are eleven (11) members. The age group ranges from seven (7) to eighteen (18). As of 2023, Sis. Lisa Jenkins, a parent of a member in that Confirmation Class, was appointed as choreographer as Sis. Alyssa was no longer available. Special mention must also be given to the parents of the dancers who continue to play an active role in ensuring the ministry thrives.



## Hot Beverage Ministry

Between December 2023 to March of 2024 the Memorial Moravian Women's Fellowship lost its President and Vice President. It was a challenging time as we tried to focus on our mission as a group. We continued to do our quarterly pantry project where we share food items with our sick and shut-in in different communities, but we needed to do more.

It was decided to do a project that would benefit others and seek to carry on the work of our leadership that had passed on. Therefore, in April 2024, we began our Breakfast Ministry where we provide a hot beverage and a light snack after morning worship. The response from members and visitors has been tremendous. It has proven to be a very timely ministry.

Persons who come to church

have found the time to sit and chat as they share in this time of fellowship. It has also been a blessing to the members of the fellowship as persons are always contributing towards this project. We hope to continue this ministry as we seek to be a blessing to others. We also continue to explore ways of reaching and touching the lives of others.

Althea Jarvis Memorial Women's Fellowship

#### **Social Change**

The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province (MCEWIP) can advance constructive social change through church leaders' willingness and ability to engage in continuing education and equipping the saints for ministry through evangelism, discipleship, stewardship, team-based leadership, and adaptability. God has equipped the church, which is also the community, with all the resources it needs to provide long-term solutions that will offer sustainable outcomes to God's people. I concur with Davis (2021), who proposed that a divine shift in mindset and learning a new framework are necessary for church leaders to collaboratively transform their sphere of influence.

The church and its leaders are responsible for fulfilling the Great Commission while meeting society's needs. The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province (MCEWIP) has the potential and resources to bring together diverse local churches to collaborate, mobilize, partner, maximize the use of shared resources toward achieving a common goal of fulfilling the Great Commission. Throughout Scripture, Jesus ministered to the needs of all people. Jesus' life in His community was relational; therefore, the church's mission must begin with building healthy relationships with others. The church needs to be reformed to hear the issues of a new age and effectively share the gospel with people. "Sōlō Christō" (In Christ Alone).

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last drop.

time to time. Among them are some who would every cupboard. Understand this then: Whatever the born" (Ephesians 2:10). fancy, the choice, or brand and blend of your coffee or your tea (for that matter), this one thing CREATED FOR GOOD WORKS must stand out in beacon fashion, if it is good, it must be good to the last drop. Similarly, we are Doing good deeds is an expression of the of God.

#### GOOD TO THE LAST DROP

righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not of us took form in our mother's womb. only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

2 Timothy 4:1-8 NRSV

#### FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Apostle Paul, by extension and example, is urging to the glory of God." Consequently,

days later, while transacting some business, he fell every believer to fight the good fight of faith. We sick and was hospitalized. He was released after are encouraged to live a life that can be judged as some days, but never fully recovered. He died a "good to the last drop." Good to the last drop does few weeks later. The fact that one of the last good not suggest perfection, but it engenders dedication things he did was to render a special service in the to Christ and devotion to duty. The metaphor of name of Christ and the church led me to the the coffee poured into the cup, good to the last theme: "Good to the Last Drop." To be sure, in the drop, suggests that there will be some spills, and service of Christ, Bro. Williams was good to the that we will make a mess or two. Yet, God chooses to use us. So long as the cup is not broken in pieces, it is useful. Moreover, just as a fresh cup of "Good to the last drop" is a Maxwell House coffee can be poured everyday, in spite of the Coffee advertising catch phrase. Now, I have been previous day's spill or mess; so also, God pours told that real coffee drinkers love their coffee mercy fresh into our cup with each new day. That, black and strong. They are the connoisseurs of the most certainly, is the best part of waking up. The brew. The scent is invigorating. Life is enhanced, coffee ad says, Folgers in your cup; but we should the day is brighter, happier, and more productive always say, God's grace and mercy in our cup (the by the cup, "by the cup". Some coffee drinkers are cup of our life) is the best part of waking up, each not coffee connoisseurs, but they have a cup from and everyday. Accordingly, with mercies new morning, we are encouraged have almost any coffee with cream and sugar or empowered to fight on - to fight the good fight: just cream ...cafe con leche. For others, coffee is Doing good deeds and sowing good seeds because not an everyday thing but a ready anytime thing. It "we are created in Christ Jesus for good works as may not be in the cup but it is normally in the God has determined long before we were

expected to live our lives rooted in the consistent purposeful life we have been called to live in practice of faith, good to the last drop, to the glory Christ Jesus. He has shown us how: He went about doing good and healing all manner of illnesses. In word and in deed, by the pattern and example of His service, Jesus ascribed all glory to God. So, we are encouraged "to keep the faith and finish "In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who our course," offering the good deeds of our service is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of to God: Doing good deeds not for the praise of self his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge nor for the praise of fellow-humans; but, doing you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether good deeds to the glory of God. Of course, we are the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, reminded that it is by grace through faith we are rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in saved, and that it is surely not of our own works teaching. For the time is coming when people will lest any of us should boast. It is the gift of God. not put up with sound doctrine... I have fought the Yet, we must not forget that we are created in good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the Christ Jesus for good works. That's God's faith. From now on there is reserved for me the purposive plan for each life, long before the world crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the began, long before the sperm met the egg or any

All good works that are done in Christ Jesus are good works not for the work itself, nor for the praise of self, but to the praise of God's glory and grace. If it is good to the last drop, then it must be done to fulfill the will of God. Therefore, scripture By the words, "I have fought the good fight," the has said, "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all

The Emmaus Moravian Sanctuary, located in Coral Bay St. John was destroyed by category 5 storms Irma and Maria in 2017. Although the building has lost its roof, the church continues to meet in the space while we await the rebuilding of the sanctuary.



While the Emmaus congregation awaits the rebuilding of the sanctuary, they decided to rebuild the church hall aka The Little Manse.





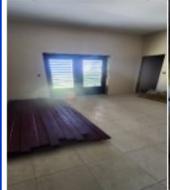
Work has begun on the rebuilding of the manse.







The Bethany Congregation in Cruz Bay, St. John. is working with great enthusiasm to complete the pastors' Cruz Bay apartment and updated bathroom with handicap accessibility.







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## Friedensfeld, St. Croix

The FRIEDENSFELD congregation was impacted by the 2017 category five (5) storms, Irma and Maria.

The process of restoration has been tedious. The building is on the national list of historic sites and the Conference has been seeking Federal funding to repair or replace the building.



The funds initially approved were deemed inadequate to accomplish the restoration work. The architect engineers have demonstrated that the cost of the scope of the work to be done will require more funding.

In spite of the challenges, the congregation remains undaunted and hopeful; and the Conference appointed Restoration Oversight Committee continues its work towards the best outcomes.

The church building is considered unsafe. The congregation purchased a tent as seen below to address its worship needs, and to ensure members can continue to encourage each other as they meet on site.

This was going well. However, some months ago a weather system with strong winds dismantled and disrupted the enjoyment of this tent facility. The congregation has sought replacement parts from the suppliers. The congregation has some smaller tents that they utilize as they gather for worship. Some members in drive-in cinema fashion remain in their cars while they participate in worship. FRIEDENSFELD, (The Field of Peace) continues its quest for the restoration of peaceful habitation, with all hope encouraged.



opportunity should go a begging. To be sure, the parable of "Rich Man and the Poor Man (the dog at the gate) is quite illustrative of how we should not live. It is not that the man was rich but that he was selfish, and self-serving, and self-centered, and callous in his regard of his fellow man. He had that which he could have shared with the poor man, but he refused. The rich man fared sumptuously but withheld breadcrumbs and drink, the basics of life and the smallest act of kindness. That is what landed him in hell. His failure to show compassion and care for his fellow-human (his neighbor) is that which ruined his chances of heaven.

Good to the last drop means that we are committed to doing good, in all the ways we can, to the glory of God. We do good to the glory of God by following the example of Jesus. The Apostle Paul understood what it meant and was inspired to serve and to encourage all of us to do likewise. He lived a life in pursuit of the righteousness which Christ exemplified. Listen then to Paul's encouragement.

"If then there is any encouragement in Christ...Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:1-11 NRSV

Paul has indicated that in devotion to Christ his life has been poured out like a libation. The metaphor must be likened to the tendency not just to drink from a bottle, but to go back and drain or in vacuum like fashion, drag any residue from the bottle into one's mouth. That is the richness of a drink consumed with enjoyment to the very last drop. Similarly, by our lives poured out, good to the last drop: Black and strong, or sugar and cream - whatever the strengths or weaknesses, the flavors (favors) or fancies, the achievements or shortcomings - redeemed in Christ, we can live a life that's good to the last drop.

This year, the Rev. Walton Frederick of the VI Conference celebrates forty (40) years of ordained ministry. The Rev. Selvin McMillan of the Trinidad Conference celebrates his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an ordained minister. In gratitude to God, and as a Province, we extend heartfelt congratulations to these faithful souls, their respective spouses - Sis. Angela and Sis. June, and the rest of their families. Permit me then to list and salute the men and women who in this year of our Lord, 2024, have served Christ and/or the Church in the EWI Province for forty or more years:

Rev. Dr. Alvin Barker (61)

Rt. Rev. Dr Kingsley Lewis (51)

Rev. Selvin McMillan (50)

Rev. Winston Chase (46)

Rev. Adlyn Mgonela (43)

Rev. Vera Waithe (43)

Rt. Rev. Dr. Conrad Spencer (42)

Rev. Dr. Joseph Nicholas (42)

Rev. Dr. Cicely Athill-Horsford (42)

Rev. Neilson Waithe (42)

Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis (41)

Rev. E. Elroy Christopher (41)

Rev. Walton Frederick (40)

May God continue to prosper your faithful ministry. May all your years of service remain unbroken and good to the last drop. Congratulations! What we do for Christ is not in vain.

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PC: Rev Kirk Barker

Child of God, Psalmist, Composer, Arranger, Vocal Coach, Piano Instructor, Praise & Worship Leader, Entrepreneur, Educator!

**Pastor Monique Richards** most recently served as the Lay Minister of Christian Education in the VI Conference specifically assigned to the St. Thomas/St. John/Tortola District and Lay Pastor of the Memorial Moravian Church.

Professionally, Sis. Monique served as the St. Thomas/St. John District Coordinator for Career and Technical Education (CTE) with the Virgin Islands Department of Education. In her role, she was responsible for ensuring that students (and their parents) are aware of career choices, post high school educational opportunities and life sustaining skills that can be afforded to them thus allowing them to become productive citizens of their community and in general, be successful in life as a whole.

Sis. Monique considers herself a life-long learner as she continues to grow and learn in her pursuit of continued excellence. She presently holds an Associates Degree in Christian Education, Master of Business Administration Degree, Bachelor of Arts in Accounting, and Associates of Arts in Business Management. She is also a Certified Youth Mental Health First Aid Coach and Certified in Project Management and Grief Counseling.

During her time in the Eastern West Indies Province (EWIP) of the Moravian Church, Sis. Monique has served in many capacities to include, but not limited to, member of the Boards of Elders and Stewards, Conference Camp Delegate. Provincial/Local Counselor. Provincial Camp Music Youth and Adult Choir Director, Worship & Praise Team Leader, Pianist, Speaker, Teacher. She also worked with various ministries in her local community of St. Thomas, VI, where she served as a vocal coach for worship teams, conducted music workshops as well as piano and voice instruction.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, Sis. Monique has come. She is grateful to God for yet another opportunity to serve God's people through her new roles as the Provincial Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and Provincial Acolyte for the Southern Province, Florida/Georgia District.

She is the mother of one talented and gifted adult daughter, Naysa.

To God be all the Glory!

#### **Hurricane Beryl**

We would recall that Hurricane Beryl barreled through the region and created devastating disruptions in the islands. The damage to Grenada was not so significant. However, with respect to Jamaica, we have learned of its significant impact on the southern region of Jamaica, specifically in the parishes of Southern Clarendon, Manchester, St. Elizabeth, and Westmoreland. The devastation brought by Hurricane Beryl has left these communities in a state of distress, with significant damage to infrastructure and agriculture. The lives of many individuals, particularly the most vulnerable, have been severely disrupted.

Hardest hit are the parishes of Manchester and St. Elizabeth. Numerous homes have lost their roofs - some experienced partial loss while others suffered complete loss. Commercial-grade tarpaulins to temporarily cover these roofs were deemed to be critical. Of course, the downing of power and telephone lines are always a concern in the aftermath of a storm.

Farm owners/operators have suffered from the loss of agricultural crops, livestock, and poultry. Small business owners have also suffered loss due to the storm. To be sure, Moravian congregations in the area were also dealt a severe blow. Consequently, a diverse array of persons within the named communities are in need of support and supplies as they seek to restore and/or recover what Hurricane Beryl has so wantonly destroyed. Let us lend a hand and send our Caribbean Brothers and Sisters whatever aid we can, as we pray for their recovery from the ravages of Beryl. It is note remembering that the aftermath of a storm is often more distressing than the storm itself.





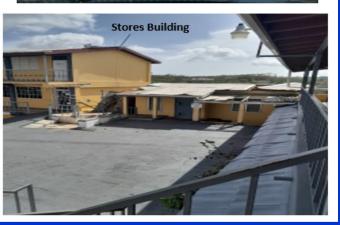












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Ritchies Moravian Church in Clarendon: The Members has since conducted temporary repairs to the section of the roof which was damaged. Soon the entire roof will have to be addressed as it is severely compromised.









Goshen Moravian Church in St Elizabeth











Old Manse Building Roof Damage





## THE MORAVIAN INSTITUTE

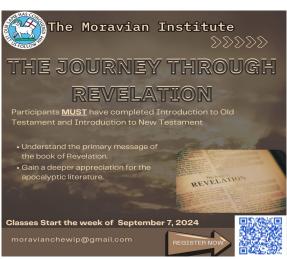
The Provincial Board is pleased to announce the inauguration of the Moravian Institute in September 2024. This initiative is in response to the need for trained lay leaders in the Province and in fulfilment of Recommendation #6 of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Provincial Synod. Recognizing the diligent work of discipleship, the Provincial Board seeks your partnership on this vision in the following ways:

- \* Each congregation should identify at least one leader who is already active in the work of ministry to take advantage of this opportunity.
- \* Pastors should encourage younger members with leadership potential to register for courses.
- \* Congregations should offer scholarships for those participants who are interested but lack the resources.
- \* Superintendents should ensure that all lay preachers enroll for training. We must all commit to the development of leaders in the Province.

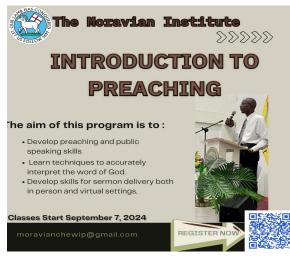
The vision is **to create a well-resourced next tier of leaders in our church,** and we eagerly look forward to working with you in making this a reality as we raise up leaders to do the Lord's work. The Institute will be administered by Sis. Cherice Job and the lecturers will be members of staff.

- ► Introduction to Counseling (10 Weeks US\$150)
- ► Introduction to Old Testament 2 (12 Weeks US\$150)
- ► The Journey Through Revelation (12 Weeks US\$150)
- ► Introduction to Homiletics (12 Weeks US\$150)









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#### MORAVIAN MEMORIAL YOUTH ON THE MOVE

The aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017 through 2018 and the community shut-down due to the Corona virus Covid-19 infection outbreak in 2019 through 2020, brought all activities of the Moravian Memorial Youth Ministries to a crashing halt. By 2021, everyone was ready to resume fellowship activities. Under the leadership of Pastor Cortroy Jarvis and the administration of Acolyte Debra Henneman-Smith, Moravian Memorial Continuing the Faith (CTF) Youth Ministry began. The focus of CTF is to connect the word of God to every aspect of the youth's daily life. Under the theme, "Building a Better Me," Sister Henneman-Smith developed a program which offered building blocks to help the children grow in faith through application of the Word of God.

The first layer of building a better me, builds an understanding of the importance of knowing "self." The children received three key factors for knowing "self" - what is in a name, what is your heritage and what is your inheritance.

The second layer builds an understanding of their unique design physically, mentally, and spiritually. Biblical texts provided the foundational truths for constructing a healthy inner and outer body. The students studied various scriptures that advised on eating healthy foods, daily exercise, and appropriate dress and grooming. The children then learned to prepare healthy meals, plant vegetation, shop for appropriate clothes, make soap and skin care products, and the benefits of proper breathing and physical exercise.

The third layer identifies influences that impact building healthy minds. The children discovered just as they must feed the physical body with healthy food, they must also feed the mind with healthy food. What they see, hear, and read positively or otherwise impact the mind. Scripture instructs to think of things that are good, pure, and righteous. A healthy mind contributes to a healthy body.

The fourth and the most important layer builds the understanding of healthy relationships. God's greatest commandments "Love the Lord with your whole mind, body, and soul, and love your neighbor as yourselves" are the foundation for relationship building. From these two commandments, the knowledge of service emerged – We reflect God's love best when we serve others. The word of God declares "whatever you do to the least of these, that you do unto me." The children conducted assessments to identify their spiritual gifts and fruits. They also determined who are the "least of these" in our congregation and our community; children, the homeless and the elderly were among the "least of these." As a result, two service projects geared toward the children and the homeless emerged. Two scripture texts which commanded "Go out into the world" and "Feed my sheep" shaped how they would administer the service project for the homeless.

The youth gathered at the Leona Benjamin Fellowship Hall at Memorial to assemble and pack bags filled with sandwiches, drinks, fruits, and healthy snacks donated for distribution. Once completed, an average of fifteen students boarded a safari donated by one of the members of the congregation and rode around the town of Charlotte Amalie and parts of the countryside to meet the homeless where they were located. During the first distribution, seventy-five individuals received the care packages. At the second distribution the students served over one hundred individuals.

Often, the response of the recipients blessed the youth. During the first distribution, the youth encountered a woman living in a bus depot. She had all her belongings piled around her. When the youth approached her to give her the bag of food she asked if a young man camped at the opposite end of the depot could also receive a bag. The homeless woman's act of kindness so moved one of the youths that when he got back to the safari he asked if the other children would give a monetary donation to the woman. All were onboard with the request and gave whatever they had which

when collected amounted to \$25.00. The story of the widow's mite came to mind. Later, at the church grounds, the student revealed the reasons he asked for the donation. He explained the woman was the only female homeless person encountered on the trip. He felt deeply moved because he believed no woman should be homeless. Someone should be taking care of her. Additionally, he expressed that besides food women need resources to take care of their feminine hygiene. They cannot do so without money to take care of their needs. His explanation touched the hearts of all of us. God's compassion and love certainly left the pages of the Bible and came alive that day. At that same distribution we also encountered a man that was very obstinate about receiving the food and indicated he did not need our charity. That incident became a teaching moment for us; not everyone whom God may want to bless is ready to receive.

The second service project addressed the children. The youth saw there was a disconnection between the young children from the Cradle Roll Department and the church. After Baptism, the church sponsors Cradle Roll Sunday for children between the ages of infancy to six years old during which special characters present a story. At Christmas the church gives gifts to the children. For the rest of the year there is no direct connection to the children. So, the student designed a Big Brother/Big Sister Pre-Easter fun day event. The Youth Ministry extended invitations to children from the Cradle Roll department, the Moravian School, and other neighboring Day Care Centers. Approximately fifty children were in attendance. The Big Brothers and Big Sisters led the children in playing local games and monitored them as they played in the bouncy house. They also prepared and distributed snacks and prizes to the children. At the end of the event, both the parents and the children were grateful for the experience and looked forward to the next event.

In the 2024 -2025 ministry year, the Youth Fellowship hopes to add projects for the elderly to the program. They hope to spread God's joy and love to lighten the days of the elderly through praise dance and dramatization. Prayerfully, we will update you on the highlights of those events in the future. Every blessing to you.

Moravian Memorial Continuing the Faith and Youth Fellowship Ministries

## Discipleship Report

At the feet of Jesus
Is the place for me,
There, a humble learner,
Would I choose to be.
—P. P. Bliss.



"DISCIPLES" is the term consistently used in the four Gospels to mark the relationship existing between Christ and His followers. There are different levels of commitment in the congregation. Jesus illustrated this in Matthew 13 "The Parable of the Sower" and what happened to the seeds he describes in the Parable of the Sower. The difference between the seeds lay in the kind of soil that received them. Of the seed sown on rocky soil. Jesus said, "It had no root."

The conclusion of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Provincial Syond and the mandate given to the church in Matthew 28:16–20 and Synod Resolution number --- we embarked upon the journey to fulfill the command of Scripture and the Synod to "Become a Church that Makes Disciples." We saw rejection, opposition, selection, and members choosing those areas in which commitment suits them and staying away from those areas in which it will be costly. Every believer / Christian / member is commanded to

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#### MEMORIAL MORAVIAN MOVERS MINISTRY

The Memorial Moravian Movers was established thirty-seven years ago in 1987. The primary mission of this organization was to encourage people over the age of twenty-five to work together and become more involved in the life of the Church. Members participate in conducting worship on our anniversary, summer services, and Lenten Services. Annually, a service is held especially for our seniors, who are unable to attend church regularly and fellowship with their peers.

In the spirit of sharing, a Thanksgiving package is shared with some of our shut-ins and seniors.







Sorting and packaging items for distributing at Thanksgiving.

In the past, as a form of community outreach we have sponsored "*Thanksgiving in July*," to provide a wholesome meal primarily for the homeless.

At Christmas the Movers team up with the church's Visitation Team to provide a hot lunch to the shut-in members.







Preparation of Christmas lunch for shut-ins

Three scholarships are offered annually to graduating seniors of Memorial who meet an established criteria. Since 1994 we have awarded 78 scholarships. Recently, a Prayer Breakfast was held recognizing the founder of the Movers, the Rev. Dr. Charles Peters. The purpose was to raise funds to support the scholarship fund.

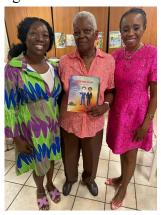






Top left, Rev. Dr. Charles Peters. Top right Rev. Dr. Peters and guest speaker Rev. Helen M. Maurose. Bottom center members of Memorial Movers and Rev. Dr. Charles Peters.

Recently a mentorship program for youth in grades 9-12 was launched. Each youth (mentee) will be assigned an individual mentor who will engage and assist them in activities to prepare them for becoming successful up-and-coming leaders.



Launching of mentorship program workshop

The Movers sponsored a writing workshop to enable the mentees to enhance their writing skills.







Retired educator Sister Mary Harley conducting writing workshop.

participate in the mission to make disciples.

We used Jim Putman et al., Real-Life Discipleship Training Manual: Equipping Disciples Who Make Disciples (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2010), as a resource for our training program. The numbers fluctuated from week to week. It is obvious that some members do not see themselves as an integral part in helping the church make disciples.

The church was not designed to be a group of spectators who attend weekly lectures; it was designed to be a trained army with a powerful message. All believers are the messengers who bring the message to others and then continue the process of discipling those who believe. By doing this, we complete the same work Jesus prayed about in John 17. He gave that work to His disciples, who in turn gave it to us.

Jim Putman et al., Real-Life Discipleship Training Manual: Equipping Disciples Who Make Disciples (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2010), 13.

Submitted by: Rev. Vankys Isaac Nisky Moravian Church Page 18 The Information

## EDUCATION

For four decades in the 19th century (1840-1879), all schools in the Virgin Islands (the Danish West Indies) were placed under the direct supervision of the Moravian Missionaries. This represents the roots of our noble and notable heritage in the education of the masses. Our own Bishop, John Amos Comenius, the Father of Modern education opined that "we should teach all things to all persons from all points of view." We continue to carry the lighted torch of this mission in education.



#### The Moravian School Nisky Campus:

Nisky was the home of a theological school and an academy for boys around the turn of the 20th Century (late 1890's). Today, the campus caters to students in Grades 3-8. The building had to be restored after the passage of the two

category 5 storms of Irma/Maria, September 2017. Pictures show work completed as of July 2024.



#### Little Ones at Memorial

The Memorial Campus caters to the younger children - Prekindergarten - 2nd Grade. Dating back to 1962, when the Conference re-established a mission presence in public education, students of these lower grades have been nurtured in faith and shaped for the future through the learning received in classrooms at Memorial. Unfortunately, in spite of much effort, we are yet to complete the restoration of the upper floor of the Memorial Campus. We are hopeful that the necessary progression of the work will occur as we continue to work with federal and local government agencies.



#### At Faith Hope Abounds

Under the leadership of Bishop Spencer, the Faith congregation continues an extensive building program. This represents infrastructural provisions for the future. We find the following at Faith: a worship hall, a manse, a two storied educational complex, and residential quarters (under construction) for teachers. The Conference is looking at plans to optimize the Moravian Church's mission efforts in educating the masses for faith and for life at Faith.

## Becoming A Church That Makes Disciples: The Road from Antigua to Trinidad

When the 33<sup>rd</sup> Provincial Synod ended in July 2022, we had resolved, among other things, to pursue the task of becoming a church that is disciple-making focused. The road, as we saw it and as we agreed, was a road strewn with the glory and the debris of the past. We acknowledged and accepted both the challenge and the opportunity. So the question is, "Where are we?"

Where we are and where we are going is likely quite a different path and goal than we would find if we were to answer the question, "where do we want to go?" Where we are going may not be where we want to go, nor where we are.

Where we want to go may require the following:

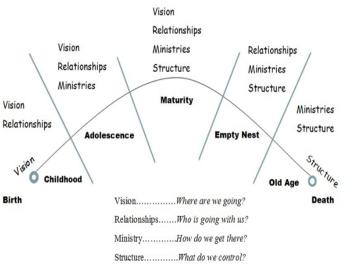
- A better plan
- A clearer vision
- The cutting of a new road
- The clearing of the debris of the past
- The re-laying of the foundation
- The hard work of moving from blue print to Birth habitable space and abiding fruitfulness in Christ. Note then what scripture says:

"You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple...And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God." (1 Peter 2:4-5, NLT)

So tell me, where are we? We note that the life of organisms is marked by life cycles. The church is defined as an organism. What can we say about the life cycle of the church? I have borrowed the adjacent diagrams from the internet to help us answer the question.

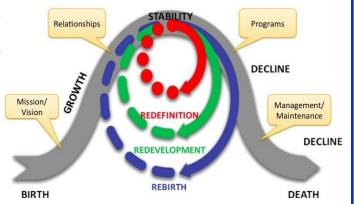
Note that a church's life cycle is most viable if the following emphases are purposefully pursued: people not programs; purpose not performance; perfecting of the saints for personal, relational witness rather than passive nominalism; prayer and purposeful action rather than perennial references to the glories of the past. A robust life cycle results from a robust mission focus. Decline and death are encouraged by a maintenance focus. Churches are expected to grow. Listen to the Apostle Paul:

## Life Cycle of a Church





### Life Cycle of a Church Robert C. Dale graphic by Brian White



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## PEC Announcements!

- \* The Rev. Erflin Browne has returned to the Trinidad Conference to take up his substantive appointment. Thanks be to God for grace and favour.
- \* The Provincial Board met in Tobago from August 15-21, 2024. Please pray for the Provincial Board as they seek to be faithful in their leadership of the province at this time.
- \* The Rev. Dr. Anique Elmes-Matthew has accepted a call to serve as Minister of Christian Education in the Virgin Islands Conference. This call takes effect on September 15, 2024. Please pray for Sis. Elmes-Matthew and family as they move into this new season of their lives.
- \* The Provincial Family extends condolences to Bishop Conrad Spencer on the death of his brother, Albert "Booty" Spencer of Antigua. Bro. Spencer died suddenly on Monday, August 5, 2024, in Liberta, Antigua. Please pray for Bishop Spencer and his extended family in their time of grief and sudden loss.
- \* The Provincial family mourns the sudden death of a colleague and brother, Rev. Winston Jones. Bro. Jones died on the evening of Sunday August 18, 2024, in Jamaica. Bro. Jones who was Barbadian and previously served in the Eastern West Indies Province for nineteen years, was seconded to The Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands Province where he served for nine years as Pastor of the Trinity Moravian Church in Richmond Park, Kingston 10. The Provincial family expresses sincere condolences to his widow, Mrs. Karen Bowers-Jones and their children, Gabrielle and Michael. Let us pray for the family as they journey through this place of grief and loss.
- \* Provincial Day of Prayer comes up on Sunday, September 1, 2024. Pastors and congregations are encourage to set aside intentional time of prayer for the new academic year, for students, parents, and teachers as they prepare, for the Province that God may raise up more pastors, lay leaders, and ministries, for the crisis with our pension plan, for all clergy and church workers, for the witness of the church in the world, and for any other causes God lays on our hearts. Members are encouraged to set aside personal time for prayer during the day.
- \* Mr. Wycliffe Morton of Zion and Ms. Melissa Bart of Bethesda in the St. Kitts Conference have been accepted as candidates for the Supplementary Ministry of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province. Bro. Morton and Sis. Bart will pursue the certificate in Ministerial Studies beginning online for the 2024 2025 academic year and completing on campus in the 2025 2026 academic year. Once they successfully complete their studies and probation, they will serve in the ordained ministry of the Moravian Church in the St. Kitts Conference. Let us pray for Sis. Melissa Bart and Bro. Wycliffe Morton as they answer the call of God on their lives.
- \* The annual Widows' Offering will be received on September 22, 2024. Please continue to give generously as we show appreciation to the women who served with their husbands. Please also remember these faithful women in prayer: Sis. Lynda Prout, Sis. Deborah Challenger, Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs, and Sis. Myrtle Miller. In 2023 we received EC\$29,869.60 on their behalf. Also remember that the 1996 Synod designated the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in September as a Day of

Prayer for Surviving Spouses of Ministers.

\* The Eastern West Indies Province will host the biennial meeting of the Unity Board. This is a meeting of the Chairs/Presidents of all Provincial Boards throughout the Unity. There will be leaders from the five regions of the Unity – Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, The Caribbean & Latin America. The meeting will be held at the St. James's Club in Antigua.

- \* The Moravian Institute will begin in September. All Congregations and Conferences are invited to enroll members for this programme.
- \* Ministers' Covenant Day comes up once again on September 16, 2024. Bro. Neilson Waithe will facilitate a virtual session with staff on September 16, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.



"But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift....He gave gifts to his people...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..." (Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-16, NRSV)

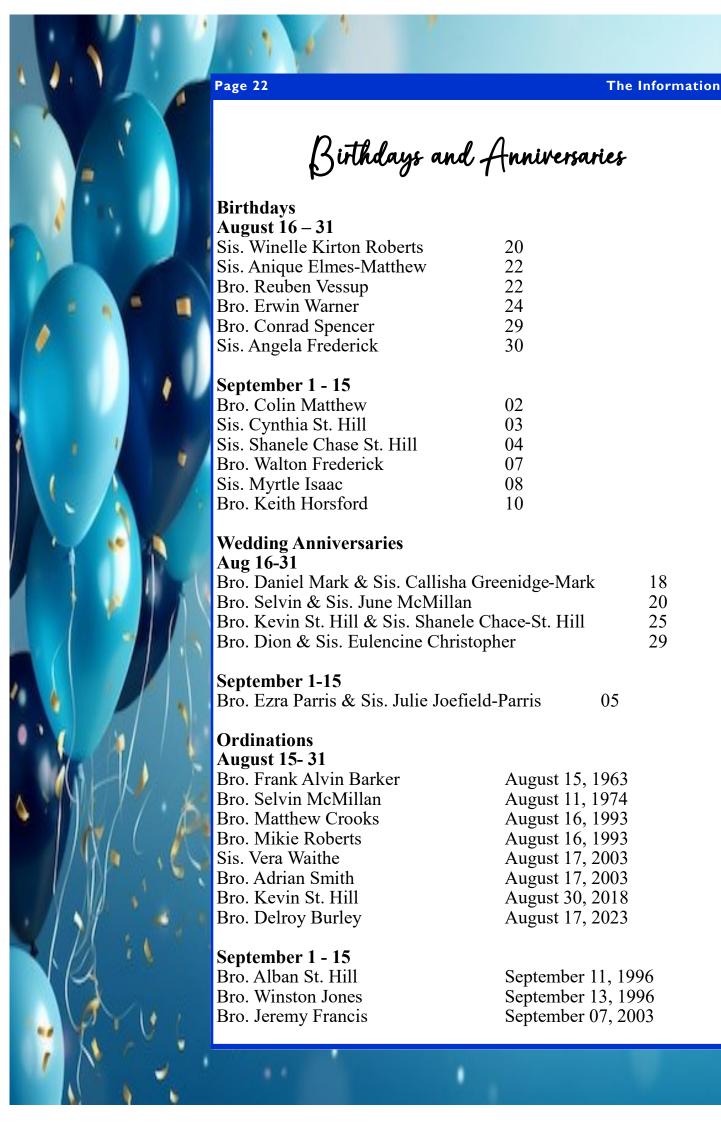
Ephesians 4 suggests that we often get in the way of our own progress. We sometimes frustrate the will of God. However, success comes through reliance on God and a commitment to the process that brings one to the place envisioned. God who in the beginning act of creation said, "Let us make humans in our image" continues to invite our participation in the act of God's new creation.

In the book DiscipleShift, authors Jim Putman and Bobby Harrington help us to understand that in becoming a church that makes disciples, the general thrust is to move persons from being spiritual infants to becoming spiritual parents. The question to be answered is this: In what areas does a disciple need to grow? The answer will move the church from a process of informing to a process of equipping. The new imperative commitments are below:

- \* Create a system in which people are taught to be disciples.
- \* Create space and opportunity to practice disciple making.
- \* Develop leaders/trainers as Ephesians 4 outlines, being fully committed to the priesthood/ministry of all believers.
- \* Set the tone for what spiritual maturity should look like in the congregations.
- \* Encourage lifestyles that reflect true discipleship and spiritual maturity in action.
- \* Model what is expected. Modeling plays as important a role in disciple-making as it does in parenting.
- \* Create an intentional, biblical and relational environment.
- \* Invest in small groups. Mentoring can begin with two or three. Then, in concentric circle fashion move outward to ten or twelve.
- "... Like a nurse, tenderly caring for her own children...Let us be determined to share with others not only the gospel of God but also our own selves...

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 NRSV

The Provincial theme urges us to "Reclaim Our Identity, Renew Our Purpose and Re-ignite Our Passion." This is possible if we commit to the vision of becoming a church that makes disciples. This is the task, the very purpose for which we were created. Let us be up and doing.



#### **Provincial Elders Conference Calendar of Events**

#### AUGUST

Provincial Day of Prayer

16-20 PEC meeting Tobago

Staff Development – PEC meeting Tobago

Staff Development

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Provincial Day of Prayer

Ministers Covenant Day 16

Widows' Offering 22

#### **OCTOBER**

Provincial Day of Prayer

25-31 PEC meeting Antigua

Staff Development session

#### NOVEMBER

Provincial Day of Prayer

#### **DECEMBER**

Provincial Day of Prayer



## Volunteer Opportunity: Provincial Newsletter Committee JOIN OUR TEAM!

Apply Now!

Email the office: moravianchewip@gmail.com

the Chairman: moravianchurchewip@gmail.com

We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers for our Provincial Newsletter Committee.

#### Roles Needed:

- Writers
- **Editors**
- Designers
- Social Media Coordinators



## MORAVIAN MULTIPURPOSE COMPLEX

Conference Centre & Apartments Conferences | Weddings | Banquets | Meetings Dinners | Graduations

## Our Vision Statement:

A Church - Transformed, United, Victorious in Christ

## Our 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.

## Our Mailing Address:

Moravian Church
EWI Province Cashew Hill
P.O. Box 504
St. John's, Antigua
Office: moravianchewip@gmail.com

## Chairman:

moravianchurchewip@gmail.com

WEB ADDRESS:

www.moravians.net



- 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 Centre has a seating capacity for 200 persons.
- We are situated on a hill overlooking the picturesque outskirts 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.

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