

THE MORAVIAN CHURCH EASTERN WEST INDIES PROVINCE



THE INFORMATION

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P R O D U C E R / W R I T E R / E D I T O R

REV. DR. BONNIE E.B.W. SMITH

**SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH
ANTIGUA CONFERENCE**

T O P I C C O N T R I B U T O R S

**BRO. NEVIN LEWIS
BRO. KEVIN ST. HILL**

P U B L I S H E R

**B R O , A L G E R N O N L E W I S
C H A I R M A N O F T H E P E C**

*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)

About the Moravian Church Antigua Conference

The Moravian Church in Antigua is a part of the worldwide Moravian Church Unity. The Moravian Church has a long history in the Caribbean, particularly in Antigua. The Antigua Conference established in 1756 is one of the main administrative bodies of the Moravian Church in the region.

The Moravian Church in Antigua has been involved in various aspects of the community, including education, healthcare, and social services. The church has played a significant role in the history and development of the islands.

The Moravian Church in Antigua has a number of congregations and members across the island. The church is known for its emphasis on mission work, community service, and social justice.

If you are looking for specific information or details about the Moravian Church Antigua Conference, it would be best to reach out to our local church authorities or visit our Facebook pages for the most up-to-date information.

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.

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TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS OF FEMALE LEADERSHIP IN THE MORAVIAN CHURCH ANTIGUA CONFERENCE



As a woman called to serve in a leadership role within the Moravian Church Antigua Conference Eastern West Indies Province, I have been blessed to witness firsthand the trials and triumphs that come with breaking through traditional barriers and paving the way for future generations of female leaders. The journey of female leadership in the church is a nuanced and multifaceted experience, one that is shaped by both challenges and moments of profound victory.

When I initially stepped into my role as the first female Superintendent within the Moravian Church Antigua Conference Eastern West Indies Province, I was acutely aware of the

unique obstacles and expectations that lay before me. As a woman in a traditionally male-dominated sphere, I faced skepticism, scrutiny, and resistance from some quarters. The road to acceptance and respect was not always easy, and there were moments when I questioned my ability to lead effectively in the face of such challenges.

However, through unwavering faith, perseverance, and a steadfast commitment to my calling, I was able to navigate these obstacles and carve out a space for myself within the leadership of the church. With the support of those who dared to stand with me, I found the strength to rise above the doubts and negativity, embracing my role with confidence and grace.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my journey as a female leader has been the opportunity to inspire and empower other women within the church to pursue leadership roles of their own. By sharing my experiences, offering guidance, and serving as a mentor to aspiring female leaders, I have sought to create a more inclusive and supportive environment where all voices are valued and heard.

Through the challenges and triumphs of female leadership in the Moravian Church Antigua Conference Eastern West Indies Province, I have come to understand the profound impact that women can have in shaping the future of the church. Our unique perspectives, gifts, and talents bring a richness and diversity to the leadership landscape, enriching the spiritual journey of all who walk alongside us.

As we continue to break down barriers and challenge outdated stereotypes, let us remember the words of Proverbs 31:25-26: "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue." May we, as women leaders in the church, embody these virtues as we navigate the trials and triumphs of leadership with grace, wisdom, and unwavering faith.

In unity and solidarity, *let us* embrace the challenges and celebrate the victories that come with female leadership in the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province, knowing that our voices and contributions are essential to the flourishing of God's kingdom on earth.

My heart is filled with both gratitude and humility as I reflect on the seven years, three months and fifteen days that I have been blessed to serve as the Superintendent of the MCAC after acting for six month. This journey has been one of profound growth, shared experiences, and unwavering faith that has shaped me in ways I could have never imagined.

The privilege of leading this faith community has been a profound honour, one that I have cherished every moment of. Your unwavering support, dedication, and faithfulness have been the cornerstone of our shared journey. Through challenges and triumphs, your commitment to the ministry has inspired and sustained me, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

As we prepare to welcome the dawn of a new era with the appointment of our second female Acting Superintendent, I urge you to embrace this change with open hearts and minds. Let us extend the same love and support to our incoming leader as you have shown me throughout these years. Together, let us continue to build a community rooted in love, grace, and unity.

To my successor, Rev. Denise Smith-Lewis I offer this charge: Lead with integrity, humility, and a servant's heart. Stay true to your convictions, and let the light of the Lord guide your every step. Be vigilant against the pitfalls of nepotism, mediocrity, tattletales, and petty politics, and lead with a clean heart, free hands, and a true conscience.



Rev. Denise Smith-Lewis is the third child born to Genevieve and the late Wildin Smith of Potters. She had her early education for a short time at the Potters Primary School and then at the Christ the King High School from which she later graduated. Rev. Denise is also a

graduate of the school and the Antigua State College.

She felt the call of God upon her life as a youth and pursued ministerial formation in Jamaica. She is a graduate of the United Theological College of the West Indies the University of the West Indies.

She is also a graduate of the Oasis University with a Masters degree in Family Life Education. Rev. Denise Smith-Lewis is married to Rev. Algernon Lewis, now chairman of the Provincial Elders Conference and they have two children Yemun and Y'mahzie. In her spare time she enjoys drama, writing poetry, songs, and short-stories.

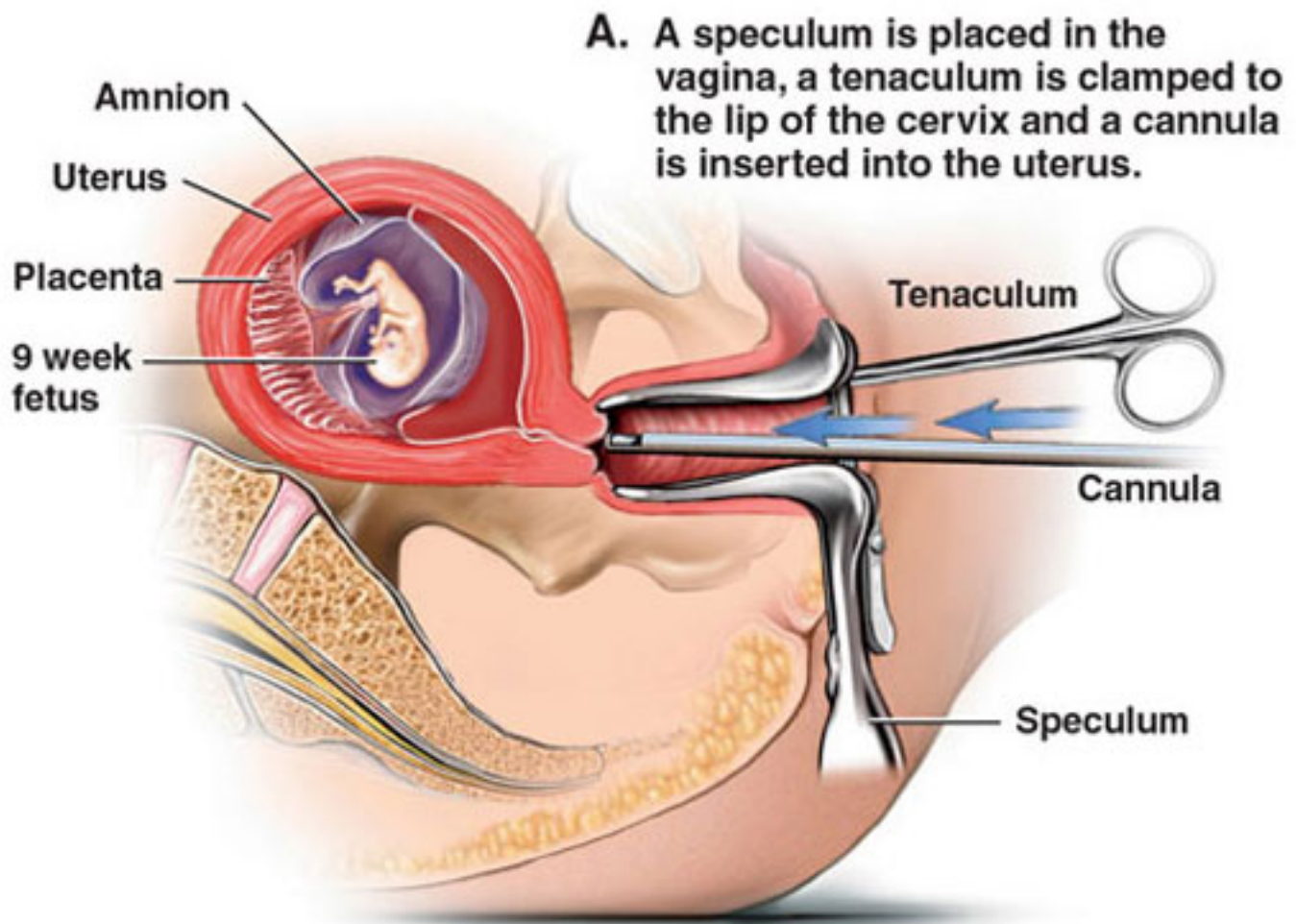
She has been in the pastoral ministry for 30 years and remains a passionate teacher and preacher of the Gospel. She presently serves as the pastor of the Cedar Hall and Cashew Hill Moravian Congregations in the Antigua Conference.

THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO THE ISSUE OF ABORTION

Abortion is the termination of a pregnancy by removing or expelling the fetus or embryo from the uterus before it can survive outside the womb. There are various methods of abortion, including medical (using medications) and surgical procedures. Abortion can be a sensitive and controversial topic, often involving ethical, moral, religious, and legal considerations. The laws and regulations regarding abortion vary widely between countries and regions.

The Book of Order of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies, paragraph 13.1, says, "1. *The Moravian Church, E.W.I. Province, affirms that life is God's first gift to humankind and his most precious gift through Jesus Christ. This is a fundamental tenet of our faith.*

2. *The Moravian Church, E.W.I., Province, further affirms the Church's redemptive ministry for all individuals faced with the difficult decision of abortion.*



3. The pastors of the Moravian Church, E.W.I. Province, are requested to give careful and nurturing counsel to all individuals seeking direction on the question of abortion.

The Moravian Church's response to the issue of abortion in countries like Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and the Virgin Islands points to the redemptive love of God in Christ. Along with most Christian denominations, there are some general trends in the stance of churches on abortion:

1. Pro-Life Stance: Many churches, particularly the Roman Catholic Church, hold a pro-life stance on abortion. They typically view abortion as the taking of a human life and as morally wrong. They often advocate for the protection of the unborn child's right to life from the moment of conception.

2. Sanctity of Life: Many Christian denominations believe in the sanctity of life and may see abortion as a violation of this fundamental principle. They may argue that life is a gift from God and should be protected and valued at all stages of development.

3. Compassion and Support: While some churches may have strict views on abortion, they also emphasise the importance of showing compassion and support to women facing unplanned pregnancies. They may advocate for alternatives to abortion such as adoption and providing resources and assistance to mothers in need.

4. Advocacy and Education: Some churches may engage in advocacy efforts to promote laws and policies that protect the unborn and support pregnant women. They may also provide education on the moral and ethical implications of abortion from their perspective.

5. Dialogue and Engagement: Churches may seek to engage in dialogue with the government, medical professionals, and other stakeholders to express their views on abortion and participate in the public debate on this issue.

Overall, the church's response to the issue of abortion in the Caribbean territories is likely to be influenced by their theological beliefs, moral teachings, and the cultural context of the country.

MAMMON MATTERS: A SPIRITUAL DISCOURSE ON MONEY MANAGEMENT

"Mammon matters: A spiritual discourse on money management" could be an interesting topic for a discussion or sermon within the church community. Here are some points that could be covered in such a discourse:

1. Biblical Perspectives: Discussing what various religious texts say about money, wealth, and material possessions can provide a foundation for understanding the spiritual aspects of money management. For example, exploring teachings on stewardship, generosity, and the dangers of greed can offer valuable insights.

2. Stewardship: Emphasising the concept of stewardship can help individuals see money and resources as gifts from a higher power that should be managed wisely and used for good purposes. Encouraging responsible financial practices, such as budgeting, saving, and avoiding debt, can align with the idea of being good stewards of God-given resources.



3. Generosity and Giving:

Highlighting the importance of generosity and giving back to the community can be a key aspect of a spiritual discourse on money management. Discussing the joy and fulfilment that come from helping others and supporting charitable causes can inspire individuals to prioritise giving in their financial planning.

4. Contentment and Simplicity:

Encouraging contentment and simplicity in lifestyle choices can be another important theme in a spiritual discourse on money management. Emphasising the value of non-material aspects of life, such as relationships, experiences, and personal growth, can help individuals cultivate a healthy relationship with money and possessions.

5. Avoiding the Worship of Money

(Mammon): Addressing the dangers of placing too much emphasis on wealth and material possessions, to

the point of idolising money (Mammon), can be a powerful message in a spiritual discourse on

money management. Encouraging individuals to prioritise spiritual values over material wealth can help them maintain a healthy perspective on money.

6. Practical Tips and Guidance:

Providing practical tips and guidance on financial planning, budgeting, investing, and other money management strategies can complement the spiritual teachings and help individuals translate spiritual principles into actionable steps for improving their financial well-being.

By combining spiritual insights with practical advice, "Mammon Matters: A Spiritual Discourse on Money Management" can offer a holistic approach to addressing the intersection of faith and finances in the lives of individuals within a religious community.



PARENTING A GREEN GENERATION Z

Generation Z, often abbreviated as Gen Z, refers to the demographic cohort that comes after the Millennials (Generation Y). While there is no precise date range that defines the birth years for Gen Z, it is generally considered to include individuals born after the 1980's.

Members of Gen Z are known for being digital natives, having grown up with technology like

Gen Z is still a fairly young generation, but they are already making a significant impact on culture, politics, and various industries as they start entering the workforce and becoming a more influential consumer demographic.

While there is no universally agreed-upon year range that defines Generation Z, the following approximate birth year ranges are

commonly used to describe this cohort:

- Born in the mid-to-late 1990s to the early 2010s.
- Roughly spanning from around 1997 to 2012.

These estimates may vary slightly depending on the source, but they generally capture the birth years

associated with Generation Z.

Parenting a Green Generation Z youth from a kingdom perspective can be a challenging but important task, especially in the face of tragic



smartphones, social media, and the internet as an integral part of their lives. They are often characterised as being tech-savvy, socially conscious, diverse, and more connected globally than previous generations.

circumstances like the one you described. Here are some key points to consider when approaching parenting in such situations:

1. Compassion and Empathy: As a parent, it is essential to approach the situation with compassion and empathy for the child who has experienced such a traumatic event. Understanding and acknowledging the child's feelings of loss, confusion, and fear are crucial steps in helping them cope with the situation.

2. Safety and Security: Ensuring the child's safety and security is a top priority. Providing a stable and nurturing environment where the child feels protected and loved is essential for their emotional well-being and development.

3. Seeking Support: It is important to seek support from family members, friends, counsellors, or religious leaders who can provide guidance and assistance in navigating the challenges of parenting a child who has experienced trauma.

4. Healing and Recovery: Helping the child process their emotions and begin the healing process is crucial. Encouraging open communication, offering opportunities for therapy or counselling, and engaging in activities that promote emotional healing can support the child's recovery.

5. Spiritual Guidance: From a kingdom perspective, seeking spiritual guidance and support can be beneficial in providing comfort, hope, and guidance to both the child and the parent. Engaging in prayer, meditation, and seeking wisdom from spiritual leaders can offer strength and resilience during difficult times.

6. Education and Positive Role Models: Providing the child with access to education, positive role models, and supportive community resources can help shape their values, beliefs, and behaviours in a positive direction. Encouraging participation in activities that promote personal growth and character development can foster resilience and strength in the child.



7. Building Resilience: Helping the child build resilience and cope with adversity is essential for their long-term well-being. Encouraging problem-solving skills, emotional regulation, and a positive mindset can equip the child to navigate challenges and setbacks in life.

Parenting a child who has faced such a tragic situation requires patience, love, and a commitment to providing a nurturing and supportive environment. By approaching parenting from a kingdom perspective and focusing on the child's holistic well-being, you can help guide them toward a brighter future despite the challenges they may face.

A WORD ON THE CURRENT INTENSE RECORD BREAKING WEATHER

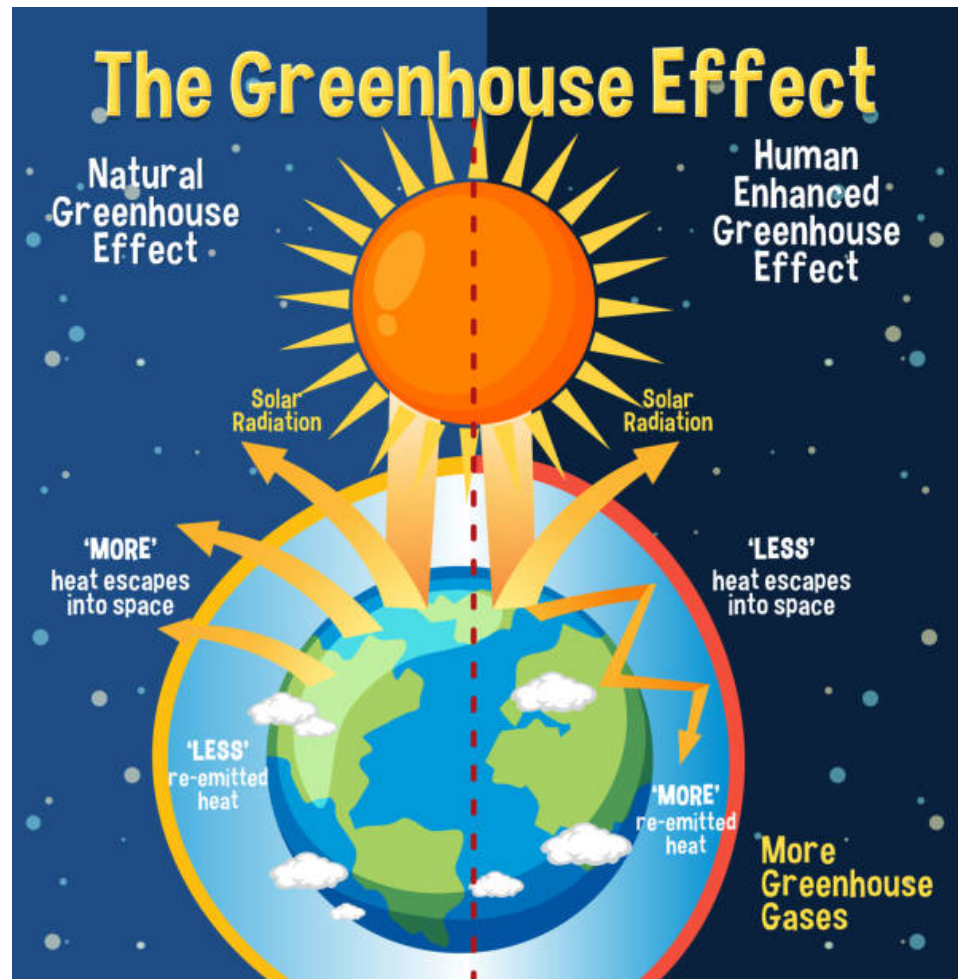


Climate change, global warming, the greenhouse effect, carbon emissions, and their interconnections are critical topics that have significant implications for the environment, ecosystems, and human societies. Here is an overview of these concepts:

1. Climate Change: Climate change refers to long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, and other atmospheric conditions on Earth. These changes are primarily driven by human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes, which release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

2. Global Warming:

Global warming is a component of climate change and specifically refers to the increase in Earth's average surface temperature due to the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This warming trend leads to changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels, melting glaciers, and other environmental impacts.



3. Greenhouse Effect: The greenhouse effect is a natural process that warms the Earth's surface. When solar radiation reaches the Earth, some of it is reflected back into space, while the rest is absorbed and re-radiated as heat. Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane, and water vapor trap some of this heat in the atmosphere, which helps keep the planet warm enough to sustain life.

4. Carbon Emissions: Carbon emissions refer to the release of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas), deforestation, industrial processes, and agriculture are major sources of carbon emissions. These emissions contribute to the enhanced greenhouse effect, leading to global warming and climate change.

5. Impact on the Environment:

Climate change and global warming have far-reaching impacts on the environment, including more frequent and intense extreme weather events, loss of biodiversity, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and disruptions to ecosystems and natural habitats.

6. Mitigation and Adaptation:

Mitigation efforts aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to slow down global warming and limit the impacts of climate change. This includes transitioning to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, promoting sustainable land use practices, and adopting climate-friendly policies. Adaptation involves preparing for and adjusting to the impacts of climate change to minimize risks and build resilience in communities and ecosystems.

7. Global Efforts: International agreements like the Paris Agreement aim to unite countries in combating climate change by setting targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable development. Collaboration among governments, businesses, communities, and individuals is essential to address the challenges posed by climate change.

By understanding these concepts and taking action to reduce carbon emissions, promote sustainability, and adapt to a changing climate, we can work towards a more sustainable and resilient future for our planet.

The Caribbean region is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, global warming, and the associated effects such as the greenhouse effect and carbon emissions. Here are some ways in which these factors can affect the weather and climate in the Caribbean:

1. Increased Frequency and Intensity of Hurricanes: Warmer sea surface temperatures due to global warming can lead to the formation of more intense hurricanes in the Caribbean. These storms bring strong winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges, and flooding, causing significant damage to infrastructure, homes, and ecosystems in the region.

2. Rising Sea Levels: Global warming contributes to the melting of glaciers and ice caps, leading to rising sea levels. This poses a threat to low-lying coastal areas in the Caribbean, increasing the risk of coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion, and flooding, particularly during storm events.



3. Changes in Precipitation Patterns: Climate change can alter precipitation patterns in the Caribbean, leading to changes in the timing and intensity of rainfall. This can impact water availability, agriculture, and ecosystems, potentially leading to droughts or floods in different parts of the region.

4. Coral Bleaching: Warmer sea temperatures associated with global warming can cause coral bleaching events in the Caribbean. Coral reefs are vital ecosystems that support marine biodiversity and protect coastlines from erosion. Bleaching events can weaken or kill corals, disrupting marine ecosystems and impacting fisheries and tourism.

5. Threats to Biodiversity: Climate change poses risks to the unique biodiversity of the Caribbean, including endangered species, by altering habitats, food sources, and migration patterns. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events can disrupt ecosystems and threaten the survival of species in the region.

6. Health Impacts: Climate change can also have indirect impacts on public health in the Caribbean. Heatwaves, changes in precipitation patterns, and the spread of vector-borne diseases can affect human health and well-being, particularly in vulnerable communities with limited access to healthcare and resources.



7. Economic and Social Impacts: The effects of climate change on the weather in the Caribbean can have significant economic and social consequences. Damage to infrastructure, loss of livelihoods in sectors such as agriculture and tourism, and increased costs for disaster response and recovery can strain economies and communities in the region.

Addressing the challenges posed by climate change in the Caribbean requires coordinated efforts at the local, national, and international levels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience, and adapt to a changing climate. Sustainable development practices, investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, and community engagement are essential components of building a more climate-resilient future for the Caribbean region.



The Bible does not explicitly mention climate change or global warming, as these are modern scientific concepts that were not known or understood in the ancient world. However, the Bible does contain teachings and principles that can be applied to environmental stewardship, care for creation, and addressing issues related to climate change. Here are some key biblical principles that are relevant to environmental concerns:

1. Stewardship of Creation: In the Book of Genesis, God entrusts humanity with the responsibility to care for and steward the earth and all its resources. This stewardship mandate emphasises the importance of responsible management and preservation of the environment.

2. God's Ownership: The Bible teaches that the earth and everything in it belong to God (Psalm 24:1). This understanding underscores the idea that humans are called to be stewards or caretakers of God's creation, rather than exploiters or abusers of the natural world.

3. Love for Neighbour: The command to love our neighbours as ourselves (Matthew 22:39) extends to caring for the well-being of others, both present and future generations. Environmental degradation and climate change can disproportionately impact vulnerable communities, highlighting the importance of social and environmental justice.

4. Justice and Equity: The Bible often speaks about justice, righteousness, and care for the marginalised and oppressed. Addressing environmental issues involves considerations of justice and equity, ensuring that all people have access to clean air, water, and resources necessary for a dignified life.

5. Sabbath Rest: The Sabbath principle in the Old Testament includes rest for people, animals, and the land. This concept of rest and renewal can be applied to sustainable land use practices, crop rotation, and environmental conservation.

6. Creation Praises God: Throughout the Bible, creation is depicted as praising God and reflecting His glory (Psalm 19:1). This perspective invites humans to marvel at the beauty and complexity of the natural world and to cultivate a sense of wonder and gratitude for God's creation.

While the Bible does not provide specific directives on climate change, it offers guiding principles and values that can inform ethical decision-making and actions related to environmental stewardship and care for creation. Christians and religious communities can draw on these teachings to advocate for environmental protection, sustainable practices, and social responsibility in the face of environmental challenges like climate change.

Extreme weather events such as hurricanes, tropical storms, heatwaves, or heavy rainfall can have significant impacts on the Caribbean region, including threats to human life, property, infrastructure, and the environment.



In the face of such extreme weather events, it is crucial for governments, communities, and individuals in the Caribbean to prioritise preparedness, resilience, and adaptation measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change and extreme weather patterns. This may include investing in early warning systems, improving infrastructure resilience, implementing sustainable land use practices, and promoting community awareness and preparedness.

Efforts to address climate change through mitigation strategies, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to renewable energy sources, can also help mitigate the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events in the long term.

60 YEARS OF THE SANCTUARY OF GRACEHILL MORAVIAN

Information for this article was gleaned from the 240th anniversary magazine, Bishop Conrad Spencer, and other conversations.

Gracehill Moravian Church, Liberta, Antigua is 251 years old. Whereas the current location is the one known to most, the work did not begin there. The work and witness of the Moravian Church in Liberta began in 1773 at Bailey Hill, three miles south of the current location. However, insanitary conditions there forced the ministry to relocate in 1781 to an area on a hill in Liberta formerly owned by a woman named Grace. The area became known as Gracehill. In 1964, ground broke on January 5, to erect the new green, limestone sanctuary.

In 1960 the present site on which Gracehill now stands was acquired from Mr. Clement Gordon. During this time the sanctuary at Old Gracehill was in significant disrepair. The new pastor, Rev. William Gramley, recognised the need for a new sanctuary and began putting plans together. On January 5, 1964, there was a march from Old Gracehill to this location for the groundbreaking ceremony of this sanctuary and the Christian Education Centre.

Not all the members were in favour of the move. There was a vote to determine the next steps. The voices of the younger members drowned out the voices of the older members which gave the nod for new work to begin on the sanctuary. For the first time, one would not need to climb a hill to be present at worship at Gracehill. It is quite likely that the older members soon appreciated this when their mobility became an issue.



A little-known remarkable fact is that this green, stone-cut, limestone building was built in six months. This is not blocks and mortar. Each stone had to be cut and fitted to match the stones next to it. The skill, craftsmanship, and commitment required for such a feat are outstanding. The walls are also thicker than other buildings. The commitment to this work remains a gold standard. Bishop Conrad Spencer, a son of Gracehill, remembers the names of some of those skilled craftsmen - Bros George Henry, Randall Williams, Mayers, and Gordon. It is good that their names live on. It remains unclear if their labour was hired or volunteered.



Not to be outdone in their commitment to the building of the sanctuary were the women of

Gracehill. Stories abound of the stones that were carried on heads to the site from Old Gracehill. For the pace at which the work progressed, these women must have made several trips per day. In addition to hauling limestone to the site, some also broke stones. They were fully committed to getting the work done. This hard labour required healthy eating and the women showed up in that department as well. They cooked so that everyone could eat. Women were invaluable to this project.

On July 19, 1964, the sanctuary was dedicated to the glory of God by Bishop Peter M. Gubi. Some consider this a record with construction taking only six months. It is a testament to their commitment and purpose.



At this fiftieth anniversary of the building of the current sanctuary, Gracehill is engaged in another audacious project. Even after treatment, termites continue to attack the wooden pews. We have begun the process of purchasing 300 metal chairs for the sanctuary. Each chair cost about US\$75 or about EC\$205. Installation of the new pews is expected by December 2024 when a special thanksgiving event will be held to celebrate the 50th anniversary. Gracehill asks for your generous support to raise the funds to purchase these new chairs. Your gift of any amount may be sent in the name of Gracehill Moravian Church. An email may be sent to gracehillmchurch@gmail.com to indicate your willingness to give or for more information to make a direct deposit to our account. You may also connect with us on Facebook @Gracehill Moravian Church Antigua.

Gracehill Moravian Church has been sharing the message of salvation for 251 years and by God's grace and enabling, we will continue to faithfully tell the story of God's love shared through Jesus by the Holy Spirit. We look forward to your partnership in the mission of God.

BE KIND RATHER THAN BE NICE

In the context of striving to be kind rather than just nice, it is important to recognise that true kindness goes beyond mere surface-level politeness or seeking approval from others. The Bible teaches us that our focus should be on reflecting God's love and character in all that we do, rather than simply trying to be liked by everyone.

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, emphasises the importance of living out our faith with sincerity and authenticity, rather than seeking the approval of others:

"Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." - Galatians 1:10 (NIV)

This verse reminds us that as followers of Christ, our primary goal should be to please God rather than seeking the approval or acceptance of others. approved by others.

Kindness rooted in a genuine desire to reflect God's love is far more meaningful and impactful than simply trying to be nice to gain popularity or favour with others.

Ultimately, our calling as Christians is to imitate Christ in all aspects of our lives, showing kindness, love, and compassion to those around us without seeking self-gratification or recognition:

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." - Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)

By choosing to be kind in alignment with God's will, we demonstrate a deeper commitment to our faith and a genuine desire to reflect the love of Christ to the world, rather than simply striving to be liked or approved by others.

The Bible is filled with verses that emphasise the importance of

kindness and love towards others. One of the most well-known passages that speaks to this is found in the book of Galatians:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." - Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

This passage highlights how kindness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, reflecting the character of God in our interactions with others. Choosing to be kind, even when it is challenging, is a powerful way to demonstrate our faith and embody the love of Christ in our daily lives.

In addition, the book of Ephesians encourages us to be imitators of God and walk in love and kindness:

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." - Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

THE BISHOP JOHN E. KNIGHT GOLDEN AGE HOME



Dearest ardent Readers,

In this edition of the Information Newsletter, we are thrilled to shine a spotlight on an organisation that embodies compassion, care, and dedication to serving the elderly in our community - the Bishop John E. Knight Golden Age Home and Mission Inc. a mission of the Moravian Church Antigua Conference.

Established with a noble mission to provide a safe and nurturing environment for seniors in their golden years, the Bishop John E. Knight Golden Age Home and Mission Inc. has been a beacon

of hope and support for the elderly since its inception. Named after the esteemed Bishop John E. Knight, this organisation stands as a testament to his legacy of service and love for the elderly.

At the heart of the Golden Age Home is a team of dedicated staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure that residents receive the highest quality of care and attention. From assistance with daily activities to creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere, the staff at the home go above and beyond to make every resident feel valued and cherished.

In addition to providing residential care, the Bishop John E. Knight Golden Age Home and Mission Inc. is committed to outreach and community service. Through various programs and initiatives, the organisation extends its support to seniors in the wider community, offering companionship, assistance, and resources to those in need.



PROFESSIONAL
Laundry Services



Bishop John E. Knight
Golden Age Home

— PREMIER RETIREMENT LIVING —

One of the key pillars of the Golden Age Home's mission is to foster a sense of community and belonging among its residents. Through engaging activities, social events, and personalised care plans, the home strives to create a supportive and vibrant environment where seniors can thrive and enjoy their retirement years to the fullest.



COMFORTABLE *Living Spaces*
TO MAKE YOUR OWN



Bishop John E. Knight
Golden Age Home

— PREMIER RETIREMENT LIVING —

As we reflect on the invaluable work being done by the Bishop John E. Knight Golden Age Home and Mission Inc., we are reminded of the importance of honouring and caring for our elderly population. Their wisdom, experience, and stories enrich our lives and remind us of the value of compassion and respect for our elders.



We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the staff, volunteers, and supporters of the Bishop John E. Knight Golden Age Home and Mission Inc. for their unwavering dedication to serving the elderly and making a positive difference in the lives of so many.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating this remarkable organisation and the meaningful work they do.

THE PROVINCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MENTIONS

- The appointment of Rev. Dr. Bonnie E.B.W. Smith as Superintendent of The Moravian Church Antigua Conference will conclude on July 15, 2024. Rev Smith has faithfully served the Conference as Superintendent for the past eight years. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Rev. Dr. Bonnie E.B.W. Smith for her dedicated service and commitment to God and his church
- We are pleased to announce that Denise Smith-Lewis has been appointed to serve as Acting Superintendent of the Antigua Conference effective July 16, 2024. Please continue to pray for the Rev. Denise Smith-Lewis and her family and Rev. Dr. Bonnie E.B.W. Smith and her family and the Moravian Church Antigua Conference in this time of transition
- We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Mrs. Marilyn Williams former treasurer of the Tobago Conference. Sis. William passed away on July 5, 2024. The funeral service will be held on July 18, 2024 at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church Tobago. Please keep the William family in Tobago and the wider Tobago Conference in prayer, in the time of grief and loss.
- The Young People in the Ecumenical Movement serves as the voice of youth in the World Council of Churches at varying levels and across its many committees/ commissions. In addition to this role, it also seeks to impact the lives of youth in their diverse locales, socio-political contexts, and faith traditions.
- The commission commenced its work in April 2024 and has to-date hosted two virtual meetings. These were foundation building meetings as we elucidated the role of the commission in the wider context of the World Council of Churches (WCC), revisited the work of past commissions, and explored areas of focus for work and advocacy in the current commission.
- On August 12th 2024, the Young People in the Ecumenical Movement will be celebrating **Ecumenical International Youth Day** with the theme *"Journey of Justice, Peace, and Unity: A Call to End Violence."* This is a virtual event that welcomes Christian Youth worldwide and there are

- several ways for our youth to get involved:
- A. **Attend** the Ecumenical International Youth Day event online. Please see attached a letter of invitation from the Young People in the Ecumenical Movement (Event Registration details are included in the letter).
- B. **Lend** your voice to the Ecumenical International Youth Day virtual choir. Persons are invited to submit their audio pre-recordings by July 19th 2024. Choir participation details are included in the letter.
- C. **Participate** on the social media blast by posting and/or using the frame with their social media photo. Media details will be provided soon.

Registration: [Ecumenical International Youth Day 2024 | World Council of Churches \(oikoumene.org\)](https://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/registration-ecumenical-international-youth-day-2024)

Ecumenical International Youth Day 2024 Toolkit: Young People and Their Voices from the War

zones: [Ecumenical International Youth Day 2024 Toolkit | World Council of Churches \(oikoumene.org\)](https://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/ecumenical-international-youth-day-2024-toolkit-young-people-and-their-voices-from-the-war-zones)

Growing a church involves various strategies and efforts to attract new members, engage the existing congregation, and build a strong community of faith. Here are some tips on how to grow your church:

1. Provide a welcoming environment: Ensure that your church is welcoming and inclusive to all visitors. Create a friendly atmosphere where people feel valued and accepted.

2. Engage the community: Get involved in the local community by organising events, service projects, and outreach programs. This helps to raise awareness about your church and its mission.

3. Utilise social media: Use social media platforms to promote your church, share upcoming events, and connect with members and potential visitors. Social media is a powerful tool for reaching a wider audience.

4. Offer diverse programs: Provide a variety of programs and activities that cater to

different age groups and interests within your congregation. This can include Bible studies, youth groups, community service projects, and social events.

5. Focus on quality worship services: Ensure that your worship services are engaging, uplifting, and meaningful. Invest in quality music, sermons, and other elements of the service to create a memorable experience for attendees.

6. Encourage member involvement: Encourage your members to get involved in various aspects of church life, such as volunteering, leading small groups, or participating in outreach activities. Engaged members are more likely to invite others to join the church.

7 Provide opportunities for spiritual growth: Offer classes, workshops, and resources to help members deepen their faith and spiritual understanding. A strong emphasis on spiritual growth can attract individuals seeking a deeper connection with God.

8. Foster a sense of community: Create opportunities for members to connect with one another outside of regular worship services. This can include social events, small group gatherings, and other activities that help build relationships within the church community.

9. Invite and follow up with visitors: Encourage your members to invite friends, family, and coworkers to attend services and events at your church. Follow up with visitors to thank them for attending and invite them to return.

10. Pray for guidance and growth: Above all, pray for God's guidance and wisdom as you seek to grow your church. Trust in His plan and timing for the growth of your congregation.

By implementing these strategies and remaining faithful to your mission, you can create a thriving and growing church community.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

July 16 – 31

Bro. Kirk Barker 21
Bro. Dion Christopher 23
Sis. Earleen Simmons 25
Sis. Monique Richards 26
Bro. Andrew Roberts 28
Bro. Rudolph Roberts 28
Sis. Althea P. Jarvis 29
Sis. Elisa Hodge 29

August 1 – 15

Sis. Marleen Browne 1
Sis. Belinda Manswell-Daniel 4

ANNIVERSARIES

July 16 – 31

Bro. Erflin Browne & Sis. Marleen Browne 19
Bro. Moise Jean & Sis. Yvonne Jean 20
Bro. Devon Mannix & Sis. Stacey Herbert Mannix 21
Bro. Mikie Roberts & Sis. Winelle Kirton Roberts 24
Bro. Rowan Simmon & Sis. Earleen Clarke Simmons 24
Bro. Walton Frederick & Sis. Angela Frederick 26

August 1 - 15

Bro. Matthew Crooks & Sis. Jasmin Crooks 13

ORDINATION

ANNIVERSARIES

July 16 – 31

Bro. Cortroy Jarvis July 17, 1983
Bro. Elroy Christopher July 24, 1983
Bro. Walton Frederick July 22, 1984
Sis. Roslyn Hamblin July 21, 1985
Sis. Esther Moore-Roberts July 22, 1990
Bro. Algernon Lewis July 19, 1995
Bro. Andrew Roberts July 20, 1998
Sis. Anique Elmes-Matthew July 23, 2000
Bro. Rowan Simmons July 30, 2000
Bro. Hilton Joseph July 30, 2000
Sis. Adelyn Mgonela July 28, 2002
Bro. Devon Mannix July 30, 2006
Sis. Cherice Job-Lewis July 16, 2010

ORDINATION

ANNIVERSARIES

August 1 – 15

Bro. Frank A. Barker August 15, 1963
Bro. Neilson Waithe August 8, 1982



THE MAN CALLED JESUS!

The Way, The
Truth, The
Life

Jesus, also referred to as Jesus of Nazareth or Jesus the Christ, is a central figure in Christianity. Christians believe him to be the Son of God and the saviour of humanity. According to the New Testament of the Bible, Jesus was born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth. He is known for his teachings, miracles, crucifixion, and resurrection.

Jesus' teachings emphasised love, compassion, forgiveness, and the importance of serving others. He performed various miracles, such as healing the sick, raising the dead, and calming storms, which are recorded in the Gospels.

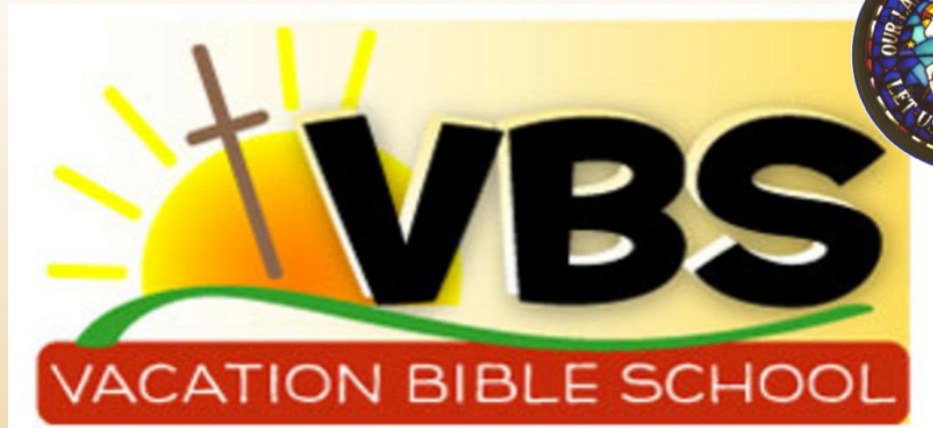
The crucifixion of Jesus is a pivotal event in Christian theology as it is believed to be the sacrifice that atoned for the sins of humanity. Christians celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday, which signifies victory over sin and death.

The life and teachings of Jesus have had a profound influence on Western culture and the development of Christianity as a major world religion. His followers, known as Christians, believe in his divinity and strive to follow his example in their lives.

Sunday School Curriculum for the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province Produced by the Provincial Director Of Christian Education Rev. Dr. Bonnie E.B.W. Smith Provincial Department of Christian Education

**A Soft Launch of the Sunday School Curriculum for the
Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province**

Curriculum for the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province A Soft Launch!



KINGDOM BUILDERS: BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES, CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES!

10 DAYS VBS PROGRAMME

DIGITAL BUNDLE

For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. Romans 11:10

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**The Way, The
Truth, The
Life**

MORAVIAN MULTIPURPOSE COMPLEX

Conference Centre &
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 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.

Provincial Elders Conference Calendar of Events

AUGUST

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
16-20 – PEC meeting Tobago
Staff Development-20 – PEC meeting
Tobago
29 – Staff Development

SEPTEMBER

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
16 – Ministers Covenant Day
22 – Widows' Offering

OCTOBER

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
25-31 – PEC meeting Antigua
31 – Staff Development session

NOVEMBER

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

DECEMBER

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

THE INFORMATION

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF THE PEC OF
THE MORAVIAN CHURCH EASTERN WEST INDIES
PROVINCE