



A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF PEC EWI PROVINCE

The Information

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

Agriculture and the Kingdom of God



Rev. Nigel Daniel
Supt. Moravian Church
Tobago Conference

The Hebrew Scriptures reveal how God is inviting us into relationship with God’s self through the land and through our relationships with neighbours. In Genesis 2:8 we are told “And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and He put the man whom He formed there”.

In recent years, there has been a noticeable trend of churches and religious organizations becoming increasingly involved in agriculture returning to where it all began, in a garden. This involvement spans a wide range of activities, from establishing community gardens to supporting local farmers and advocating for sustainable farming practices. This article will highlight the Spring Garden Moravian Church in Tobago “Hot Pepper Project” and the Tobago Conference's “Hydroponics System” of agriculture as we seek to advance the Kingdom of God.

Darrow L. Miller wrote, “About twenty years ago, evangelical missionaries moved into the unreached agricultural communities of the poorest province of Guatemala. They journeyed there to evangelize and plant churches. The people they were working with, the Pokomchi, were the poorest people in the poorest province of one of the poorest countries in the Americas. Many people came to Christ. Churches were planted. By mission standards, the task was done. The missionaries moved on to other communities. But, in one sense, little had changed. The Pokomchi were living in as much poverty after the missionaries left as when they arrived. What was different? Now, the people were waiting to die! They had hope for heaven. Praise the Lord! But they had no hope for today! Is this a picture of “success”? Is this what the Great Commission is all about?” In this season, the church is called not only to proclaim the promise of heaven but also to actively engage in improving present realities.

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Vision Statement

**A Church - Transformed,
United,
Victorious in Christ**

Mission Statement

By the grace of God, we seek to be faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ; without distinction, we use all that we possess to call all peoples to the truth of the Gospel through worship, Evangelist discipleship and service.

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Many people say agriculture is hard work and they are correct. In the same way, life in general is hard work. Building a good life is no easy work, and every day, just like the farmer, we have to show up and do the work. Every day, relationships have to be tended. Weeds have to be removed, plants have to be watered and fertilizer added. Neglect a relationship and just like a field left unplowed, weeds will overrun everything and whatever was planted will die. Agriculture teaches so much about life.

It is our vision that the church, as a central institution in the Tobago landscape, can contribute significantly to the practical development of the country, and agriculture stands as a key avenue. When posed with the question, 'What do we have in our hands?' we recognized a vast expanse of fertile agricultural land. With this recognition, we initiated a hot pepper project as an investment and sustainable asset utilization aimed at generating additional income for the church.

Starting this project hasn't been without its challenges. I vividly remember a member expressing doubts during a church council meeting, claiming that Tobagonians would not be willing to put in the necessary effort. However, we refused to be disheartened. Despite skepticism, the Board of Stewards embraced the vision and provided unwavering support. Our initial efforts faced setbacks when the anticipated free labour did not materialize consistently. This setback prompted us to reassess our approach. We recognized that for this vision to succeed, we needed to compensate individuals for their work. Thus, we revisited our budget, incorporating expenses for labour wages.

It is our intention to produce 1 acre of hot peppers. However, we believe that at this initial stage, we should start on a smaller scale. Here we are reminded in Zachariah 4:10 "Do not despise small beginnings." In God's eyes, these humble beginnings hold the seeds of larger victories to come. Like every seed the vision needs to start small before it can grow and reach its full potential. This beginning though small scale in the face of our larger aspirations, holds

immense promise. This will help us to understand and appreciate all the necessary factors that would be involved in properly managing the production and finding the market. Having identified an area of 90x60 square feet for the hot peppers we started planting on the 4th December 2023. It has been a wonderful journey thus far. We are currently being ably assisted by an agronomist. He comes to visit regularly to guide the process.



On 28th February we commenced harvesting the peppers. This first harvest yielded 300 peppers. To date, we have harvested over 3000 peppers. Thanks to the hard-working Sister Ann Williams who is responsible for harvesting the peppers. With proper care and maintenance of the plants and the soil, we are hoping to have peppers until the end of the year.

Currently, many hot pepper sauce producers source their peppers from Trinidad. By stepping into this arena, our church has the opportunity through sustainable agriculture to emerge as a significant



contributor to hot pepper production on the island, directly impacting our community in a meaningful manner and using the opportunity to advance God's kingdom. We fervently hope that the church will recognize the potential in venturing into hot sauce production and capitalize on this opportunity to not only establish itself as a prominent player in the market but also to showcase its unique brand identity. By leveraging its distinct values, principles, and community-focused approach, the church can carve out a niche in the hot sauce industry, thereby fostering growth, sustainability, and positive impact within its sphere of influence.

EVERYTHING MANGO

By Belinda Manswell- Daniel

Grace and peace to you my brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us continue to pledge our allegiance to the Lamb for He has conquered, let us follow Him.

"Mangoes, mangoes, mangoes. Mango vert, mango teen. Mango vert, mango teen. I want a penny to buy Mango vert, mango teen." The words of this famous folk song epitomized the atmosphere in which the Buccoo Moravian church hosted its inaugural "Everything Mango" event on Saturday 30th July, 2022. The initiative was geared at:

- Raising funds to assist a member of the Buccoo Moravian Church and her family with the building of a home;
- Unleashing the creative and innovative potential of the congregation while making full use of the island's abundant mango supply;
- Fostering camaraderie and fellowship among members.

When mangoes "come een" (bear) they "come een" in abundance. As we say in our local parlance, "Mango knocking dog," sadly, much of it goes to waste. As a church community, we are called to be good stewards, even of these delectable fruits. The Lord showed us what we have in our hands, and with a mind to work, we forge ahead.

The event featured locally made items by members of the congregation with the chief ingredient being mango. Some of these items include inter alia: Mango Jam; Caribbean Mango Rice, Mango Salad, Mango pepper sauce, Curry mango, Mango anchar, Mango sugar cake, Mango cheese-cake, Mango Fudge, Mango Wine, Red Mango Ice-cream, Mango Pineapple drink, Mango Ginger drink, Mango Smoothie/slushi and Mango chicken, fish, and pork.



This event took place at the Buccoo Integrated Facility and drew a substantial crowd of both locals and visitors and was deemed a resounding success.

After careful assessment of this venture, it was realized that there was greater potential to be maximized by hosting this event.

As a result, the Buccoo Moravian Joint Board, Conference Staff, and Executive Board unanimously acknowledged that the "Everything Mango" initiative should be a revenue-generating Conference Event. Therefore, on the 24th June, 2023 the Conference hosted the event at Shaw Park Food Hub. This edition of the event saw greater collaboration and partnership among all stakeholders. The air was filled with excitement as attendees savoured an array of mouthwatering mango-inspired dishes and delicacies. The creativity and culinary prowess on display were truly remarkable.



Patrons were treated to thrilling performances by our very own, which included but were not limited to the Montgomery Steel Ensemble, Buccoo Dance Ministry, Deborah Moore-Miggins, Karen Moore-Nicholson, and renowned gospel artiste Jaron Nurse from Trinidad. The invigorating music and vibrant atmosphere further enhanced the sense of community and celebration.

It must also be noted that the opportunity was seized at "Everything Mango" to share the gospel message of salvation by distributing bookmarks done by the Moravian church. Also, ten (10) percent of the proceeds were sown into the House Construction Project.

Commendations are extended to the Conference and in particular the congregations of the Tobago Conference for the diligence and generosity that contributed to the event's overwhelming success.



We are delighted to announce that "Everything Mango" has firmly secured its place as an annual highlight on the Conference's calendar.

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JANUARY

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 29 – 31—PEC and Superintendents Conference at Provincial Headquarters

FEBRUARY

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 1– 4 PEC and Superintendents Conference at Provincial Headquarters
- 14 – Lent begins (Feb 14 – March 31)
- 29 – Staff Development Session

MARCH

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 3 – Unity Sunday Offering
- 24 – Palm Sunday/Theological Education Offering
- 29 – Good Friday
- 31 – Easter Sunday

APRIL

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- Unity Prayer Watch

MAY

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 5 – Moravian Music Sunday
- 19 – Pentecost
- 23 - 29– PEC meeting Trinidad
- 30 - Staff Development session

JUNE

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

JULY

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

AUGUST

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 16-20 – 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 Unity Prayer Watch is a special service to the world, offered by the worldwide Moravian Church. The Eastern West Indies Province will participate in the Unity Prayer Watch from April 03 - April 17, 2023. The Schedule is as follows:

Tobago/Grenada Mission 12am, April 3 - 11:59pm April 5, 2023

St. Kitts 12am, April 6 - 11:59pm April 7, 2023

Trinidad 12am, April 8 - 11:59am April 9, 2023

Barbados 12pm, April 9 - 11:59pm April 11, 2023

Virgin Islands 12am, April 12 - 11:59pm April 14, 2023

Antigua 12am, April 15 - 11:59pm April 17, 2023

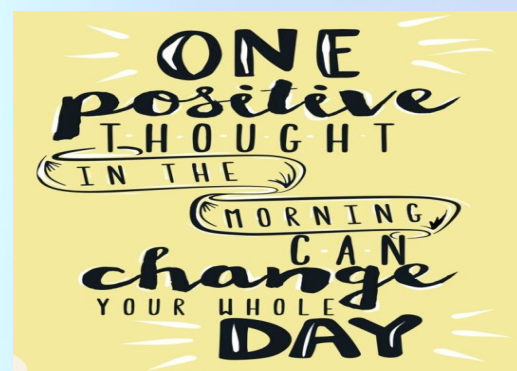
Conferences are asked to observe the time allotted for our members to engage in this unbroken prayer chain. This prayer meeting began on August 13, 1727 when the Moravian Church had its Pentecost experience. Prayer is still a vital part of our walk with God and the life of the church. Let us therefore be in readiness for this prayer event as we continue to seek God's guidance and direction for our Church, the world, and ourselves.



Provincial Watchword for 2024
July 20, 2024

Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the Lord your God and have no awe of me.

Quote of the Day



Everything Mango cont'd from page 3

Looking ahead, we are filled with anticipation for the future of "Everything Mango," reminded of the promise found in Philippians 1:6: "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." This assurance inspires us to pursue even greater success and impact in the years ahead. Therefore, let us all be fruitful!



The Moriah Moravian Church Bakery

A part of Tobago's rich heritage is the African mud ovens otherwise known as the Dirt Ovens.

Dirt oven baking at the Moriah Moravian Church is a time-worn tradition. The dirt oven used for baking buns for annual Missionary Lovefeast celebrations on Palm Sunday and then left idle for the rest of the year.

With the downturn in the national economy and a reduced and aging membership of the congregation financial constraints became evident. The proposal to use the oven year-round as a bakery came about as the Joint Board looked for ways to generate income for the church.



The structure was enhanced to make it commercially ready and service to the community officially started in June of 2017. Every Saturday, bread, tart, and drops are prepared and sold to church members and other members of the community. In fact, the Bakery receives orders from customers in Trinidad and abroad from time to time.

The Process: Unlike modern day ovens, the Dirt Oven baking is labour intensive. After burning the bamboo inside, the cinders are forced out the back door. After that, the bread (hops and loaves), drops and tarts are



arranged on banana leaves or trays and placed in the oven via the front door. They are cooked by the residual heat. After baking, they are taken out, cool and packaged for sale.

Moriah proudly boasts of the best dirt oven delicacies in Tobago. Special thank you to the Bakery Crew for their consistent commitment to this ministry weekly. They are Brothers Steve Douglas, Godfrey Charles, Donnelle Des Vignes, Sisters Sharon Douglas, Auldeen George, Eumel des Vignes, Elinore King and Marilyn Dowridge (deceased).



The Bakery underwent some recent refurbishment and is open for business.

You can place your orders by call or WhatsApp 1-868-775-6018. You can choose to drive up to beautiful Mount Moriah to collect your orders or have your orders delivered for a small fee (orders outside of Moriah). We thank God for this ministry and pray that it will continue to grow

and be a blessing not only to our church but the wider community.





Let us Celebrate



Birthday Celebrants

March 16—March 31

Sis. Eulencine Christopher	18
Sis. Denise Smith-Lewis	20
Bro. Albert Kingsley Lewis	20
Sis. Vera Waithe	29
Bro. Edgar Gonsalves-Barriero	29

Birthday Celebrants

April 1—15

Bro. Elroy Christopher	04
Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs	08



Ordination Anniversary



Sis. Georgette John-Cotton April 04, 1997



Provincial Day of Prayer

Our next Provincial Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday, April 1, 2024. This prayer meeting begins at 6:00 am and will be led by the Moravian Church Virgin Islands Conference. The link for the meeting will be shared in due course.



Theological Education Sunday

Sunday March 24, 2024 is Theological Education Sunday.

Special prayers are requested for our Theological student, Sis. Chioma Henry, who is in her 3rd year of ministerial studies at the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI).

Hydroponics System

The Moravian Church Tobago Conference recognizing that the church has the potential to play a pivotal role in advocating for smart farming and sustainable agricultural practices has stepped up to another level. The conference has embarked on a Hydroponics agriculture system of farming. The Moravian Church Tobago Conference has taken proactive steps towards this goal by initiating this hydroponics system of agriculture, demonstrating a commitment to innovative and sustainable farming practices.

Goals and Objectives:

- ❖ To provide education and entrepreneurial opportunities to young farmer
- ❖ Youth development and training as it relates to sustainability
- ❖ Inspire a new generation of farmers
- ❖ Increase awareness of farming among young people

This project is intended to help raise community awareness of the value of agriculture utilizing new technologies as a sustainable venture by providing employment opportunities. In addition, it will also foster an entrepreneurial spirit in the community. The project will engage students at both the primary and secondary school levels. Producing Romaine Lettuce will be the main crop to be produced. However, at this moment we are producing celery and chive and Kale.

These two initiatives the hot pepper project and the hydroponics system exemplify our church's commitment to exerting a positive influence in our society.

As I conclude, I am reminded that the scourges of hunger and poverty persist not due to a scarcity of resources. Rather, the world is abundant in resources, and we possess the technological prowess to address these issues. The crux lies in the flawed perspectives surrounding agriculture – the absence of a biblical worldview applied to farming practices. The onus is upon God's people to make a difference in our Caribbean region in shifting the mindset of our people as it relates to agriculture

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Hydroponics System cont'd from Page 6

from a Kingdom perspective. Let us rally Christians in agriculture to serve as emissaries of the Kingdom, both on their farms and within their communities. As the offering plates decline year by year and our congregations age, I encourage churches with lands to take action. Let us find ways and means of being good stewards of God's gift of the land.



**Spring Garden Moravian Church...Then to Now
By Rion George, Chairman Board of Stewards, 2024**

Over the past decades, Spring Garden Moravian Church has undergone consistent developments, which have all significantly contributed to the Church we know and have today. Nestled in Spring Garden, Tobago, a small yet business-oriented village on the outskirts of the capital Scarborough, Spring Garden Moravian Church was established in 1851.

The Church's rich history revealed that it was built over the ruins of an old sugar factory, and served the Spring Garden and adjoining communities as a sanctuary, school, community centre and general meeting place for many years. However, as the communities' needs expanded, the new sanctuary was built in 1963, to better serve them.



Fast forward to the early 2000s, the Church's leadership identified that there was a need for more office space for the Church's administrative duties, the Church needed to create another, sustainable stream of income other than tithes and offerings and it was necessary to provide more adequate space to better impact our communities' needs. After the necessary research, consultations, source

financing and preparatory work was done, construction commenced on the Sanctuary Expansion Project in 2017.

The entire project is approximately 75% complete. The ground floor, which houses the Pastor's office, Secretary's work station, secondary office and three meeting rooms is 95% complete and is currently being utilized; the kitchen still requires the installation of a sink and cupboards and two of the meeting rooms require air condition units. The Tobago Conference Office has also moved and is currently utilizing the secondary office on the ground floor, as a more central point of operation. The 1st floor still has to be completed i.e. tiling, electrical, plumbing and painting works and outfitting with the necessary fixtures, fittings, equipment and accessories.

The vision for the 1st floor is a multipurpose hall that can be used to host capacity building sessions, activities and meetings for boys, girls, men and women in our communities, it can be used to conduct youth services simultaneously with regular Sunday morning services and it can be rented for conferences, seminars, weddings etc. As a future phase of the project, the aim is to transform the yard space to an eye-catching floral landscape, making the Expansion Project a one stop hub for events, inclusive of natural backdrops for photography.

In addition to completing the Sanctuary Expansion Project, the Old Church / School building has to be fully restored. Once both structures are completed, the Spring Garden Moravian Church will be better positioned as a robust hub to impact the multiple needs of our communities.

To this day, both buildings stand as pillars of this journey throughout time from 1851 to present. Under the leadership of Rev. Nigel Daniel and assisted by Rev. Camille James-Joefeld, the Spring Garden Moravian Church body continues to set its eyes on the prize to fully complete these projects so that the mission as set 173 ago can continue to be fulfilled; "To spread the Good News of God and to impact our communities at their point of need."



Moravian Multipurpose Complex

Conference Center & Apartments



Conferences

Weddings

Banquets

Meetings

Dinners

Graduations

- ◆ Only ten minutes away from the stores, shops and banks in St. John's. Our International airport is also just ten minutes away.
- ◆ Our balcony provides a refreshing view of undulating hills and valleys.
- ◆ The Conference Center has a seating capacity for 200 persons.
- ◆ We are situated on a hill over-looking the picturesque out-skirts of the city of St. John's, Antigua.
- ◆ There are EIGHT LARGE APARTMENTS which are available for rental. Each room is self contained with kitchenette. The rooms are air-conditioned with available internet cable TV. All utilities are included with the exception of telephone.