



THE INFORMATION

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)



Rev. Algernon Lewis
Chair of PEC

October, 2024 Issue

Going afar, upon the mountain!*

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

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

Each year, the Province usually sends out a report on the various missionary endeavours throughout the Province and beyond. The report is generally shared during the missionary service. The 2024 report is included in this publication. During my tenure, we have struggled to identify mission projects using funds generated during missionary. Is it that most congregations are not reporting the wonderful works of missionary efforts they undertake, or it is that the works of mission are scarce? Remember that mission is not limited to “going afar, upon the mountain bringing the wanders back again into the fold of our Redeemer.” Mission is the effort of the church to reach beyond its borders to touch others with the love of Jesus. As people commissioned by Jesus, we must look beyond ourselves for the opportunities to make Christ known.

Most congregations are located within communities where schools exist. Are there any students and teachers in need in that school? Are there students in that school who are struggling to learn English or could use homework help?

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

* This article was updated from its original publication in October 2022

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Going afar, upon the mountain!
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That is mission; that is meeting someone in need and showing that person the difference Jesus makes in the believers life. These acts of kindness open doors for deeper mission and ministry.

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

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

Speaking of decision making, October is traditionally the time when Congregations plan for the coming year. In 2021, all Pastors and congregations were involved in a strategic planning workshop. In 2023 and 2024 Conferences should have completed the Reimagining Leadership seminar which would have helped Conferences and Congregations to identify specific mission to engage. All Congregations were tasked with identifying one or two projects that will occupy their attention for the next year or two. Congregations may focus on more mission/ministry projects, but given the limited resources, it is better to focus our efforts.

As you decide which mission/ministry projects will occupy your attention in 2023 and beyond, listen to your neighbours as you listen to God.

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

The Buccoo congregation in Tobago took their missionary efforts to new levels. They saw needs in a community for housing needs. One of their projects was to paint the house for one of their neighbours. Later, they recognized the need for housing for another neighbour. They took a bold step to build a house for a family in need. That story needs an article by itself. Sufficient to say, they built a three bedroom, two bathroom concrete house that is now ready for occupation (see pictures below).



The way of Jesus is counterintuitive – the unexpected response. It calls us to go high, to be magnanimous, to embrace generosity, and to love unconditionally.

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Report of the Global Christian Forum



By Rev. Kevin St. Hill

Grace and peace to you my family in Christ. I greet you as a grateful, and proud representative of the Moravian Unity for the recently concluded fourth gathering of the Global Christian Forum held in Accra Ghana. The event had 2 parts: the youth forum, from the 12-15 April, and the global gathering, which occurred from the April 16-April 19.

The Youth Forum saw 21 young people from the age of 18-35 from various denominations and countries throughout the world, gather together and engage in ecumenical dialogue and devotions on the themes of Justice, Hope and Reconciliation.

The Global Forum was themed: “That the world may know” as inspired by John 17:32.

My experience at the Global Christian Forum, was empowering and life-changing, I use this outlet to share my reflections from this experience and to encourage our support in this ecumenical movement.

I departed from the V.C. Bird International Airport on April 11th; but due to hindrances encountered in my travel, I would have missed April 13-14 of the Youth Program, but those days were set aside to focus on the core themes of Justice and Hope. I am grateful to have been present for the discourse on April 15 which was focused on the theme of Reconciliation. It was of particular significance to me because the presenter was a female African American Pastor and Professor from the African Methodist Episcopal Church. And the direction her submissions led us, was to the efficacy of the Global Church leading the charge in the movement towards the payment of reparations to the descendants of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade.

April 16, saw the commencement of the Global Gathering. The days central sub-theme was: ‘One in God’. It began with an opening Church service at an ecumenical sanctuary called the Accra Ridge Church.

It was adorned with symbols of the ‘gyname’ – and African symbol for unity. The preacher there led us in reflection on the matter of Paul and Barnabus being chosen as partners for the work of ministry even though they seemed so drastically different. Her word reminded us that it was these very differences between them that made up for each of their deficits and that through the wisdom of God there were the quintessential complimentary companions for each other differences divide us but to see them as complimentary aspects of the global church’s ministry.

After the conclusion of the opening service, we went next door to the Church’s fellowship center where we would be separated into groups and contemplate the day’s sub-theme: Oneness. Please note the recapitulation of the overarching theme : ‘That the world may know’ and also observe that the sub-themes for the week were Oneness (Tues, April 16), Broken in Humanity (Wed, 17 April), Healed Through Christ (Thursday, 18 April) , Sent by God (Friday, 19 April).

With Oneness in mind, we reflected on John 17 (the overarching text of the forum) and I was humbled to be seated with leading members of the World Council of Churches, a Church planter and a young Orthodox Priest from Ukraine, to list a few.

Wednesday’s activity was particularly meaningful for me as a man of African descent. Under the sub-theme of ‘Broken in Humanity’ we journeyed to Cape Coast Slave Castle.

After we concluded our tour, we walked about 5 minutes up a hill to the Wesley Methodist Cathedral. I must submit that I was meaningfully involved through the entire excursion. I was allowed to lay a wreath in memory of the enslaved Africans lost at sea and taken from their homes, and was selected to pray for Africans and the African Diaspora at a special worship service for lament and reconciliation.

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*Report of the Global Christian Forum
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At this service a representative of the Anglican Church had pledged that the Church would give 100 million pounds in reparations to address its past link to slavery. I found it to be an edifying and consolatory start.

Over the Next two days, the mornings' activities took the form of thematic conversations and testimonies, led by representatives from various conglomerates of denominations.

In the evening we went to the Action Chapel International, what would colloquially consider to be a 'mega church' and had a contemporary worship experience. It was humbling yet empowering as that particular stream of Christianity has not always been recognized in the more historically tenured ecclesial forums, yet here we were all worshipping together.

Friday's highlight was a visit to the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park and Mausoleum. The architecture was stunning, as were the various monuments.

With the organized activities noted, I must also submit with great joy that I met the most amazing and diverse array of believers and prior to this my mind couldn't fathom it. I met a pastor who served in an area that traditionally doesn't tolerate Christian worship in its space: Pakistan, a refugee pastor from Ukraine, a Mennonite from France, a Monk from the Taizé' monastery in France, a descendant from the German Lutherans in Chile' who was working to reconcile the fissure in his Church between the local people and those descended from Germany. I met a youth pastor from a 'seeker style' Context in Kenya, activists from Nigeria and social media personalities just to name a few! And for all their accolades many were thrilled to meet me and divulged how novel it was for them to come across a pastor with my unique blend of age, articulateness, gender and deportment and many connected with me meaningfully in ways that make me pray God preserves my faculties so I may never forget them.

As I bring this report to a close, I recapitulate, my petition that support in prayer, funding and attendance to such ecumenical forums should be fervently undertaken. It has further fanned the flames of trust in God's power, love for God's people and excitement for what God will do in the age to come in my heart and I am confident they can do the same for every disciple of Christ. I remain forever grateful for the opportunity and will seek to explore opportunities for new or revised ecumenical partnerships in my own church communities, I pray that this document has encouraged us all to do likewise.



PEC MEETING

The Provincial Board will meet in Antigua from October 28 – 31, 2024. This is the final official meeting for 2024.

Please pray for the PEC as we meet to deliberate on the business of the Province.



Going afar, upon the mountain! Continued from Page 2

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

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

MISSION REPORT

Brothers and Sisters,

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

The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province continues to be engaged on the mission field albeit at a less active level.

The mission in Grenada was realigned to the St. Kitts Conference in June 2024. They will now report through the St. Kitts Conference. Reporting on his visit, Bro. Jeremy Francis who has for missions, noted that the fellowship is stable. Members are committed to the work with many plans for growth. The Moravian Junior Academy is a great work in progress. Their numbers have been consistent, and the students seem to be learning well. The pre-school received needed gifts and items for their operation from members of the Province including the Memorial, Friedensberg, and Faith Congregations. Like most pre-schools, holiday periods are a challenge. Members are free to give to this Project. Congregations are encouraged to plan mission trips and other events to build relationships with our Brothers and Sisters in Grenada.

The mission in Haiti continues amid the turmoil in that country. Communication and cultural differences have happened good relations. The EWI Province in partnership with the Jamaica and Cayman Islands Province, have been journeying with Haiti. We have appealed to the Unity Board for greater assistance as the work is great. Please pray for our Haitian Brothers and Sisters who are continually under the press. There are advanced plans to inaugurate a microcredit programme for vulnerable women to empower them to develop businesses. While the details are being finalized, it is expected that each participant will be given US\$100 for the project. This is mission at a practical level.

The work in Cuba is stable and growing. Bishop Kingsley Lewis recently participated in the consecration of a Cuban Bishop. They are linked to the Moravian Church in North America.

Coming out of the recent Unity Board meeting, exciting news was shared of the areas of new work. There are people in various parts of the world who are seeking to join the Moravian Church. Some of the areas where mission has begun and people are meeting regularly include: Brazil, Peru, French Guiana, Belize, and Panama. Further afield, work continues in Albania, Angola, Korea, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and various part of the African continent to include Eastern Congo, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, South Central Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and South Sudan. In some cases, there are hundreds meeting together and in other places there are small groups meeting in homes. Some face persecution and some are refugees fleeing their homes for a better life elsewhere. They all feel the call of God into relationship and communion. Let us keep them in prayer.

May the call of God reverberate in our hearing and may our "yes" be firm and clear.

Fraternally,

Rev. Algernon Lewis

Chair of the Provincial Elders Conference



Office of the Unity Board Administrator



Antigua, 30th of September 2024

Message to the Unity, ultimo September 2024.

The Unity Board of the Worldwide Moravian Church convened for the regular Unity Board

meeting 2024 in the Caribbean Island, Antigua, Eastern West Indies Province (EWI).

The theme of the Unity Board meeting was: The Moravian Unity, Steadfast in Growth: Upholding Identity, Embracing New and Established Work Amidst Persecution and Changing Landscapes.

The Worldwide Moravian Church is a growing church. In particular, it was noted that Christians in new Mission Areas show a desire to establish Moravian Churches in various countries. In some parts of the world, the Christian Churches, including Moravian Churches face challenges due to difficult political and religious restraints. The world is changing, and Moravians face the changing landscapes of unrest, economic factors and at times lack of freedom of religion and unjust economic realities. However, we also rejoice in the fact that in many parts of the world, the Moravian Church enjoy the freedom of religion and worship.

At the Unity Board meeting, a large majority of the members of the Unity Board were present, although a few members missed the meeting, mainly due to visa issues.

The Unity President and the Unity Board Administrator offered reports on the ongoing work in the Moravian Unity, as did also all the provinces and other entities of the Unity. This included 25 Unity Provinces, 8 Mission Provinces and some 12 Mission Areas along with more 10 Prospective Mission Areas. It was a valuable experience for the Unity Board to receive the reports, because they contained useful information on the work done on Unity level and in the provinces. The reports contribute to building unity among the provinces and the Unity at large.

Several resolutions from the Unity Synod 2023 were dealt with, including new Mission Areas of the Unity, Practical Creation Care, support from Moravian Church Foundation (MCF) to the Unity, Unity statistics including the concept of membership. The Unity Synod Resolution concerning Unitas Fratrum Apologetic Efforts for its Complicity in the Institution of Slavery was dealt with in great respect for the topic. It is the mind of the Unity Board to engage in research work, revealing insights in the institution of slavery within the Moravian Church. This endeavor must include independent scholars from both sides of the Atlantic including external as well as Moravian scholars. It is felt particularly important that the narrative in a 21st century understanding is established by contributions from both the Caribbean and the European/North American perspective as well as the African. Along with other Unity Synod Resolutions, the Unity Board had valuable in-depth conversations on these topics.

Reports from Unity Undertakings and Unity committees were shared and discussed. The Unity Committees include the Unity Committee on Theology (UCOT), the Unity Mission and Development Board (UMDB), the Unity Youth Committee (UYC), the Women's Desk (UWD) along with the Moravian Unity Cultural Heritage Foundation (MUCHF). As directed by the Unity Synod 2023, a Unity Archives Committee (UAC) was formed. The report of the Unity Women's Desk prompted a fruitful discussion concerning the role of women and men in the Moravian Church. This topic will be dealt with by relevant entities in the Unity. A report from MCF was received with gratitude for the ongoing support from MCF to the Unity. The support is invaluable for the Worldwide Unity.

The report of the Unity Youth Committee was received with gratitude. The Unity Board was encouraged by the work of the youth of the Unity.

The Unity Board was informed about the very difficult situation at Star Mountain (SMRC), due to the conflict in Israel, which also has a strong impact on the West Bank. However, the SMRC

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Message to the Unity, ultimo September 2024.
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staff is determined to continue with the operation of Star Mountain, whereby the institution is a witness of service to disadvantaged people amidst the turmoil of the present situation.

The financial situation of the Unity with some emphasis on arrears, which for some provinces have been accumulated over the years, was discussed. A covenant expressing the shared desire to reducing and finishing the arrears of Provinces to the Unity was agreed upon, including an agreement to write off debts incurred in the period from 2014-2016. Moreover, it was agreed that full annual payment of Provincial Unity Contributions of some provinces will mean writing off 20% of older arrears. It was a challenging discussion, but it revealed a common desire among the provinces to seek solutions in mutual solidarity. It was underlined that the norm still is that all provinces pay their Unity contributions according to the annual budget.

The representatives of the Region were named in regional meetings. They are:

African Region: Br. Erord Simae, Tanzania Rukwa Province

American Region: Br. Neil Routh, American South Province.

Caribbean and Latin American Region: Br. Algernon Lewis, Eastern West Indies Province.

European Region: Sr. Roberta Hoey, British Province.

Sr. Roberta Hoey was elected President of the Unity Board, while Br. Algernon Lewis was elected Vice President of the Unity Board.

The Unity Board gives thanks to our Chief Elder for a Unity Board meeting held in a true spirit of love and understanding.

To God be the glory.

Br. Jørgen Bøytler, Unity Board Administrator.



Birthday Celebrants



October 16—31

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

November 1-15

Sis. Onita Samuel-Warner	01
Sis. Cherry-Ann Ince	01

Wedding Anniversary

October 16 - 31



Bro. Vankys Isacc & Sis. Myrtle Isaac	26
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Quote of the Day

Remember how far you've come, not just how far you have to go. You may not be where you want to be neither are you where you used to be. — Rick Warren

Moravian Multipurpose Complex Conference Center & Apartments



Graduations
Conferences
Weddings
Banquets
Meetings
Dinners

- ◆ 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.

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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