



THE INFORMATION

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

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

April and May 2025, Issue

Reasons to Believe

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed. This is probably the most popular statement of the Easter season. At Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus after the crucifixion and burial for three days. Easter is therefore about the triumph of life over death through the power of God. The resurrection opens a path for reconciliation between God and humanity because blood was shed for the sins of the world (Hebrews 9:22). Without Jesus's death, there is no possibility of salvation – being saved and inheriting eternal life. The Apostle Paul puts it this way, "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith... And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:14 & 17). Everything hangs and rides on the validity and reality of the resurrection.

Some may ask, can we really believe that Jesus died for a few days then came back to life? How can we know this is true? Those are good questions. It has been said that most Christians are two to three questions away from denying the faith. For too long, we have simply accepted the doctrines of the faith without requiring more explanation. To require explanation is not doubting the faith. In fact, asking for an explanation is referred to as faith seeking understanding. Let us be clear that faith and reason are not opposed to each other. They are inextricably bound because they originate from the same place – God our Creator and Sustainer. Christ-followers need to know thy "why" behind their faith.

This is where the ministry of Christian Education is vital. Christian Education as a discipline is the intentional and unintentional teaching of the Christian faith so that the hearer may come to believe fully in Jesus Christ and be equipped for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4: 12-13). Christian Education is about growing faith or faith formation as it is currently known. Christian Education is vital to the ministry of the church. One possible reason for the lack of growth among many believers might be found in a reduced emphasis on the Christian Education ministry in many churches. Where the formation is weak and lacking substantial input, the long-term effects will soon be felt.

As we celebrate Easter another time, are you curious about Easter and the validity of the claims that Jesus rose from the dead?

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Vision Statement

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

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Curiosity is good. It helps us to get behind the veil to the deeper things of our faith. Faith seeking understanding is to be encouraged. Following are some thoughts towards establishing the validity of the resurrection claims after sharing a thought on the origin of the word “Easter.”

It is true that Easter is not original to Christianity. There was a pagan festival called Easter that was held around Spring. It was at one of the early Church Councils (Nicaea) that the decision was taken to adopt that Festival for Christianity with a focus on the resurrection of Jesus. This might have been a strategy to draw people but there was no loss of the meaning of the resurrection.. The resurrection of Jesus is limited to Jesus only so far. When Lazarus came back to life (John 11: 38-44), that was a resuscitation. That was also the case with the widow of Nain’s son (Luke 7: 11-17). Life returned to the bodied and their physical state remained the same.

Internal validity- Biblical evidence

When Jesus got up that first resurrection morning, the mortal had put on immortality. Jesus had a glorified body. What does mean? Well...it means that Jesus’s body was now doing things that it had not previously done. Recall that Jesus appeared to the disciples who were locked away for fear of the Jews. The doors were locked but that did not stop him from entering (John 20: 19, Luke 24:36). Resurrection means that material changes had taken place as with Jesus and that is the promise for each believer (I Cor. 15: 50-55).The change in Jesus’s body proves that he was resurrected. It was not a ghost or a fantasy. It was a real body, fully alive that even needed food for sustenance (Luke 24:41b).

Even the disciples were afraid because they had never seen Jesus enter a locked room before.

Jesus was alive and with them as he had been in previous times. Jesus was caring enough to appear to boost the faith of Thomas who found it hard to believe, even though his friend told him.

These appearances with the disciples proved that his was a physical, actual resurrection.

The Bible also records that Jesus appeared to other people. The writer of 1 Corinthians 15: 6 notes that Jesus appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time. Jesus was not reserving his appearances. He wanted people to know that he was alive and that the things he spoke about before the crucifixion, were trustworthy.

Beyond this, the actions of the disciples after Jesus’s ascension are a powerful indication that the resurrection is credible. No matter how convinced the disciples were that Jesus was resurrected, if they did not have the evidence of Jesus’s resurrection, they would not have given their lives to the process. Furthermore, if they wanted to be delusional, all the Roman authorities needed to do was to produce the dead body of Jesus. Remember the church started at Pentecost which was only fifty days after the resurrection. Producing the body would have blown up their story. Further, it suited Rome’s purposes to quash this new movement.

However, they could not produce the body and there were enough people alive who had seen Jesus after his crucifixion. The Roman authorities persecuted the church as it was subversive to the Roman emperor who was seen as god. Even though the disciples were persecuted and some of the worse ways, they held to their faith because they had seen the risen Christ.

External validity - non-biblical claims

What if someone says they do not believe in the validity of the Bible. As problematic as that might be from a faith perspective, we can still establish that Jesus’s resurrection was not a fabrication. There is external evidence that records events in the life of Jesus. Josephus, a Jewish, military historian was one such recorder. He mentions Jesus and his disciples. He talks about Jesus’s crucifixion and the reports that the disciples kept to his teaching after his death. While he does not declare faith in Jesus, he notes that Jesus was real and was crucified.

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If there was evidence that the stories of Jesus were found to be untrue, it is likely that he would have included that information.

Roman governor and historian Tacitus also made reference to Jesus's crucifixion. He confirms in his reference that Jesus was a real figure, that Christianity had spread across Rome, and that the authorities were concerned because Christian practices undermined the rule of the emperor. There are other external sources that corroborate that the story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are historical facts. If they are historical facts, then they are worth our attention.

Personal encounter

Christianity is a religion of faith. People do not become Christ-followers because of intellectual ascent. We follow Christ because of a personal encounter with God, through Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, you will believe in the resurrection because you met Jesus for yourself. The person with an experience is not at the mercy of a person with a theory. Christian Education provides supporting information – theories that point in the way of truth. But it is the Holy Spirit who does the work of changing hearts and lives.

Conclusion

We can believe in the resurrection because the people who lived it shared the events with us in the Bible. We can believe because there is evidence outside the Bible that support the faith claim of the Bible. We can believe in the resurrection of Jesus because, like Paul on the road to Damascus, we met Jesus for ourselves.

(Reprinted from April 2022 Newsletter)

Synod Advisory #4

The Provincial Board makes the following announcements:

1. Bishop Conrad Spencer has been requested to ordain Pastor Marleen Browne to the diaconate of the of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province. The service of ordination will take place on Sunday, July 13, 2025 at 3:00 pm at the Memorial Moravian Church in Trinidad. Please pray for Sis. Browne as she prepared to take her vows.
2. The opening service for the 34th Provincial Synod, will take place on Sunday, July 13, 2025 at the Regent Star Hotel in Piarco, Trinidad at 9:00 am.
3. The closing service for the 34th Provincial Synod will take place on Tuesday, July 15 at 7:00pm at the Regent Star Hotel in Piarco, Trinidad. This service will be streamed live.

Please continue to pray for the 34th Provincial Synod that the purpose of God is established.

Quote of the Day

"You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them."

- Maya Angelou

Happy 90th Birthday to Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs

Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs Celebrated her 90th Birthday on April 8th, 2025. Sis. Jacobs was surrounded by Family and friends on this occasion. The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province celebrates with Sis. Jacobs and pray that God will bless her with many more years of good health.



SHIFT: Reclaiming our identity, Renewing of Purpose, and Re-igniting of Passion

Moravian Music Sunday

Moravian Music Sunday will be observed on May 18, 2025.

Music and music making are wonderful companions on our journeys of faith. God has blessed us so bountifully with persons who share their gifts of music that enlivened the worship experiences of the faithful. Today we celebrate the gifts of two Moravian sisters as companions on our journey.

We give God thanks for the life and work of Sis Joan Knight from the Antigua Conference and Sis. Chioma Henry, our final year theological student from the St. Kitts Conference. The resources attached, including our sisters' musical offerings, are for use on Moravian Music Sunday 2025. strength, comfort, and joy of God as we share in worship.

May we experience the love, forgiveness, hope, peace,

LITURGY FOR MORAVIAN MUSIC SUNDAY

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

#494 **Irregular.**
In the morning Lord, we praise your holy name,
In the nighttime we worship at your throne.
Holy Jesus we want to see your face,
We worship you.

Let us give thanks to the Father, who has enabled us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

In him all things in heaven and on earth were created.

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, to which indeed we were called in the one body.

Above all, may we clothe ourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

#30 **Irregular.**
You are wonderful, You are marvelous,
You are good O Lord to me!
You are faithful, You're incomparable,
You are good O Lord to me!

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for every good gift. On this day especially, we thank you for your creative gifts to us, which cause us to enrich our lives and experience through science and art, literature and drama, words and music.

For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work; at the works of your hands we sing for joy.

We thank you especially for your gifts to the Moravian Church: devotion to the Saviour, simplicity, our strong sense of community and fellowship, and our long-standing dedication to spreading your gospel.

We thank you for our musical heritage, through which we draw closer to you and to one another.

Inspire and bless those who write and compose, those who play and sing, those who lead and teach.

As you have helped us through the centuries to sing our faith, so move within each one of us today, that all our gifts may unite in your service.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,
In whose holy name we pray. Amen.

#494
You have set me free, the victory you gave,
Now I'm pardoned from all my sinful ways;
I'll rejoice now and shout for I am saved,
I love you Lord.

Unity Women's Consultation

The Unity Women's Consultation scheduled for June 1-8, 2025, has been postponed due to visa and travel issues. Please keep the organizers in prayer as they re-organize and move forward.

PEC Meeting

The Provincial Board will meet in Trinidad from May 12-16, 2025. During this meeting, the 34th Provincial Synod will be convened virtually on May 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm. All delegates and observers are asked to take note and be present.

Please pray for the Provincial Board and the 34th Provincial Synod.

Synod Advisory # 5

THE MORAVIAN CHURCH
EASTERN WEST INDIES PROVINCE

34th PROVINCIAL SYNOD

10-16TH JULY 2025 - TRINIDAD
"RE-IGNITING OUR PASSION"

15 May 2025
Virtual Session 1

VIRTUAL SESSION 1

15 MAY, 2025 AT 6:00 PM

Synod Advisory # 6

The following information was received from the Trinidad Synod Planning Committee:

Observers Registration Cost US\$45
Observers Local Registration Cost TT\$250

N.B. This is for registration only and does not include accommodation or any meal. This registration entitles you to the Synod T-shirt, bag, and any other paraphernalia. If registered and payment of \$1000 USD is made, everything is included.

DAY PASS INFORMATION

Morning & Afternoon

- ◆ Refreshments/Snacks per person TT\$155/ US\$23 per person per day
- ◆ Buffet Lunch - per person TT\$185/US\$28 per person per day
- ◆ Buffet Dinner - per person TT\$210/US\$32 per person per day
- ◆ Single Room additional cost per person US\$350

The deadline for registration of Observers is May 31, 2025.

Quote of the Day

Living by faith isn't living with certainty. It's trusting God in spite of unanswered questions and unresolved doubts.

Pastor Rick Warren



Birthday Celebrants

April 16—30

Sis. Rosalind Prince	26
Bro. Mikie Roberts	27
Sis. Evannie Jeremiah	30

May 1 — 31

Bro. Patmore Smith	10
Sis. Ivy Vessup	10
Sis. Gloria Barker	11
Sis. Cleatus Bowers-Jones	21
Sis. Camille James-Joefield	27
Sis. Deborah Challenger	27
Bro. Daniel Mark	31

June 1 –15

Sis. Stacey Herbert-Mannix	02
Bro. Nigel Daniel	05
Sis. Sharon McCurdy Joseph	05
Bro. Charles Peters	07
Sis. Rena Warner-Francis	11

Anniversary Celebrants

April 16—30

Sis. Esther Moore-Roberts & Bro Rudolph Roberts	22
Bro. Elroy Christopher & Sis. Jane Thomas	27
Bro. Jeremy Francis & Sis. Rena Francis-Warner	28

May 1— 31

Bro. Adrian Smith & Sis. Andrea Lorde-Smith	14
Bro. Edgar & Sis. Angela Frederick Barriero	25
Bro . David Ince and Sis. CherryAnn Ince	26

June 1—15

Bro Reuben Vessup and Sis. Ivy Vessup	01
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Ordination Anniversaries

Bro. Ralph Prince	May 31, 1992
Bro. Erflin Browne	June 03, 2001
Bro. Ulric V. Smith II	June 08, 2003
Bro. Vankys Isaac	June 02, 2006
Sis. Bonnie E.B.W. Smith	June 08, 2010
Sis. Judy Winspeare-Philip	June 12, 2022



Condolences

The Provincial family extends condolences to :

- ♦ Rev. Kevin St. Hill and family as they mourn the death of his paternal grandmother, Ms. Monica Burton of Barbados. Ms. Burton died on April 12, 2025 and was buried on April 29, 2025 at the St. Patrick's Anglican Church in Barbados.
- ♦ Rev. Walton Frederick and family on the death of his uncle The Hon Leontile Grant, a native of Antigua W. I. He died on May 7 at the age of 90 years. He will be buried on May 22, 2025 in Sanford Florida, U.S.A.

Please pray for Bro. St. Hill, Bro, Frederick and family in their time of grief and loss.

Provincial Day of Prayer

Our next Provincial Day of Prayer will be held on Sunday June 1, 2025. We will observe our time of Prayer during the Sunday Morning Worship experience.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TIP

Start stocking up on those emergency supplies such as

Canned foods

Can Opener

Water

First aid kit

Change of clothes

Important documents

Medication

Flashlight (rechargeable or battery-operated)



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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