



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)

March, 2025 Issue



Rev. Algernon Lewis
Chair of PEC

Re-igniting our passion for sustainability

The Lenten journey is a shared experience, and with it, our exploration of the Provincial Theme: Re-igniting Our Passion. So far, we have reflected on a passion for souls and service; seeking ways to live out these callings in our daily lives. Have you found opportunities to put your passion into action? I trust that you have, and if you have not, this is a reminder to do so as we continue this journey together, as a community! This month, we shift our focus to another vital aspect, Re-igniting Our Passion for Sustainability.

Say what? The topic sparks curiosity rather than suspicion. Sustainability is a secular word banded about by people who want us to abandon the conveniences we are accustomed to. Furthermore, the price tag goes up when you hear the word sustainable. However, I invite you to reimagine what sustainability might mean for us as Christ-followers.

“Matter matters to God” is a phrase in some biblical circles that invites Christ-followers to be more intentional about the created order. The declaration of the psalmist captures the idea behind this expression, “The earth is the LORD’s, and the fullness thereof, the world and all who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters” (Psalm 24: 1-2). Maybe we should not go beyond Genesis 1: 1, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” This is all God’s work; this is our Father’s world!

If so, how do we own and steward what our Father has given us? This is not a foreign concept for many stewarding gifts bequeathed to them from their parents. In 2025, Moravians would have been “handed” a godly heritage by our forebears. How do we steward/manage/care for what has been given to us?

Here comes the word “sustainability.” Relative to the created order, we must care for this world to pass it on to those behind us. Whereas our parents did not have scientific Knowledge about the preservation of the soil, the air, the water, and the natural resources, we have that, Knowledge. We know that if we do not treat the soil well, it will not produce, and that will threaten food security. Food from the earth is one of the main reasons God gifted us land. We must be better stewards of the land to secure our food.

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Vision Statement

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

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As we think about food security, we must also think about planting more low-maintenance fruit trees to produce yearly crops. In conversation with Bishop Conrad Spencer, he shared the practice of planting breadfruit and avocado trees that produce without much human effort. Sustainability means that we discern the best ways to put the current resources to work so that they serve us and the coming generations. Solar panels, LED lights, low-flush toilets, and the like are essential to good stewardship.

Sustainable ministry is not a term we hear often. However, many of us have been thinking about how the church will carry on the ministry for those yet to come. We need Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders, discipleship group leaders, musicians, technicians, cleaners, parking attendants, leaders, and pastors. This list is not exhaustive. The point is that we need human resources to sustain the ministry. People are foundational to sustaining the ministry.

Sustaining people in the ministry requires building a culture that encourages and supports them. Over the years of serving as Pastor, many are the stories of members mortally afraid to step up to lead in different areas of ministry. Negative comments about leaders are the norm and enforce a culture of shame and intimidation. A culture of grace works much better to encourage people to flourish. Mistakes will be made in the context of a caring family that supports, covers, and encourages. We build that culture of grace over time, helping people to understand that words matter and, among other things, insisting that positive affirmations are the norm.

Sustainability requires people and money. In my ministry experience, the church had a complicated relationship with money. On the one hand, is Ecclesiastes 10:19c, “money is the answer for everything”; on the other, 1 Timothy 6:10a,

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” The reality is that it costs to care and to do ministry. Our hands are tied if we have people and do not have money. We need instruments for worship. We need a space to worship, which should say something about our worship and God. If our God is incredible and wonderful and owns the cattle on a thousand hills, that should translate into our worship space.

If the Lord places the ministry in the hearts of ten people now and they answer the call, the resources should be present for them to receive the training and formation required for their area of ministry. The same may be said for failing structures, defective instruments, families in need, and ministry opportunities. Some congregations were paralyzed during the COVID-19 pandemic because they had no money to help members with essential items. This kind of ministry is not sustainable.

To address this, we need to take another look at our funding model. Truth be told, tithing has worked. In my experience of ministry, congregations where large proportions of the membership tithe usually have more resources for ministry. Notwithstanding, we may need to look for other means. In some places, members are asked to pledge what they will give for the year, and the congregation will budget based on the pledges and follow up on them.

The church must also look for other sustainable funding models, like development projects, to fund the ministry’s work. I have heard of instances where well-resourced members of faith communities designate portions of their investment portfolio, such as rent from a particular building, to support the ministry’s work. As landowners in many places, how can we make the land work for us? How do we make this ministry sustainable to serve those who come after us?

We have work to do to re-ignite our passion for sustainability. May the Spirit of God open our hearts and minds to the opportunities to pursue sustainable ministry passionately.

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DR. JILLIA BIRD, OPTOMETRIST
 Founder, Antigua & Barbuda
 Glaucoma Support Group

GLAUCOMA, THE SILENT THIEF OF SIGHT

Glaucoma is **NOT ONE THING** rather we now know that **GLAUCOMA** is a **GROUP** of mainly **SILENT, SNEAKY** eye diseases that **CAN OCCUR AT ANY AGE, EVEN IN NEW-BORNS**. **GLAUCOMA** damages the head of the optic nerve at the back of the eye and the retinal nerve fibre layer surrounding it that makes up the nerve we see with.

Most Glaucoma develops **slowly and stealthily**, **stealing vision first from the side** with virtually **no symptoms** until its advanced stages, which is why **over 50% of folks with glaucoma don't even know they have it**.

Blindness from glaucoma is not due to lack of treatment or effective surgery. It is simply a matter of lack of awareness of the silent nature of the disease and therefore its **LATE DETECTION**. The Antigua & Barbuda Glaucoma Support Group, founded in 2007 by Dr. Jillia Bird, has led the fight both in Antigua, regionally AND internationally to improve global awareness of this disease.

For of **HIGH EYE PRESSURE** (Eye Pressure greater than 21 mmHg), but the disease has many years, glaucoma was considered to be a disease recently been redefined as **an optic neuropathy with visual field loss regardless of the pressure inside the eye**. Therefore, the **simplistic cut-off point of 21 mmHg is outdated and invalid**. Glaucoma can exist in patients with normal eye pressures and up to 50% of patients with glaucoma never have an eye pressure above 21 mmHg. Therefore, eye pressure alone is not reliable for glaucoma screening, and Church and Community Health Fair screenings in our **HIGH RISK** population can actually miss more cases than they pick up.

The public needs to know that they may be going blind and not know it. Early detection is critical to prevent permanent structural damage to the optic nerve and irreversible vision loss.



20/20 VISION ON THE SNELLEN EYE CHART IS NOT ENOUGH!. TESTING EYE PRESSURE WITH A PUFF OF AIR IN THE EYE IS NOT ENOUGH! TESTING PERIPHERAL OR SIDE VISION BY STICKING YOUR HEAD INSIDE A WHITE 'TOILET BOIL-LIKE' MACHINE AND CHASING TINY LIGHTS IS NO LONGER ENOUGH!

ADDITIONAL TESTS FOR GLAUCOMA OTHER THAN INTRAOCULAR TESTING ARE

- **PACHYMETRY OR CORNEAL THICKNESS MEASURING,**
- **OCT (OCULAR COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHY – A 3D SCAN OF YOUR RETINA**
- **24 HOUR BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING – TO CHECK HOW LOW YOUR OXYGEN LEVEL DROP**
- **SLEEP STUDY -TRACK YOUR BREATHING DURING SLEEP – CAN NOW BE DONE AT HOME IN BED**



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Final Report of the House Construction Mission Project of the Buccoo Moravian Women of Mission

"LABOUR OF LOVE"

by Missionary Hyacinth Taylor

Galatians 6:10 says, "As long as there is opportunity, do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith". It is with these words in mind that we, the Women of Mission of the Buccoo Moravian church, were led to embark on a House Construction mission project for **one of our sisters and her family**, who experienced some unfortunate circumstances which caused both parents to become non ambulatory. This project was done from acquisition of land from the state to registration of property, water and electrical connections, to building the physical structure, to occupancy.

When we began, rain caused a little setback, however we forged ahead because quitting was never an option. A lot of preparatory work had to be done on the foundation because we were not building a shack, but a home for the family. As Moravians, #11 of The Brotherly agreement says, 'By our industry, sobriety and thrift we will endeavor to erect proper houses and maintain good homes'. It is imperative that we represent our King in all walks of life. This project had been our primary focus for the past three years and we've realized that delay is never denial when God is in control, because He is a God of time and purpose.

After the completion of the physical structure, we experienced some challenges with the installation of electrical and plumbing, however we kept the faith in the fact that our God always makes a way when there seems to be no way. As previously mentioned, the bulk of the construction work was done by workers of the Unemployment Relief Program in Tobago, and we even got their assistance to erect a brace wall behind the house. Following this, as though the project came to a snag, not sure why, following which, the authorities removed the workers without any notification.

This seemed strange but very true because within two days, personnel from the NGO Habitat for Humanity called to inquire if we still needed their assistance. We had been knocking on their door since the inception of the project. Our God did it again! This showed more than ever that God is the Master Builder, but we just have to wait on His timing for everything. At this juncture, Habitat for Humanity committed to the following scope of work:

- ◆ Completion of Electrical and Plumbing Installations
- ◆ Septic Tank and Soak away work
- ◆ Wheelchair Access ramp
- ◆ Rainwater Harvesting System
- ◆ Solar System
- ◆ Insertion of a Rubble Drain

At present, they've almost completed their scope of work, and whatever remains to be done is on the outside of the building; therefore, occupancy by the family won't be affected.

The word of God became so real in this project, since we lived His promises every step of the way. Isaiah 40:31 says, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

It is written that the people who know their God shall strong and do exploits. Indeed, this project was one of enormous exploits. Almighty God proved Himself as the Master Builder, for except the Lord builds the house those who build it shall be laboring in vain (Psalm 127:1). We remained steadfast unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord for we knew that our labour for the Lord was never in vain.

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On the 16th February, 2025, the keys of the house were handed over to the family at the Women of Mission's 9th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service. This was a memorable occasion for everyone, especially the family, and we wish we had ten thousand tongues to thank our God.

All in all, there are so many truths to be gleaned from this project:

- ◆ God is still doing miracles.
- ◆ God opens doors which no man can shut and closes doors which no man can open.
- ◆ Those who put their trust in God shall not be put to shame.
- ◆ God is All Sufficient.
- ◆ All things work together for good to those that love the Lord and are called according to His purpose.
- ◆ What our God can't do doesn't exist. With God All Things are possible.
- ◆ All the silver and the gold belong to God.

Conclusion

Habakkuk 2:3-4 says, "For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry". Indeed, it tarried but it came through for real and it is speaking for all of Tobago and even the world at large to hear that God is Not Dead, He is Alive!

It must be noted that it seemed that we were building a house, and it was taking long, but the reality is, we're really building lives to advance God's kingdom, which is not an easy process.

However, it's a worthwhile one, since every soul matters to God. It is not by our might or power, but by the Spirit of the Living God.

We are indeed grateful for the overwhelming response we received locally, regionally and internationally for this project. It will be remiss of me not to mention Rev Dr. Cortroy Jarvis and his family who contributed handsomely to this project.

The Superintendent of the Moravian church Tobago Conference, Rev Nigel Daniel and all the other Ministers assisted whenever a request was made to their congregations. Special, special thanks to our Under-shepherd Rev Belinda Manswell Daniel, who has been journeying with us and encouraging us throughout all the various challenges.

Today we say confidently, "hitherto hath the Lord brought us!". Great is His Faithfulness!

Maya Angelou said, "It is this belief in a Power larger than myself and other than me which allows me to venture into the unknown and even the unknowable".



Condolences



The Provincial Board shares the sad news of the death of our colleague and sister, Rev. Yvonne Jean. Sis. Jean's journey on earth ended on March 3, 2025 in Antigua, after a protracted illness.

Sis. Yvonne, a native of Haiti, candidated in 2010 from the Zion congregation in the St. Kitts Conference for the fulltime pastoral ministry. Sis. Yvonne was ordained to word and sacrament in 2015 and served the Province in Antigua from August 1, 2014 to March 3, 2025.

The funeral service for Rev. Yvonne Jean will be held at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church in Antigua on April 4, 2025, at 1:00 pm. The link for the live stream of the funeral service will be shared later. Please continue to pray for the family - Rev. Moise, Evans, Althea, the extended family, and the Gracebay/Urlings Moravian family in their time of grief and loss.



GLAUCOMA, THE SILENT THIEF OF SIGHT

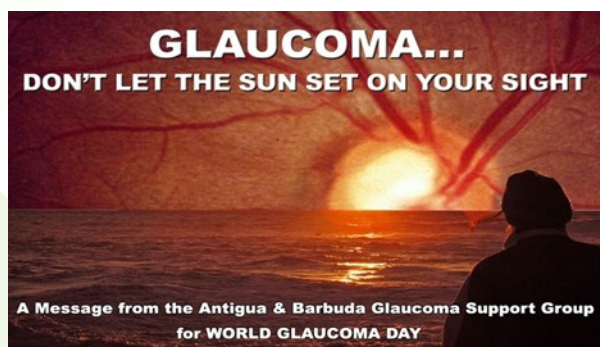
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CALCULATE YOUR RISK! RISK FACTORS FOR GLAUCOMA ARE: HOW HIGH IS YOUR NUMBER?

- **BLACK AFRO-CARIBBEAN DESCENT,**
- **FAMILY HISTORY OF GLAUCOMA**
- **DIABETES, LOW OR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE**
- **AGE (OVER 40 YEARS)'**
-
- **MYOPIA OR NEARSIGHTEDNESS**
- **PREVIOUS EYE INJURY**
- **SLEEP APNEA (SNORING WHEN SLEEPING)**

Antigua is among the Caribbean islands leading the fight against glaucoma with up-to-date technology available both at the SLBMC eye clinic and at several private eye care providers and FREE glaucoma medication is provided from the Medical Benefits Scheme for contributors to the scheme.

NO ONE IN ANTIGUA NEEDS TO BE BLIND FROM GLAUCOMA! STAY ON TOP OF THIS SNEAK THIEF OF SIGHT. RESEARCH YOUR FAMILY HISTORY, HAVE AN ANNUAL GLAUCOMA TEST OVER AGE 40 YEARS, EAT HEALTHILY, STOP SMOKING, STAY FIT!!



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. The service will be streamed live.
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

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 March 15— 31



Sis. Denise Smith-Lewis	20
Bro. Albert Kingsley Lewis	20
Sis. Vera Waithe	29
Bro. Edgar Gonsalves-Barrierro	29



April 1— 15

Bro. Elroy Christopher	04
Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs	08



Condolences

The Provincial family extends condolences to Rev. Belinda Manswell-Daniel on the death of her father, Mr. John Hensley Manswell, who died on Saturday, February 22, 2025. The funeral service was held on Monday, March 10, 2025 at the Goodwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Goodwood, Tobago at 11:00 am.

Please pray for Rev. Manswell-Daniel and family in their time of grief and loss.



Provincial Day of Prayer

Our next Provincial Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday, April 1, 2025. This prayer meeting begins at 6:00 am and will be led by the Moravian Church Antigua Conference. The link for the meeting will be shared in due course.

Theological Education Sunday

Sunday March 23, 2025 is Theological Education Sunday.

Special prayers are requested for our Theological students who have answered the call to God on their lives and offered themselves for Ministry. They are Sis. Chioma Henry and Bro. Wycliffe Morton from the Zion Moravian Church in St. Kitts and Sis. Melissa Bart from the Bethesda Moravian Church in St. Kitts .



Unity Prayer Watch

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, 2025. The Schedule is as follows:

Tobago 12am, April 3 - 11:59pm April 5, 2025
St. Kitts & The Grenada Mission 12pm, April 5- 11:59pm - April 7, 2025
Trinidad 12am, April 8 - 11:59am - April 9, 2025
Barbados 12pm, April 9 - 11:59pm - April 11, 2025
Antigua 12am, April 12 - 11:59pm - April 14, 2025
Virgin Islands 12am, April 15 - 11:59pm - April 17, 2025

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.

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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