



"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in

advance for us to do."
"Ephesians 2:10 [NIV]"

The Information

June /July 2007

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, evangelism, discipleship and service

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The EWI Province Celebrates 550 Years of Moravian Ministry 275 Years of Moravian Missions

As we observe the 550th Anniversary of Moravian Ministry and the 275th Anniversary of Missions in the Caribbean, Moravians throughout the Eastern West Indies Province have been celebrating this occasion in grand style.

The celebrations officially began throughout the Province with Joint services held in each Conference on the Church's Birthday, March 4. A service was planned by the Ministers of Music (Rev. Patmore Smith and Rev. Mikie Roberts). This service was used in each Conference. Pastors from various conferences were invited to participate in a Provincial pulpit exchange.

The Virgin Islands Conference

The Virgin Islands Conference began these celebrations with **Joint Communion Services**

held at Memorial in St. Thomas, Friedensthal in St. Croix and Bethany on St. John. Banners have been erected by most of the congregations.

From June 7 to 15, the Conference hosted **The Unity Bishop's Conference**. In attendance were 18 Bishops from 13 Provinces. The Conference was held on St. Thomas at the Best Western Hotel.

Still to come are the Festival of Choirs to be held on St. Croix in September and on St. Thomas in December.

A March of witness is scheduled to be held on December 15, 2007 on St. Thomas and December 16, 2007 on St. Croix. Both occasions will culminate with the laying/unveiling of the rock of remembrance.

The New Herrnhut Congregation holds a special place in these Celebrations as the place where the first Moravian missionaries arrived on St. Thomas on December 13, 1732. The Congregation will mark this special anniversary with several events including a Banquet on December 13.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

The Tobago Conference

Celebrations in the Tobago Conference began with two weeks of **Revival Services** from Feb 25 to March 3, 2007. The preachers were the Rev. Algernon Lewis and Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis.

A **Youth Explosion** was held at Montgomery where the youth were allowed to express themselves in music, drama and song.

The Martyrdom of John Hus was reenacted on July 1. This was followed with a procession from Broadplace to Moriah's sanctuary.

Memorabilia such as mouse pads, key rings and magazines are still available

Plans are afoot to launch the **550th Club** where individuals as well as family and fellowship groups can become members. The monies will go towards the **Museum at Black Rock**.

Tobago continues to lead the Mission in **establishing a permanent presence** in Grenada.

The Antigua Conference

The Antigua Conference began celebrations in January of this year with the launching of **The Moravian Moment**. The Moravian Moment (compiled by the Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis) is a series of brief reflections on Moments in Moravian history and Practices of the Moravian Church. The Moravian

Moment has been produced every week and is now in its 29th edition.

The Conference also held a Series of **Revival Services**. Part one was held from February 26th to March 2nd, 2007. The Preacher was the Rev. Everton Jackson from the Baptist Church in Jamaica. Part two was held from June 25th to the 29, 2007. The Preacher was the Rev. Dr. Dion Christopher, Pastor of the Friedensberg Moravian Church in St. Croix and now Acting Chairman of PEC.

The Lecture series on Moravian History, Worship and Doctrine started on the 6th March with a lecture on Moravian History by Bishop Kingsley Lewis at the Cana Moravian Church. On the 1st July, the Rev. Frank Barker our Theological Tutor and Warden lectured on Moravian Worship at Spring Gardens Moravian Church. The series will conclude on the 11th November with a lecture on Moravian Doctrine.

The Conference launched its **Second Radio Program** on Easter Sunday named VICTORIOUS LIVING BROADCAST on SUN FM RADIO. The program is a family oriented program and shows how persons can live victorious lives in spite of the challenges of life.

The **Ground Breaking Ceremony** for the building of the Bishop John E Knight Home took place on the 8th July, when a large crowd gathered to witness and be a part of the ceremony.

The Home will have all the modern facilities and is estimated to cost in the region of 2.7 million Eastern Caribbean Dollars. Any assistance will be appreciated.

The Trinidad Conference

The Trinidad Conference began their celebrations in March with the **550th Anniversary Service** which was held at Memorial.

The Conference **Sports and Family Day** held at Barataria Junior Secondary School on June 19.

On July 1 **John Hus Festival Combined Communion** at Rosehill with The Rev. Eulencine Christopher of the Virgin Islands Conference as the Speaker.

In the afternoon a Mr. and Miss Bible Personality was held.

The Pastors and members of the executive Board provided the lunch.

The St. Kitts Conference

The St. Kitts Conference began its celebration in March with the **Unveiling of the Rock of Remembrance**.

The Conference **230th Anniversary service** was held on June 10th, 2007.

A **Missions Motorcade** was held on July 28th, 2007.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

THANKS TO

THE REV. ERROL L. CONNOR

On August 2006, the Rev. Errol Connor was elected to serve this Province as the Chairman of the PEC. Prior to this Bro. Connor served the leadership of this Province with distinction as Superintendent of the Barbados Conference, Superintendent of the Virgin Islands Conference and Secretary of the PEC.

Bro. Connor has shown a passion for ministry and a deep seated love for the Moravian Church. He has made many sacrifices and given his all in service to his Lord and Master through the Moravian Church.

Effective May 31, 2007 Bro. Connor tendered his resignation as Chairman of the PEC. The entire Province takes this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to Bro. Connor for his selfless, dedicated service to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Bro. Connor, The Moravian Church salutes you and wishes you God's richest blessings as you continue in ministry.

The Rev. Errol Connor continues to serve as Pastor of the Nisky Congregation in St. Thomas and plays a major role in the church's involvement in the work on St. Maarten.



CALLS

- ◆ Sis. Angela Roberts has accepted a call to serve in the Antigua Conference as Minister of

Christian Education, effective July 15, 2007.

- ◆ Bro. Adrian Lewis has accepted a call to serve in the Antigua Conference as Associate Pastor of the Spring Gardens congregation, effective July 15, 2007.
- ◆ Bro. Vankys J. Isaac has accepted a call to serve in the Virgin Islands Conference as Pastor of the Tortola Fellowship, effective August 1, 2007.
- ◆ Bro. Elroy Christopher has accepted a call to serve in the Antigua Conference as Pastor of the Potters/Judges Hill congregations, effective August 1, 2007.
- ◆ Bro. Walton Frederick has accepted a call to serve in the Virgin Island Conference as Pastor of the Friedensfeld Moravian congregation, effective August 15, 2007.

Your prayers and support are requested for all of the above.

RETIREMENT

After fifteen years of faithful and dedicated service to His Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to the Moravian Church, **The Rev. Dr. Reuben Vessup** will officially retire as of July 31, 2007. He is currently serving as pastor of the Friedensfeld Moravian Congregation.

On behalf of the entire provincial family, we give thanks to God for the witness and ministry of Bro. Reuben Vessup. We wish him good health and many more years of dedicated service to the Kingdom of God. We pray that Bro. Vessup would never lack the zeal for service in the Kingdom and that

he will continue in service for years to come. Please continue to Pray for Bro. Vessup, his wife Ivy and their family as they make this transition.

Tragedy at

Provincial Headquarters

On June 28th, 2007, the offices at the Provincial Headquarters (including that of the Chairman) were broken into.

In the process of the burglary, the Security Guard on duty Mr. Glentis Walker was murdered. The Province wishes to express condolences to his wife Sis. Anesta Ambrose-Walker and their family. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life was held at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church and Bro. Walker was laid to rest at the Newfield Cemetery on July 11, 2007.

Let us continue to pray for and support the family of the deceased, the staff at Provincial Headquarters and the University students in residence at the Headquarters.

Let us also continue in prayer for the Province.

Prayer Concerns

Let Us Remember In Prayer: The Rev. Rowan Simmons and his family. His daughter Janique had major surgery in England in July.



News

25 Years of Ministry

The Province extends heartiest congratulations to The Rev. Dr. Cicely Athill-Horsford, The Rev. Dr. Conrad Spencer, The Rev. Dr. Joseph Nicholas and the Rev. Neilson Waithe as they celebrate twenty five years of Ministry. May God truly bless them as they continue in Ministry.

Bro Leon Matthias

After a period of illness Bro Leon has resumed his pastoral responsibility at Tremont Terrace.

Bro Matthias wishes to express gratitude to all who expressed concern and prayed for him during this period.

We are indeed happy for Bro Matthias and his family and continue to wish them well.

Board of World Mission

UPDATE

At the Synod of 2003 held in Barbados, resolution #23 asked The PEC "to explore with the BWM the seating of a representative from our Province on that Board". The PEC wishes to inform the Province that The Rev. Dr. Dion Christopher is now seated at the Board of World Mission as our representative to the BWM. Dr. Christopher along with Bro. Jack Geis have been assigned responsibility for the EWI Province and the establishment of the local Mis-

sion Committees, Societies and Boards as required by resolution #10 of the 28th Provincial Synod held in Tobago in 2006.

The Board of World Mission offers several opportunities for Mission which include:

The Antioch Project which focuses on Youth

Likewise Ministries which focuses on HIV/AIDS and Medical Ministries

The Adopt-a-Village Program through which congregations and partner provinces can give support to specific villages in Tanzania.

Moravian Disaster Response (MDR) which focuses on giving assistance after disasters

BEE Moravian which is a Bible Education By Extension. Through the Moravian Theological Seminary, theological training is provided.

Moravian First Nations Ministries, a collaborative effort between the Labrador and Alaska Provinces and the Morongo congregation in California.

There are several opportunities for ministry and the Board is actively seeking volunteers for long term and short term mission endeavors. Interested persons are asked to contact Dr. Dion Christopher at dchristopher.ewip@gmail.com.

Unity Bishop's Conference

The Unity Bishops' Conference was held at the Emerald Beach Best Western Hotel on St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, June 7 – 15, 2007.

In attendance were 18 Bishops representing 13 Provinces of The Unity. A Public Service was held at the New Herrnhut Moravian Church on Sunday June 10 The closing Holy Communion Service was held at Nisky on Thursday June 14.

The Bishops were able to participate in worship throughout the Conference as they were hosted on Sunday in different congregations on St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John and Tortola.

The discussions were healthy and addressed issues such as; "Moravian Essentials", HIV/AIDS, Homosexuality, The death Penalty and the work of the Bishops throughout the Unity.

A Pastoral letter was prepared by the Bishops and can be found on pages 5 and 6 of this issue and will be distributed to the Congregations.

UNITY CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS JUNE 7 – 15, 2007

ST. THOMAS, US VIRGIN ISLANDS

A Pastoral Letter to the Congregations of the Moravian Unity

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. We greet you from the beautiful island of St. Thomas where, in 1732, Moravian missionaries first began work 275 years ago. Eighteen bishops from thirteen provinces have gathered for the Third Conference of Bishops of the Unity. We have had the opportunity to meet for worship, prayer, and fellowship with much of our time spent in discussion. Our work together began with reports from the provinces. Many of those reports provided items for discussion. Our work together began with reports from the provinces. Many of those reports provided items for our agenda. The Unity Board also provided us with issues for our consideration.

It was a very positive experience to sit around the table as bishops from different parts of the Unity and gain varied perspectives on the mission of the worldwide church. How wonderful it has been hearing from different parts of the Unity and discussing the future direction of the church. We would like to share with you some of the matters discussed and invite you to continue the deliberations in your congregations.

Church Matters

As bishops we are concerned that our Unity may be tempted to define the Moravian Church in terms of practice rather than theology. Therefore, we recommend to the Unity Board that the Standing Committee on Theology make as a high priority the continuation of the discussion concerning "Moravian essentials." We call upon provincial boards, theological schools, pastors, and church leaders to study and pray about this matter. We bishops also pledge ourselves to that study and prayer.

- We discussed how bishops may be useful in conflict resolution in congregational life and within provinces.
- We affirmed the practice of infant baptism. When parents request infant dedication, we believe the child is already God's possession and we do not see dedication as a substitute for baptism.

We shared information about Christian Education material that reflects Moravian theology which is appropriate in different cultural contexts. We also identified a need to provide an on-line Moravian theological resource.

Social Matters

HIV/AIDS: The church has AIDS! This affects all provinces. The church is working to address this issue but still needs to do more. Congregations should offer particular prayer support for those suffering and their families. We acknowledge the importance of financial support and therefore the need to work to address political and economic structures. There is a mission imperative to work to ensure that drugs and health-care are accessible for all those who need them.

- There is need for information and Christian education addressing lifestyle and teaching people to deal with their sexual feelings in a responsible way.

There is also need to develop pastoral training programs in order to offer love, respect, understanding, and particular intercession for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Homosexuality: The bishops were asked by the Unity Board to consider and discuss the preliminary paper on homosexuality prepared by the Unity Standing Committee on Theology. We had very heartrending discussions and learned much about the diverse views held around the Moravian world. We agreed that marriage is between one man and one woman, and we agreed that in our pastoral care we must offer the love of Christ to all God's people.

We believe that this is a matter that will require continuing prayer and discussion.

The Death Penalty: The bishops in conference considered the use of the death penalty. We regard the death penalty as state murder and know that any human judicial system is not infallible. Therefore, as human beings we do not have the right to take away the life that belongs to God [Romans 14:7 – 8].

The bishops recommend that the congregations of our province be encouraged to examine and discuss the use of the death penalty in the light of the teaching of Jesus Christ regarding the value of human life.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Bishops Pastoral Letter continued

Unity Matters

We reported on discussions within our respective provinces with Christian communions as well as other faith communities. Further discussions focused on the role and meaning of the Unity, mission outreach, and the relationship between bishops and the provincial boards where they reside.

As we have been together this week, we have been mindful of the pain that is being felt in some provinces in our Unity because of conflicts and church divisions. We grieve that anyone would have to suffer broken relationships and we call all people to be at prayer for individuals, congregations and provinces as they seek reconciliation and renewed fellowship within the Unity.

As we celebrate 275 years of mission work around the world we are thankful that God has given us new opportunities for mission and those persons continue to answer the call to mission in our church. We commend this letter to your attention and urge you to join with us in prayer and action for all of the above concerns. We thank our Lord for your faithfulness to God and the Church and pray God's blessing upon all of you as you work and witness to the love of our Lord Jesus.

“May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and Soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.” [1 Thessalonians 5: 23, 24]

With every blessing

Jonas Davis Kasitu—Tanzania, Rukwa, Theodor Clemens—European Continental, Humbert Hessen—European Continental, Kay Ward—America, North, Errol Moos—South Africa, Emmanuel Temmers—South Africa, John Kent—Suriname, Isaac Robert Nicodemo—Tanzania, Western, William Webster—Nicaragua, Oliver Hodgson—Nicaragua, Wincap Cassy—Honduras, John McOwat—Great Britain & Ireland, Beth Torkington—Great Britain & Ireland, C. Hopeton Clennon—America, North, Sam Gray—America, South, Alinikisa Cheyo—Tanzania, South -West, Lusekelo Mwakafwila—Tanzania Southern, Kingsley Lewis—Eastern West Indies

New and Improved Website.

www.moravians.net

This is the address of the EWI Province website. The Rev. Ezra Parris has done tremendous work on the website. Persons can now visit this site and find current and up to date information on the province. We encourage all Moravians to take some time out and visit this website.

Here is a description of the new features of the website:

The Following can be found on this New and Exciting Website

- The Watchword for each day along with devotional material.
- News on the Moravian Church in your Conference as it is posted.
- An overview of what we believe along with historical briefs on our church.
- You can download the latest

issue of the Information Newsletter.

- Our website can now be searched. If you want to determine whether there is any information on a matter pertaining to our church on the website, go to the search box.
- You can register on the site and have access to information not accessible to the casual visitor.
- You can cast your vote in the opinion polls conducted.
- You can have your say on the Provincial Forum.

You can find links to other Moravian websites and to educational and devotional resources.

CENTENARIANS

AT

Spring Gardens.

As we celebrate our 550th Anniversary and 275th anniversary of Missions, the Province celebrates with the Spring Gardens Congregation

and three of it's members who have reached the age of 100.

Sis. Helena Philip celebrated her 100th birthday on May 6, 2006.

Bro Anthony Jarvis celebrated his 100th birthday on March 19, 2007.

Sir Sydney Walling celebrated his 100th birthday on June 12, 2007.

In their honor an evening of music entitled “A *centenarian Celebration*” was held on June 17, 2007 and dedicated to them.

Tribute was also paid to Sis. Eulalie King who celebrated her 96th birthday.

The Province wishes to extend heartiest congratulations to them and wishes them God's continued blessings.

Birthdays/Anniversaries



Birthday Greetings for the month of June go out to:

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Sis. Bernadine Chase | 7 |
| Sis. Joycelyn Connor | 17 |
| Rev. Selvin Mcmillan | 25 |
| Sis. Lexs Forrester | 25 |
| Sis. Jasmin cooks | 26 |
| Rev. Roslyn Hamblin | 29 |



Anniversary Greetings for the month of June go out to:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Rev. Dr. Reuben & Sis. Ivy Vesup | 1 |
| Rev. Kirk & Sis. Nichole Barker | 24 |



Birthday Greetings for July go out to:

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Sis. Ida Brown | 3 |
| Rev. Winston Chase | 8 |
| Rev. Neilson Waithe | 10 |
| Rev. Ralph Prince | 11 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Sis. Frances John | 15 |
| Rev. Kirk Barker | 21 |
| Rev. Dr. Dion Christopher | 23 |
| Rev. Andrew Roberts | 28 |
| Sis. Althea Pearline Jarvis | 29 |



Anniversary Greetings for July go out to:

| | |
|---|----|
| Rev. Jeremy & Sis. Moyia Francis | 4 |
| Revd's Nigel & Belinda M. Daniel | 6 |
| Revd's Neilson & Vera Waithe | 7 |
| Rev. Willard & Sis. Lynda Prout | 14 |
| Bro. Collin & Rev. Anique Elmes-Matthew | 19 |
| Rev. Devon & Sis. Stacey Mannix | 21 |
| Rev. Andrew & Sis. Geraldine Roberts | 22 |
| Revd's Mikie & Winelle K. Roberts | 24 |
| Rev. Walton & Sis Angela Frederick | 26 |
| Rev. Sean & Sis. Paula Roberts | 30 |



Congratulations to Bro. Patrick Cadogan and Sis. Nasal Ephraim-Cadogan on the birth of their daughter Anna Amelia Cadogan who was born on June 2, 2007.

Congregations Celebrate!

Sis. Ida Brown MM

Sis Ida Brown MM (the wife of Bishop Neville Brown) has been awarded the Member of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit (MM). Her investiture took place on Monday July 16. The entire Provincial Family wishes to extend heartiest congratulations to Sis. Ida Brown and wishes her God's richest blessings.



The Gracebay Moravian Church in the Antigua Conference, celebrates its 210th Anniversary in July 2007. The Pastor is The Rev. Romeo Challenger and the congregation has an average membership of 457.

The Gracehill Moravian Church in the Barbados Conference celebrates its 125th anniversary with a series of events, the first of which is an anniversary Service on Sunday, July 15, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. The Pastor is the Rev. Roslyn Hamblin and the Congregation has an average membership of 178.