



# The Information

MONTHLY PUBLICATION

December, 2008

*"And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested." Chronicles 4 9-10."*

## 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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## Christmas the Event

Christmas has a long and varied history. It was been celebrated for centuries by different people, at different times, in different places and in different ways.

In the middle ages, Christmas celebrations were rowdy and raucous. From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was outlawed in Boston, and law breakers were fined five shillings.

Today, in the Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches, Christmas is celebrated 13 days after December 25th, which is also referred to as Epiphany or Three Kings Day. This is the day it is believed that the Wise men finally found Jesus in the Manger.

Christmas speaks of the word becoming flesh in a real way. It speaks of promise becoming reality. The prophets prophesied of the coming Messiah, who would be the Saviour of the world. The Messiah who would come on a rescue mission. The prophet Isaiah in a bold and daring statement declared:

**"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Won-**

**derful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace"** Isaiah 9:6. This prophetic word was announced by the prophet centuries before the birth of Christ.

It is John who puts it best:

**"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth."** John 1:14. This speaks of the birth of the promised Messiah, whose coming signals the advent of a rescue mission, to save the world.

Christmas therefore is a celebration of God taking decisive action to restore a broken world. It is not so much a time to celebrate a day, as it is to celebrate the greatest event that has ever taken place in the history of humankind. It is a time when peace came not in word only, but is experienced in the hearts and lives of men and women.

The Moravian Star which is erected on Advent Sunday has a three-fold meaning. It testifies to the greatness of the Creator who made the stars on the fourth day, numberless, differing in glory and praising the might that laid the foundations of the world.

*Continue on Page 2*

## PEC NEWS

*Continued from Page 1*

It is a reminder of the Star that once led the Wise Men from their distant homes, until it stopped over the place where the child was, and they fell down before Him and worshiped Him. It points to the Divine Star, foretold by the prophet who said, “**A Star shall come out of Jacob**” (Numbers 24: 17), and fulfilled in Him who said of Himself, ‘I am the root and descendant of David, the bright and morning star’. (Reve.22:16) As a church, we ought to celebrate the Christ Child. One song writer in announcing the birth, declared:

*Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace**Hail the Sun of Righteousness!**Light and life to all He brings,**Risen with healing in His wings.**Mild He lays His glory by,**Born that man no more may die,**Born to raise the sons of earth,**Born to give them second birth.**Hark, the herald angels sing,**“Glory to the new-born King!”*

*Have a most blessed and peaceful Christmas and may the Joy of the season be yours always.*



The Chairman and Members of PEC and their families, and the Staff at the Provincial Headquarters and their families, say thanks for your prayers and concerns. We wish you God’s blessings for Christmas and the New Year.

## Ordinations and Consecrations

- Sis. Angella Roberts will be ordained a Deacon in the Moravian Church on Monday, December 15, 2008 at 6.00 p.m. at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church in Antigua.
- Sis. Anique Elmes-Matthew will be consecrated a Presbyter in the Moravian Church, on Friday, December 19, 2008 at 6.00 p.m. at the New Herrnhut Moravian Church in St. Thomas.
- Bro. Nigel Daniel will be consecrated a Presbyter in the Moravian Church, on Sunday January 11, 2009 at 6. 00 p.m. at the Cedar Hall Moravian Church in Antigua.
- Sis. Adelyn Mgonella will be consecrated a Presbyter in the Moravian Church, on Thursday January 15, 2009 at 6.00 p.m. at the Tunupuna Methodist Church in Trinidad.
- Bro. Adrian Lewis will be ordained a Deacon in the Moravian Church on Sunday, January 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Rosehill Moravian Church in Trinidad.
- Sis. Georgette John will be consecrated a Presbyter in the Moravian church, on Wednesday January 21,

2009 at 6.30p.m at the Bon Accord Moravian Church in Tobago.

- Bro. Hilton Joseph and Sis. Nasel Ephraim will be consecrated Presbyters in the Moravian Church, on Sunday January 25, 2009 at 6.00 p.m. at the Zion Moravian Church in St. Kitts.
- Sis. Movelle Kellman will be ordained a Deacon in the Moravian Church, on Tuesday February 03, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sharon Moravian Church in Barbados.

Please bear these brothers and sisters in prayer as they prepare for this important step in their lives.



The Five Islands Moravian Congregation in Antigua, will celebrate 170 years of work and witness; under the theme: “*Celebrating 170 years of God’s sustaining Grace through Faith and Prayer.*”

One of the schedule event is a Thanksgiving and Anniversary Service planned for the 21st December, 2008 beginning at 3:00 p.m.

A Banquet is also planned for Friday December 12, 2008, at the Jolly Beach Resort.

## Unity News


 Children At Risk

 ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AF-  
FECTED BY POVERTY AND  
AIDS IN TANZANIA

Many children in Tanzania “have suffered the loss of one or both parents, and have to cope with grief and personal loss. Many are also vulnerable to malnutrition, infections, lack of education, economic exploitation, and physical and sexual abuse. Many more millions of children worldwide are vulnerable because of wars, poverty, political oppression, and family and community breakdown.”

Likewise AIDS Ministries received a request for assistance in developing a community faith based program to address the needs of children at risk in the Lake Victoria District of the Moravian Church in Tanzania (MCT). Kim Bartholomew and Esther Tesh visited programs and organizations that minister to children and families in need, in the Western, Southern, and Southwestern Provinces of the MCT. Most programs were sponsored by or affiliated with the Moravian Church. All programs provided services to Orphans and vulnerable Children (OVC) without regard to religious affiliation. Most programs defined orphans as a child who had lost one or both parents.

**Moravian Church in Tanzania,  
Western Province (MCT-WP)**

In the Lake Victoria District (LVD), church officials and Women’s Fellowship leaders de-

scribed a strong church involvement in outreach to help meet needs of OVC and their families. We visited several families in the Kigoto and Magu Parishes that were recipients of church outreach.

In Mwanza City, the urban **Kigoto Parish community outreach program** food and subsistence supplies are provided to OVC. With women from Kigoto, we climbed a steep rocky path up a hill to the home of a grandmother who cared for an eight-year-old girl, orphaned four years ago when her mother died of AIDS. Recently this child’s seven-year-old sibling also died of AIDS. Next we visited an eight-year-old girl whose mother had died. She lived in a small apartment which opened onto a crowded courtyard surrounded by 8-10 apartments. The child was home alone that evening. Her caregiver, an aunt, was at the market to sell food to earn money. Lastly we saw an HIV positive mother who lived in a one room apartment with five children, ages 6—17 years. This mother lost her husband to AIDS six years ago. The women of Kigoto who visited with us were quite familiar with the families visited. The funds necessary to help these families had come from their fundraising efforts. They had raised the funds necessary to have resources for helping these and other families.

A **Compassion International** preschool program in the Kigoto Parish also serves orphaned children. This program provides medical care, uniforms, school supplies, and tuition for children from preschool through university.

In the rural **Magu Parish, community outreach** by the church was evident. We visited a widow who cares for five grandchildren orphaned after their mother died, most likely of AIDS. Next we saw a woman who cares for two young children. She had much difficulty walking because of having had polio. At Gininiga village, a congregation in Magu Parish, we visited a widow with nine children, including a girl with mental health problems. Then we stopped to visit a man with bilateral below the knee amputations from an accident at age 14. He and his wife cared for his sister’s two orphaned children, one of whom looked especially thin and malnourished. This family lived in such a tiny home that we originally mistook it for a small storage shed. Just as at Kigoto, the women of Magu Parish had raised the funds necessary to help such families. In Sikonge District and Tabora Urban District the *Adopt a Village Program* serves a large number of children by providing food, medical care, uniforms, school supplies, and secondary school tuition. This program was described in the November 2008 issue of *The Moravian*. In the Tabora District **Compassion International** also operates five or six preschool programs, two of which are sponsored out of Moravian Churches. Compassion plans to extend their program into Sikonge and will provide for medical and educational needs during an orphaned child’s school years as well as addressing their Psychosocial/spiritual needs.

*Reprinted from The Moravian  
December Issue.*

**Birthdays/Anniversaries**



- The PEC meetings for 2009 up to Synod are as follows:
  - ◆ January 16-18 in Trinidad and
  - ◆ April 24-26 in St. Kitts
- The Annual Superintendents Conference will convene in Trinidad from January 18-19, 2009.
- The 29th Provincial Synod will convene in St. Kitts on July 10, 2009 and will conclude on July 18, 2009.

The names of **ALL** delegates should be forwarded to the Provincial Headquarters by January 01, 2009. The Synod will take place at the Bird Rock Hotel.

- Unity Synod will convene in London, England on July 27 and will conclude on August 07, 2009. The following will represent the Eastern West Indies Province at the Synod:
  - ◆ Sis. Winelle Kirton-Roberts
  - ◆ Sis. Jeanette Smith-Barry and
  - ◆ Bro. Cortroy Jarvis
- The 2009 ALMANACS for the Eastern West Indies Province have been completed and should be in the hands of all Pastors and congregations for distribution. Please distribute to friends and anyone who would

like to display in their home or business. You are asked to use it as an Evangelism tool. The Almanac depicts the photograph of the first Provincial Youth Leadership Conference which was held in St. Thomas in August 2008. A total of 50 persons attended the conference from throughout the Province.

- The PEC has approved the construction of a Computer Lab to be built on the compound of the Bethany Moravian Church in Antigua. All the funds for the Computer Lab were raised by the Youth of the congregation. The intention of the Lab is to reach out to and empower other young people. This is part of the Social Ministry of the Church as they seek to reach the community for the Lord. Words of commendation must be extended to the Bethany Congregation and in particular the youth.



**Birthday Greetings for the month of December is extended to:**

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Bro. Alban St. hill         | 2  |
| Bro. Leon Matthias          | 8  |
| Bro. Oscar Fallanga         | 9  |
| Bro. Sylvester Katikaza     | 10 |
| Sis. Cicely Athill-Horsford | 12 |
| Sis. Zenobia Lomax          | 13 |
| Bro. Hilton Joseph          | 18 |
| Sis. Nasel Wendy Ephraim    | 18 |
| Sis. Maureen Lewis          | 23 |
| Bro. Matthew Crooks         | 25 |
| Bro. Rudolph Holder         | 31 |



**Anniversary Greetings for the month of December is extended to:**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Bro. Cortroy & Sis. Pearline Jarvis       | 7  |
| Bro. Winston & Sis. Karen Jones           | 13 |
| Bro. Algernon & Sis. Denise Lewis         | 20 |
| Bro. Errol & Sis. Jocelyn Connor          | 22 |
| Bro. Patrick Cadogan & Sis. Nasel Ephraim | 22 |
| Bro. Patmore & Sis. Jovanca Lewis Smith   | 27 |
| Bro. Hilton & Sis Sharon McCarty Joseph   | 29 |
| Bro. Samuel & Sis Gwendolyn Jacobs        | 31 |



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