



"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."

The Information

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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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Running The Race

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ([1 Corinthians 9:24](#))

The 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing China has just concluded. It was probably the best organized Olympics of all times. The Chinese knew that the entire world would be keyed into every aspect of Chinese life and so they went over and beyond anything that has been seen before at these games. The China Olympic Committee must be highly commended for the outstanding work put into the organization and execution of the games.

Usain Bolt of Jamaica was the shining star of 10 days of Athletics competition at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games that produced five world records and 16 Olympic records. Bolt arrived at the Games having lowered the 100m world record to 9.72 in New York in the month of May. He did not disappoint, winning both the 100m and 200m in astonishing world record times of 9.69 and 19.30.

Shelly-Ann Fraser led home a Jamaican clean sweep in the Women's 100m with her compatriots Kerron Stewart and Sherone Simpson sharing silver. Then Veronica Campbell-Brown of Jamaica retained the 200m gold she had won at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

Jamaica's near-total domination of the sprints was underlined in the Men's 4 x 100m Relay. The team, featuring Bolt on the third leg and

former world-record holder Asafa Powell on the anchor, raced home with a new world record of 37.10.

The games will be remembered for several things:

1. China copped the highest number of Gold Medals- 51 out of 100 medals won overall
2. The USA copped the highest number of Medals- 110
3. The Russian Federation, along with China and the USA were the only teams to have gotten more than 50 Medals
4. USAIN BOLT of Jamaica broke 3 world records on his way to winning Gold Medals and being acclaimed the fastest man in the world
5. The Caribbean won a total of 41 Medals (Jamaica-11, Cuba-24, Dominican Republic- 2, Trinidad and Tobago- 2 and the Bahamas-2).

Whatever might be said about the Olympics, the games belonged to Usain "lightning" Bolt. Bolt ran with Precision, Purpose and Passion. He left the rest of the Athletes as if they were running a day behind of him.

I believe that Usain Bolt can teach us some valuable lessons about our walk with God. Firstly, we must be Precise in whatever we seek to do. In other words, whatever we do or whatever we are doing must be clearly stated or depicted. The Child of God must be focused.

Continue on Page 2

PEC NEWS

Continued from Page 1

Secondly, we must be **Purposeful** in all of our endeavours. In other words, we must be determined and deliberate as we strive for and pursue the prize that is before us. Our eyes must be fixed on the prize in Jesus Christ. There will always be **distractions and joy stealers**, but our purpose must be to go forward.

Thirdly, we must be **Passionate**. We must have that powerful emotion or appetite to achieve against the odds. Indeed, we must possess that **enthusiasm, fire, fervor and zeal** which challenges us to reach beyond the ordinary.

The race of life is filled with many travelers. The Child of God must run smart in order to win the prize. Some persons break under pressure, while others break records. I challenge us therefore to run the race with Precision, Purpose and Passion, so that we will not only run, but we will capture the Prize. *“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize”* (1 Corinthians. 9:24).

He said, “Go! But How”

by

Rev. Errol Connor

Delivered at Staff Retreat 2008

Why did the Ophthalmologist go up the mountain? The answer: So that s/he might see better. As we consider the benefits of this spiritual retreat, and as we prepare to return to the valleys of ministry, it is important to know that every spiritual mountain top experience is an opportunity to see better what we have otherwise been missing. But are we seeing better? Have the eyes of our understanding been enlightened? What direction might we yet be missing to which God has been directing us?

Mark Twain is recorded to have cautioned that *“20 years from now we will be more disappointed by what we did not do than by what we did.”* This retreat therefore as also the theme *“Rekindling the Passion”* invited us to *“see what we were missing”*. *As it comes to an end, let us consider again the words of Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV). Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them.....and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

The disciples were on the mountain in response to Jesus’ instructions. They were in the same place but we are told that while they worshipped, some doubted. It is a curious thing to note that in the midst of their worship there was doubt. However, the nature of or reason for their doubt is not explained. So then, let me suggest that it is often not our doubts but our fears that are the greatest obstacles to seeing, hearing, knowing and following the will of God. We will undoubtedly see things differently from time to time; but if we can see Jesus we can have clarity and unity. We may be at different stages on the journey but if we are looking at the same Master and Lord, we will accomplish the task of ministry and finish the race strong. We are more endangered by our fears than our doubts.

Now Jesus spoke into the midst of their worship and there doubts, these words of commission and assurance: *“All authority is given unto me..... Go therefore.....* The mission is outlined, the agenda is set. We are invited to participate with Him in the *Missio Dei* – the mission of God. We are not just sent. We are not merely accompanied. We are led. The authority comes from Jesus. The direction/commission comes from Jesus.

The mission comes through Jesus and can only be properly prosecuted in union with Jesus. It is not simply left up to us. The baton is not simply passed unto us. No! Christ is in the field as our leader – *“the Bishop and Shepherd of our souls.”* Jesus said, *“All authority is given unto me”*. We often become preoccupied with the notion that we have been called to show, to tell and to lead others to God that we miss the fact that we have being shown the way; we are

being told what to do; and we are being led in the doing of the ministry and in fulfilling the mission. In this regard we lose our way and we become the mission. But we do well to remember that we are not the mission, we are only participants in the mission - the Mission is God’s in and through Jesus Christ. Therefore, as Dr. Andrew Purves says, *the question to be asked is not “What would Jesus do” but “What is Jesus doing”?* It is not up to us but up to the one who declares *“All authority is given unto me.... Go therefore...”* We have to get out of the trap of our own strength and wisdom. As Dr. Marva Dawn has counselled *“We cannot crank it out and not get burned out”*. In union with Christ we participate in and the mission of God and

we invite others to share in the fellowship we have come to know. Here is how 1 John 1 explains the idea of going:

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at, and our hands have touched..... We proclaim to you So that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship as with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

(Herein is our joy made complete.)

As participants in the mission of God....who have seen and heard and are sharing in the life of Christ, may it be our joy to go looking unto Jesus the *author (originator) and perfecter of our faith.* (Heb. 12:2).

Chairman on Assignment

The Chairman of the Provincial Elders Conference EWIP The Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis was on assignment in Trinidad and Tobago from August 17th–21st. 2008.

Preaching Engagement

The Chairman of PEC was on a Preaching engagement in the Barbados Conference from Sunday May 24 to Sunday August 31, 2008. During this period he Preached at Calvary Moravian Church from August 24–26 and at Gracehill Moravian Church from August 27–31, 2008. He returned to office on September 02, 2008.

Provincial Youth Leaders Conference (PYLC)

The First Provincial Youth Leadership Conference of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies took place in Botany Bay on St. Thomas USVI. The Bluewater Bible College provided the ideal setting for this Conference from August 6-14, 2008 where approximately 50 persons from the six conferences, inclusive of facilitators converged for leadership training and spiritual renewal.

Under the theme "Blessed To Bless" the Ministers of Christian Education, the Chairman – Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis, the Vice Chairman – Rev. Dr. Dion Christopher, the Secretary Rev. Mikie Roberts, Superintendent of the VI Conference— The Rev. Winelle Kirton-Roberts, Youth Leadership Conference Pastor— The Rev Adrian Smith, along with other facilitators teamed up to execute a Conference of which persons were quite skeptical. This Conference replaced the usual Provincial Youth Camp.

The local Christian Education committee worked tirelessly, giving their all to put things in place. They must be highly commended for a job well done.

The following are reflections from two of the participants:

The Provincial Youth Leadership Conference held in St. Thomas was an experience that I personally thought would have never happen to me. The worshipping, praying and togetherness not only allowed me to open my heart to become one with the Lord but also allowed me to grow personally. This personal and spiritual growth has so far made me have a different approach to life on a whole and also have individuals questioning the change. To that I am grateful. I am grateful for the spiritual empowerment that enriched my life.

Wow! A partial expression of what could be said about the individuals who thought of this immaculate idea. Having this conference allowed the youth to share with others their feeling and knowledge of our Provider.

PYLC is the foundation and provides the materials that are needed to empower our youth so that they can become effective spiritual leaders, hence Conferences and the Province as a whole will experience growth. There is a need for us to keep striving and we can do this with the building blocks that we put in place, apply solid, concrete structure that will hold us together.

Let us enjoy the works of our awesome God, share what we have gained.

Antonia F. Bailey – (USVI)

The inaugural Provincial Youth Leadership Conference held in St. Thomas was a tremendous experience in many ways.

Firstly, the sessions were informative, useful and interactive.

Secondly, spiritually I was a little tired and lacking zeal and this time at PYLC afforded me the opportunity to reconnect with my Father and also to search my heart and find out what was hindering me from serving God the way I should serve Him. In other words, what was I afraid of? For the most part I realized that I was my biggest hindrance and also I was allowing the devil to feed me lies that

I was believing. I can truly say that my time in St. Thomas opened my eyes to a lot of things in my life that I needed to change. I have since made a conscious effort to fix them, I can't say all have been fixed but I am still working on them.

Thirdly, for years I have been wrestling with the thought of what my true gifts (talents) are and seeking advice from others and being placed in certain positions regularly I was convinced that there lies my calling but having read some of the books "on Spiritual Gifts" and filling out the questionnaire, this was one of the major highlights for me. I know that it is not perfect but I am confident that it is a stepping stone for me it is just for me to fulfill what I am called upon to do and stop running from responsibility and stop thinking what others will say or might say. My other highlight was when Sis. Muriel Weekes-Ylestin one of the facilitators whispered in my ears something that I was praying about for the last two days prior, my heart just melted right there. So overall, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have been there and I certainly believe it should be held again because it is my belief that more young people are searching for themselves and their purpose in the church.

For young people who are considering entering ministry I believe a conference of this nature should be a training ground (at least one of them) to get them in the frame of mind or even to solidify if the direction they are considering is the right one for them. Also, I saw this experience as a retreat and I believe we all need to be replenished or revitalized spiritually ever so often. Empowering youth is always a good thing and if the "leaders of tomorrow" are given such a firm foundation it can only be beneficial in the long run. We would have more committed young people, we would have leaders ready to take on the challenges as they come and we would see more Christian families in the churches.

Karen Challenger-George—(Antigua)

More on PYLC in the next issue of the Information.

Birthdays/Anniversaries/Concerns/Condolences



Birthday Greetings for September go out to:

Bro. Samuel Jacobs	7
Bro. Walton Frederick	7
Sis. Myrtle Isaac	8
Bro. Keith Horsford	10
Bro. Devon Mannix	23
Sis. Lynda Prout	29



Anniversary Greetings for September go out to:

Bro. Ezra & Sis. Julie Parris	5
Bro. Romeo & Sis Deborah Challenger	8
Bro. Conrad & Sis Sonia Spencer	24
Bro. Keith & Sis. Cicely Horsford	30



We extend congratulations to:

1. Bro. Devon and Sis. Stacey Mannix on the birth of their baby daughter who was born on September 1, 2008 in Antigua.
2. Bro. Rowan and Sis. Earlene Simmons on the birth of their first son and third child who was born in Toronto Canada on September 4, 2008.

We wish them God's richest blessings as their family continue to grow.



The EWI Province extends sympathy to the Moravian Church in Tanzania South West Province, on the death of **Bro. Sadock Isaac Simwanza**, the **CHAIRMAN** of the Moravian Church in Tanzania, South West Province. This occurred on August 07, 2008 in Tanzania.

Our prayers and best wishes go out to the South West Province and his family.

The PEC also extends deepest sympathy to Bro. Walton Frederick on the passing of his mother Sis. Christophine Frederick. The Funeral Service took place on Wednesday August 13, 2008 in Tampa Florida.

Please continue to remember Bro. Frederick and His family, at this time in your prayers.



The PEC extends sympathy to the family of the late Rev. Gaveston David who passed into the nearer presence of God on Wednesday August 20, 2008 in St. Croix. Bro. David served as a Lay Pastor for a number of years at the Friedensfeld congregation in St. Croix. Bro. David subsequently felt the call of God upon his life to the full time Pastoral Ministry and offered himself to the church. He was accepted, ordained and called to serve the Friedensfeld congregation which he served for many years before he retired.

Bro. David was a faithful soldier of Christ who gave his all in whatever he did. He served Christ and our Church well and must be highly commended for the work that he did. Like St. Paul, we can say that, "He fought the good fight, he kept the faith, he finished the course and henceforth there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge will give to him, and not to him only, but to all those who love his appearing". We pray that God will strengthen his family at such a time as this as they face the future without him. His work has not gone unnoticed. God will reward him in due season.

The funeral service was held on Friday August 29, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Friedensfeld (Midlands) Moravian Church, St. Croix.

May his soul rest in peace.

PEC MEETING

The PEC will meet in the Antigua Conference from September 26 - 28, 2008.

Your continued prayers for the PEC is needed.

PROVINCIAL SYNOD

The Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) is pleased to announce that the 29th Provincial Synod will be hosted by the St. Kitts Conference from July 10—18, 2009. The venue will be the Royal St. Kitts Hotel which is situated at Frigate Bay Estate.

Delegates Fee is US\$500.00 per person

Observers Fee is US\$600.00 per person