

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF PEC — EWI PROVINCE



"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." 1 Chronicles 4 : 9 -10."



MONTHLY PUBLICATION

December, 2009



Christmas Message from the Chairman of PEC

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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Reconciliation, the glorious message of Christmas

Have you ever wondered as to the origin or genesis of Christmas Carols? Christmas Carols conjure up feelings that are difficult to explain. Indeed, I enjoy listening to and singing Christmas Carols from Advent Sunday through to the end of December every year. In my quest to understand the origin of Christmas Carols I found out that the name Christmas Carol is said to have originated because a young girl named **Carol** went missing in London, one cold winter night. As her friends went from door to door searching for her, in a manner similar to the Christmas Carollers today, the name Christmas Carol began to be used and is today an essential part of the Christmas celebrations.

There are many popular Christmas Carols and each song has its own specific Christmas Carol History. Some Christmas Carols date back to the Middle Ages, while the history of some Christmas Carols such as 'Good King

Wenceslas' are more recent and were composed in the 19th Century.

Christmas Carols, also called Noel, help to bring people together in harmony on the occasion of this wonderful season. Christmas Carol History takes us back to Christmas Hymns, sung in church. Famous Western classical compositions for church choirs, such as Handel's Messiah are also traditionally performed around Christmas.

One of the most famous and popularly sung carols is, Joy to the world. How did Joy to the world evolve?

History and background

Isaac watts, the writer of the song, wrote Joy to the World, almost 300 years ago, in 1719. Isaac Watts was heavily influenced by his father John Watts who was an extreme Non conformist and opted to attend a Non-conformist Academy at Stoke Newington in preference to a University. He was ordained as a Pastor of an Independent congregation and wrote a large number of hymns and carols based on the Psalms from the New Testament.

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**Provincial Theme -
2010-2012 is
“Pursuing the Blessing”**

The Thematic Focus:

Presence, Power and Proclamation

Foundation Text: Genesis 32

Jacob is among the most significant persons in the Bible. This significance is not based upon his character, but upon the character of God. He was one who gained respect and even fear of his peers. He was wealthy and powerful, yet there was no Joy for he sought for this in the wrong way. His life then descended into one of lying, deceit and selfishness. The reality was he was not perfect, as we might have expected; instead, he was like us, trying to please God, but often falling short.

Jacob was the third link in God’s plan to start a nation from the man Abraham. The success of the plan was more God’s actions, rather than Jacob’s initiative. Before Jacob was born, God promised that his plan would be worked out through Jacob and not his twin brother Esau. Although Jacob’s methods were not always respectable, his skill, determination, and patience have to be admired.

It is said that Jacob’s life had four stages, each marked by a personal encounter with God.

In the first stage, Jacob lived up to his name, which means, He grasps the heel –Genesis 25: 26 (he deceives). He grabbed Esau’s heel at birth, and by the time he fled from home, he had also grabbed his brother’s birthright and blessing.

During his flight, God first appeared to him. Not only did God confirm to Jacob his blessing, but he awakened in Jacob a personal knowledge of himself. (Genesis 28: 10-22)

In the second stage, Jacob got a taste of what he himself had given (or dished) out. He was manipulated, tricked and deceived by Laban. In stage two, there seems to be a change in Jacob, after deciding to leave, he waited six (6) years for God’s permission. (Genesis 31: 38-49)

In the third stage, Jacob is referred to as a Grabber. At the Jordan River, he held on to or grabbed on to God and refused to let go. He realized his dependence upon God who continued to bless him. His relationship to God became very essential to his life and his name was changed to Israel, “he struggled with God”. He said, “I will not let you go until you bless me” (Genesis 32: 22-30).

The fourth stage of his life was to be grabbed. God achieved a firm hold on Jacob (Genesis 35: 1-10). Jacob was clearly unwilling to make a move without God’s approval. He ensured that the people cleansed themselves before God.

It is clear that from the onset Jacob was pursuing something, however, when he started out he had the wrong motive and he was not depending upon God. After his longing, hunger and thirst were not satisfied in spite of his wielding and dealings, he was

awakened to the fact that he was pursuing the wrong thing, in the wrong way. His encounter there-

fore with God, even though he did not know it at first, pointed him in the right direction. His pursuit was so intense that the Presence, Power and Proclamation of the blessing were all wrapped up in one. His pursuit was so intense that he announced, “I will not let you go until you bless me” (Genesis 32: 26). In this statement can be found the Presence, Power and Proclamation of the Blessing.

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Reconciliation, the glorious message of Christmas

To begin with, Watts was criticized for ‘trying to improve on the Psalms’ but later the songs were appreciatively accepted and in 1728 Watts was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree by the University of Edinburgh.

The music

Quite a few years after the death of Isaac Watts, the words of the hymn were put to music through the efforts of Lowell Mason. Dr. Mason did not write the music himself but improvised from another hymn called the Messiah by Frederick Handel. He had a great music career and composed more than 1600 devout works.

Joy to the World is an extremely popular **Christmas carol** that is now commonly sung as one of the most cheerful songs of Christmas. It tells the world to rejoice and make merry and celebrate the birth of the Lord. It’s uplifting music and lilting melody has made it a favorite of Christians around the world.

Its popularity can also be attributed to the fact that it talks of hope and salvation and abiding faith in Jesus and requests the believers to take heart and be happy. The song itself is full of optimism and expectation and permeates the listeners with joy.

As we celebrate another Christmas, let us reflect on how far we've come. Let us reflect on the coming of **Emmanuel**, the Christ, into the world to bring Joy and hope, but more so to demonstrate what love is. **The glorious message of Christmas is one of reconciliation.** 2 Corinthians 5:19 declares, **In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.**

The birth of Christ is the promise that wrongs may be set right, that truth may be discovered, forgiveness may be sought, and ancient enemies will live together in mutual respect. Christmas is a glorious message of mercy, hope and celebration. Is there really anything to celebrate? With the hundreds of persons who have lost their jobs due to the recession and the terrible economic situation that has descended upon us, many are asking if there is anything to celebrate at Christmas. We live in a world where there is conflict after conflict. There are wars being fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. Suicide bombers are wreaking havoc in the Middle East, Pakistan, India, Indonesia and other countries. Somalia seems to be a Wild West state, where everyone appears to be doing what seems right in his/her own eyes. In addition, the African Continent which is probably the

richest region of the world seems to be in a state of poverty, paucity and privation.

It is believed there are more people living in poverty today than ever before. The question is what has happened to all of the wealth that has been created in the world? If one studies world history it seems as if most of the wealth in the world is concentrated in the hands of a few so called wealthy persons. Luisa Kroll, Matthew Miller and Tatiana Serafin writing on the world's billionaires, had this to say: **"The richest people in the world have gotten poorer, just like the rest of us.** This year the world's billionaires have an average net worth of \$3 billion, down 23% in 12 months. The world now has 793 billionaires, down from 1,125 a year ago.

After slipping in recent years, the U.S. is regaining its dominance as a repository of wealth. Americans account for 44% of the money and 45% of the list's slots, up seven and three percentage points from last year, respectively. Bill Gates lost \$18 billion but regained his title as the world's richest man. Warren Buffett, last year's No. 1, saw his fortune decline \$25 billion as shares of Berkshire Hathaway fell nearly 50% in 12 months. Mexican telecom titan Carlos Slim Helú maintains his spot in the top three but lost \$25 billion".

Even with the fore going report, the billionaires are still swimming in billions when persons are dying every day from hunger, starvation and disease. Where is the Justice? Where is the peace? Where is the promise of a brighter day? Where is the hope and why should we celebrate at Christmas? The hope, promise, peace and Joy of

Christmas can best be described in one of the best known Advent/Christmas hymns:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2.

*O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

3.

*O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

May this Christmas find us all even in the midst of the economic decline, celebrating the goodness and greatness of God. The Angel brought good news to all of us: **Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great Joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.** (Luke 2:10-11).

On behalf of the PEC, the Staff at the Provincial Office and on behalf of my immediate family, we wish for you God's richest blessings at this Christmas time. May the glorious message of mercy, hope, love, Joy and celebration be yours at this Christmas time and remember that the glorious message of Christmas is reconciliation. Be at Peace. Be Blessed. Have a blessed Christmas.

Birthdays/Anniversaries

VACANCY

Applications are invited for the position of :

UNITY BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR (Part-time)

The successful candidate will be expected to function from his/her Provincial Office or Mission Agency and MUST meet the following requirements:

QUALIFICATIONS

- Good administrative skills
- Good communication skills
- Proficiency in written and spoken English and at least a working knowledge of another language
- Computer skills
- Finance skills
- Professional education and training

CORE FUNCTION

- To prepare, execute and monitor elections within the Unity (e.g. President/Vice President of the Unity Board)
- To prepare for the Unity Board meetings/Unity Synod together with the President of the Board and to function as secretary during these meetings
- To prepare for other meetings/conferences within the Unity
- To monitor the execution of the decisions taken by the Unity Synod/Unity Board, including the meeting of committees
- To edit and publish the Unity Newsletter and other sources of information within the Unity
- To assist in financial matters of the Unity (e.g. monitoring payments by provinces for Unity projects and Unity undertakings)
- To monitor the finances of the

Unity Mission and Development Fund in consultation with the MCF and the Unity Board and to oversee compliance with the criteria for the Unity Mission and Development Fund as specified in COUF #926

- To represent the Unity wherever the Unity Board/President deems necessary
- To organize and maintain the archive of all Unity Synod and Unity Board documents, including COUF
- To act as liaison between Provinces, (act a Unity Mission and Development Board convener)
- Any other duties assigned by the Unity Board

If you believe you meet the above requirements, please e-mail your application and resume to:

moravianchurch@cwjamaica.com

addressed to:

**Rev. Dr. Paul Gardner
President
Unity Board**

**P. O. Box 8369
3 Hector Street
Kingston CSO**

P.S. A letter of recommendation/endorsement from the Provincial Board or Mission Agency MUST be attached.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS
DECEMBER 31, 2009.**

The funeral Service for Bro. William Jones, the Father of the Rev. Winston Jones, will be held on Saturday December, 19, 2009 at the Sharon Moravian Church, Barbados at 10.00 a.m. Let us continue to remember the family in prayer.



Birthday Greetings for the month of December is extended to:

Bro. Alban St. Hill	2
Sis. Eloise Stephen	2
Bro. Leon Matthias	8
Sis. Bonnie E.B.W. Smith	10
Sis. Cicely Athill-Horsford	12
Bro. Hilton Joseph	18
Sis. Nasel Ephraim	18
Sis. Maureen Lewis	23
Bro. Alvin Barker	25
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. Ulric & Sis. Bonnie E..B.W. Smith	10
Bro. Winston & Sis. Karen Jones	13
Bro. Algernon & Sis. Denise Lewis	20
Bro. Errol & Sis. Joycelyn Connor	22
Bro. Patrick Cadogan & Sis. Nasel Ephraim	22
Bro. Patmore & Sis Jovanca Lewis Smith	27
Bro. Hilton & Sis. Sharon McCardy Joseph	29
Bro. Samuel & Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs	31

