



"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."

The Information

MONTHLY PUBLICATION

June, 2009

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 29th Synod, a time to Run with the Vision

As the Eastern West Indies Province prepares for its 29th Synod, we will be challenged on all fronts to make a difference in our communities, as our people struggle with the financial and economic crisis that have engulfed the world. The Church is being challenged to be more proactive rather than being reactive. We are challenged to be more creative and even radical in the way we minister. We are challenged not to allow yesterday to hijack our attention. Humorist and entertainer Will Rogers once said, "don't let yesterday take up too much of today". As a Church we should learn from the past, allow it to cement the present and propel us into the future. Too many times, the people of God rather than learning from the past, get stuck in it and therefore the Church stagnates. The past was good but it had different challenges. While some challenges remain the same, we live in different times and as a Church, we must be able to navigate these troublous times being guided by God at all times. These times are not for the faint hearted or for those who lack faith and confidence in their God. Isaiah declares, *"Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:*

³¹But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings

as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.(Is. 40:30-31).

Waiting upon the Lord here means that you wait in expectation and anticipation. It means that you have gotten a glimpse of the vision of what God is about to do. The Vision is really the Road Map to the destination, while the Mission is the strategy to get to the destination. The writer of Proverbs alerts us to the realities of life in an environment that is filled with many choices; "Where there is no vision, the people perish..".(Proverbs 29:18). If nothing else, Synodals must rise from Synod with a clear Vision as to the future of our Church in the EWI. The Prophet Habakkuk speaks of not only verbalizing the Vision but to put it to writing so it will never be forgotten and that those who receive it can run with it:²*And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. ³For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. (Habakkuk 2: 2-3).*

As we go into Synod, it is important to note that anytime you concentrate on the difficulty of the work at hand instead of its results or rewards, you are likely to become discouraged.

Continue on Page 2

Remember the poor

Published: Thursday, May 21, 2009
Devon Dick

On Wednesday, May 13, the Reverend Dr Hyacinth Boothe, after 53 years of service in Christian ministry, brought the curtains down on her vocation by delivering her final sermon at the valedictory service for the graduates of United Theological College of the West Indies at the University Chapel by challenging the congregants to remember the poor.

Dr. Hyacinth Boothe was the first female within the Methodist church to be ordained to the full-time Christian ministry. Dr. Boothe did not have an easy Christian ministry. She had to battle prejudice within the church. It could be said of her that 'she lived simply so that others could simply live'.

Therefore, it was not surprising that her challenge to the packed chapel of denominational heads, faculty, graduates, their family members and well-wishers was to "remember the poor."

It is not often that one hears from the pulpit, a sermon on remembering the poor. It is not a favourite topic for televangelists, whether local or foreign. Therefore, it was refreshing that outstanding graduates such as Judith Johnson, the most-outstanding student; Stacey Lalor and Nevin Lewis, the valedictorians; Prince Taylor-Young from Sierra Leone; Fursan Zu'mot from Jordan and the others of the Class of 2009 who made up the 23 graduates heard such a message.

Persons who are poor are too often perceived as lazy and are, there-

fore, disrespected. The worldly system is designed to favour rich people over the less fortunate and underprivileged. Dr Boothe claimed that the Rastafarian movement provided one of the best critiques of the Babylonian system of the death trap of poverty.

Equal value

Indeed, the church needs, again, to remember that persons who are poor were made in the image of God and that they are of equal value and have intrinsic worth. They are to be shown respect. They ought to be the focus of the church's ministry - they who are poverty stricken and who are dependent on God. Jesus, borrowing the words of the prophet Isaiah, said he came to proclaim good news to the poor (Luke 4:16). And Dr Boothe did proclaim good news to the poor. Persons who are homeless or hungry would have had their hearts gladden. Those who work hard and long hours and will not get a 'Shearer' at the end of the week would be happy. The security guards who risk their

Lives; those who engage in manual work and menial tasks but do not get a reasonable or livable wage would have been happy that there

Is a prophetess who spoke on their behalf. If these graduates and members of the audience took the message seriously, then more help is on the way. A reversal of the world order is a distinct possibility.

Tax burden

The implication of implementing the message is that the church's mission and budgeting will be different. It means that the nation's 2009-2010 Budget would have to be recast so that the tax burden

would not disproportionately be on the backs of those who can least afford it. It means that we will focus more on those who will fall below the poverty line and a safety net. We will visit persons who are poor and invite them to our homes and functions. Dr. Boothe did have a final hard saying for the congregation, that is, that they should become poor. That seems too much. Pastors have moved away from their churches that are in impoverished areas and politicians do not live in their constituencies because of the poverty and crime.

So, like the rich, young ruler, we find it difficult to sell all and give to the poor and become poor. But at least, let us remember the poor, even as we hail workers in the upcoming Labour Day celebrations.

Devon Dick is pastor of the Boulevard Baptist Church and

Author of 'Rebellion to Riot: the Church in Nation Building'.

Feedback may be sent to:
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29th Provincial Synod

The 29th Provincial Synod will convene at the Bird Rock Hotel in St. Kitts on July 10, 2009 and will conclude on July 18, 2009.

The Synod Retreat will take place on Friday July 10, 2009, from 7:00 p.m – 9: 30 p.m.

The Election of the Officers of Synod and the appointment of Committees will take place on Saturday July 11, 2009.

PEC News

In addition, a Government reception will be held for Synodals on the evening of July 11, 2009.

Hospitality Sunday will be held on July 12, where Synodals will worship in different Churches and be hosted for lunch by an assigned family.

The opening service for Synod will be held on July 12 at the Zion Moravian Church at 6:00 p.m.

All Staff members are required to wear either PREACHING or ACADEMIC GOWN for the opening service of Synod. Lay Delegates and Observers are required to wear Black.

The Synod Communion service will take place at the Estridge Moravian Church. The NEW PRESBYTERS will serve the elements during the communion. All ordained Pastors are asked to bring their Surplice to synod for the Consecration Service.

The Frigate Bay Beach Hotel which is relatively close by will be used as a spill over location for the Synod, at no extra charge. The goal is to put the observers at the Frigate Bay. Day passes are also being put in place to cater to persons who are observers, and will be accommodated at a private residence and want to spend time at synod. The daily cost will be EC\$ 150.00 per person.

Unity Synod

Unity Synod will be held at High Leigh Christian Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts from 27 July (arrivals day) until 7 August.

It is now clear that there will be no accommodation available for observers on site, but if anyone would like to attend as a day delegate, you are asked to let Lindsey Newens at Church House know exactly which

dates you would like to attend. The day delegate rate is £26 per day and includes coffee, lunch, tea and evening meal.

All visitors are to be pre-booked both for catering and security reasons and will be required to sign in and out. It is not possible to know in advance when Synod will meet in plenary session and when in committee. The middle weekend will have no sessions and Synodals will not be on site for much of the time.

Consecration

Brothers Vankys Isaac and Winston Jones will be consecrated as Presbyters by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Lewis on Thursday July 16, 2009 at the 29th Provincial Synod of the Eastern West Indies Province to be held in St. Kitts. The Service will take place at the Bethesda Moravian Church in Cayon Village at 7:00 p.m.

Let us remember them in our prayers.

Preaching Assignments for Synod 2009

The following persons have been assigned to preach and conduct worship on Sunday July 12, 2009, in St. Kitts. Let us be in a period of Prayer and Fasting for our upcoming Synod as we meet to seek God's guidance for the way ahead for our Church. Let us truly commit the entire period to God's keeping.

Congregations	Time	Ministers Preaching/Liturgist
Salvation Army	10:00 a.m.	Pastor Nevin Lewis*
Cayon Church of God	8:30 a.m.	Rev. Adrian Smith*
Cayon Anglican Church	8:00 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Derrick Forrester*
St. Georges Anglican Church	8:00a.m.	Rt. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Lewis*
St. Peters Anglican	9:00a.m.	Rev. Devon Mannix*
Cayon Methodist	11:00a.m.	Rev. Errol Connor*
Wesley Methodist Church	9:00 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Cicely Athill-Horsford*
St. Johnson Methodist Church	10:00a.m.	Rev. Adrian Lewis*
Calvary Baptist Tabernacle	10:00a.m.	Rev. Dr. Dion Christopher*
Bethel Moravian Church	7:30 a.m.	Rev. Movel Kellman* Rev. Kirk Barker**
Estridge Moravian Church	9:30 a.m.	Rev. Alicia Ross* Rev. Georgette John**
Bethesda Moravian Church	10:00a.m.	Rev. Lillette I. George* Rev. Winelle Kirton-Roberts**
	<i>Continue on</i>	<i>Page 4</i>

Condolences/Birthdays/Anniversaries

Condolences

The Funeral Service of Samuel Jarvis, the Father of the Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis, took place on Tuesday June 02, 2009 at 2.30 Pm at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church. Burial was at the Cana Moravian Church Cemetery in Swetes Village, Antigua.

The Funeral Service of Yvette Francis, the Sister of the Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis, took place on Friday 05 June, 2009 at 2.00 p.m at the Cana Moravian Church in Swetes Village, Antigua.

The Funeral service of Eustace Jarvis, the brother of The Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis will be held on June 18, 2009, at the St. Michael's Anglican Church on Woodgreen High Street, Woodgreen London, N 22. The service begins at 12.00 pm London time. Following the service, the burial will take place at Wood Green Cemetery on Wolves Lane, London N22.

Please continue to remember the Jarvis family in your prayers.

Continued from Page 1

The 29th Synod, a time to Run with the Vision

If you dwell on the difficulties too long, you will start to develop self pity instead of self discipline, and your attention will become scattered instead of focused.

Another thing that can distract you from results is interaction with difficult, negative people. You will come in contact with a lot of people who can impact your efforts as you work on achieving your dreams, some in a

negative way. Stay away from negative people.

John Maxwell in his book, "Talent is not enough", speaks of five types of people you are likely to encounter:

Refreshers- they inspire your dreams and energize your talents.

Refiners- they sharpen your ideas and clarify your vision.

Reflectors- they mirror your energy, neither adding nor subtracting from it.

Reducers- they try to reduce your vision and efforts to their comfort level.

Rejecters- they deny your talent, hinder your efforts, and impede your vision.

If we remain focused on results, we will stay grounded. The praise of others is less likely to go to our heads, and the negative impact of people such as the Reducers and Rejecters will be minimized. God is challenging us as we enter into this 29th Provincial synod, not to allow anyone or anything to steal our joy or to pluck the Vision from us. Jesus himself declares, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

In Proverbs 6, God says he dislikes seven things: ¹⁷*A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,* ¹⁸*An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,* ¹⁹*A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*(Proverbs 6: 17-19).

Tellingly, the first of these seven things is PRIDE. When someone over-values him/herself by undervaluing others, he/she inevitably reveals it with his proud look. They are puffed up in self conceit. They may devise evil and discord. There is a saying that, in every desert of despair God has an oasis of comfort.

Even in the desert, God is still the Oasis that quenches our thirst. As God reveals the Vision, let us RUN with it and practice to pass the Baton on from generation to generation. God is depending upon us.

Continued from page 3

Congregations	Time	Ministers Preaching/ Liturgist
Keys Moravian Church	8:00 a.m.	Rev. Andrew Roberts* Pastor Cherice Job-Lewis**
Zion Moravian Church	9:30 a.m.	Rev. Esther Moore-Roberts* Rev. Nigel Daniel**

N.B. *Preacher ** Liturgist



Birthday Greetings for the month of June is extended to:

- Bro. Nigel Daniel 5
- Sis. Bernadine Chase 7
- Bro. Calvin Isaac 13
- Sis. Joycelyn Connor 17
- Bro. Selvin McMillan 25
- Sis. Jasmin Crooks 26
- Sis. Lexs Forrester 28
- Sis. Roslyn Hamblin 29



Anniversary Greetings for the month of June is extended to:

- Bro. Reuben & Sis. Ivy Vessup 1
- Bro. Kirk & Sis. Nicole Barker 24