

The Information

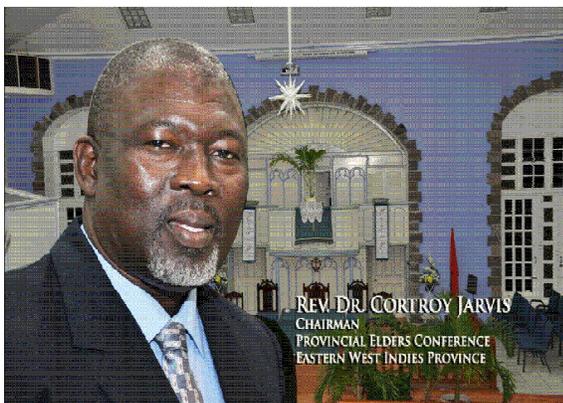
Then the man said, *"Let me go, for it is daybreak."* But Jacob replied, *"I will not let you go unless you bless me."*
Genesis 32 vs. 26 [NIV]

April, 2010



A Triumphal Procession

The foundation of the Christian faith is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ lived the righteous and perfect life that we, because of our fallen and corrupt nature, cannot. He suffered the penalty for our sins by taking our guilt upon Himself and dying horribly on the cross. He rose bodily from the dead that first Resurrection or Easter morning ensuring that, we who have been baptized into His death and resurrection, will rise again in glorified bodies on the Last Day.



This is the great paschal mystery that Christians have celebrated since the earliest days of the church. As the Apostle Paul joyfully declared: **...Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive... "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!** (1 Corinthians 15:20-22 and 55-57). On Easter or Resurrection Sunday therefore, the Moravian church celebrates God's great triumph over sin, death, and the devil with the greeting:

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter or Resurrection Sunday is the day Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus the Christ from the dead. Even before theologians explained the death of Jesus in terms of various atonement theories, the early church saw his resurrection as the central witness to a new act of God in history and the victory of God in vindicating Jesus as the Messiah. This event marks the central faith confession of the early church and was the focal point for Christian worship, observed on the first day of each week since the first century: Acts 20:7 **"On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight"**. Sunday was officially proclaimed the day of Christian worship on March 07, AD 321 by Emperor Constantine. Easter as an annual celebration of the Resurrection that lies at the center of the Christian Faith, has been observed at least since the fourth century. Even in churches that traditionally do not observe the other historic seasons of the church year, Easter has occupied a central place as the high point of Christian worship.

Prior to the fourth century, Christians observed **Pascha**, Christian Passover, in the Spring of the year. Adapted from Jewish Passover, **Pascha was a festival of redemption and**

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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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commemorated both the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus as the vehicle for God's grace. While historical records are not clear, it is likely that early Jewish Christians observed both Passover (Pesach) and Pascha. However, many Gentile converts were hesitant to adopt the Jewish festival, especially since the Jerusalem Council had decided that Gentile converts to Christianity did not have to observe Jewish religious practices (Acts 15). Gradually by the fourth century, with an increasing emphasis on Holy Week and Good Friday, Easter moved into a distinctively Christian celebration of the Resurrection, with Good Friday commemorating Jesus' crucifixion and death.

Easter or Resurrection, like Passover, is a **movable festival**, but is determined by a system based on a lunar calendar adapted from a formula decided by the Council of Nicea in AD 325. In this system, Easter or Resurrection is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring equinox, the day when the sun's ecliptic or apparent path in the sky crosses the equator, thus making days and nights of equal length. This usually occurs on March 21, which means the date of Easter can range between March 22 and April 25 depending on the lunar cycle. Since Jewish Passover is calculated differently, the dates for Passover and Easter do not correspond, although often the first Day of Passover falls during Holy Week. Much of the calendar of the Church year is determined by the date of Easter.

There are a variety of ways to celebrate Easter and various emphases that can be placed on the season. But from the early days of the church, the **Easter Vigil** was the primary means by which Easter was observed. This practice has evolved in modern observance into the Easter sunrise service that the Moravian Church and many other churches observe, but its history is much richer.

From the earliest days of the church, the Vigil was primarily a means of preparing new converts for baptism into the Christian Faith, which was normally done on Easter or Resurrection Sunday as the focal point of the entire year. This preparation traditionally arises from a set of Scripture readings from the Old Testament that recounts the unfolding of God's creation of a people in the Exodus, and a promise of restoration from Zephaniah. Following the lead of the Gospels themselves, this provides a crucial link between the revelation of God in Christ and the creation of the church with God's past revelation of himself and the creation of his people Israel.

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Retirement from full time Ministry

Rev. George Bedford, Associate Pastor of the Memorial Congregation in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands Conference, who has reached retirement age, will retire from the full time Ministry of the Moravian Church on March 31, 2010.



Rev. George Bedford

Over the years, Bro. Bedford has served the church and the Lord as a Champion of the

faith. The Eastern West Indies Province is externally grateful for the contribution of Bro. Bedford to the Spiritual health of our Church and prays that God will continue to bless and guide him, with good health and strength for the journey ahead.

A service will be held on Sunday 11, 2010, beginning at 4.00p.m at the Memorial Moravian Church, St. Thomas.



UNITY PRAYER WATCH

The EWI Province will participate in the Unity Prayer Watch from 12:01 a.m. April 01, 2010 – Midnight April 14, 2010. The Schedule is as follows:

- ◆ Virgin Islands - 12:01a.m - April 01- Midnight April 04
- ◆ Trinidad - 12:01a.m - April 05 -Midnight April 05
- ◆ Tobago - 12:01a.m - April 06 -Midday April 07
- ◆ Barbados - 12:01p.m - April 07 - Midnight April 09
- ◆ St. Kitts - 12:01a.m - April 10 - Midday April 11
- ◆ Antigua - 12:01p.m - April 11 - Midnight April 14
- ◆

Conferences are asked to observe the time allotted for our members to engage in the unbroken prayer chain. This prayer meeting developed on August 13, 1727 when the Moravian Church had its Pentecostal experience. The Church was so much on fire that the Prayer meeting lasted for 100 unbroken years. Let us therefore encourage our members to be in prayer, as we continue to seek God's guidance and direction for our Church and indeed our lives.

Queen's Baton Relay

The Queen's Baton Relay is a relay around the world held prior to the beginning of the Commonwealth Games and symbolizes the harmony and shared ideals of a Commonwealth of Nations. The **19th Commonwealth Games** are scheduled to be held in Delhi, India (3rd -14th October 2010).

The relay began when the baton, which contains Queen Elizabeth II's message to the athletes, left Buckingham Palace on 29th October 2009. The baton will arrive at the 2010 Games Opening Ceremony on 3 October 2010, after visiting the other 70 nations of the Commonwealth and travelling throughout India.

The baton arrived in St. Kitts and Nevis on 19th March. On Sunday 21st March 2010, the Queen's Baton attended service at Zion Moravian Church, the first time it has been to church during its journey.



The baton is a triangular section of aluminium twisted into a helix shape and then coated with coloured soils collected from all regions of India. A jewel-encrusted box was used to house the Queen's message, which was laser-engraved onto a miniature 18 carat gold leaf.



Rev. Hilton Joseph and Bro. Moise Jean holding Baton in Zion

The Queen's baton has a number of technological features including:

- ◆ The ability to capture images and sound
- ◆ Global positioning system (GPS) technology so the baton's location can be tracked Embedded light colours of a country's flag whilst in that country.

- ◆ A text messaging capability so that people can send messages of congratulations and encouragement to the Baton bearers throughout the relay.



From Left to Right G.Jeffers, F.Belrose., D. Knight, H. Joseph (holding The Baton) O. Bridgewater, M. Jean, L. Lloyd, and S. Isshe at Zion Moravian Church in St. Kitts.

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A Triumphant Procession

This important emphasis on the continuity of the church with the Old Testament's witness to God also helps define the nature of the church and its mission in the world, thoroughly grounding it in the ongoing work of God in history.

The Resurrection then, speaks of a God who leads us in a triumphal procession, winning the victory over the evil forces of darkness. On the Resurrection day, the Christian church therefore celebrates God's great triumph over sin, death, and the devil. St. Paul puts it this way: **"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him"**. 2 Corinthians 2:14.

May this time of renewal, regeneration and redemption, truly find the Moravian Church in a triumphal procession, as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, who is the Christ. The Resurrection is the signpost that the Church is alive and has a reason for its continued existence. The songwriter Bennet Harvey therefore encourages us in the triumphal procession with the words:

*With heart and with voices, o praise ye the Lord,
Man's foes he has conquered, fulfilling his word;
He lives who was dead, and now rules in his might,
Let all in their Loud hallelujahs unite.*

*Man's debt has been paid, for man's surety has died;
God's Lamb has been slain, and his blood been applied;
Redemption's accomplished for Adam's lost race,
For Jesus has risen, attesting God's grace.*

A Blessed Resurrection and may Jesus the Christ rise triumphal in your life.

Expressions of Condolence at the passing of Bishop Stanley Thomas

John Maxwell once said, “The key to transforming yourself from someone who understands leadership to a person who successfully leads in the real world is character. Your character qualities activate and empower your leadership ability or stand in the way of your success”.

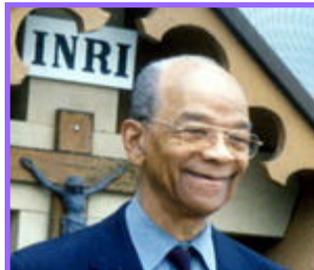
Bishop Stanley Thomas was a man of impeccable character. Not only was he of impeccable character, but he was competent at what he did and a man of God. He was a very forthright person and once you dealt with him, you knew where he stood even though he did it in a calm and unassuming way.

I first encountered Bishop Thomas in 1993 in St. Kitts when he was appointed Chaplain of the Synod the Eastern West Indies Province. He led the Synod well and had a great impact on all those who were privileged to have attended that Synod. At the very Synod he ordained the Rev. Lillette I. George, the Rev. Matthew Crooks and the Rev. Mikie Roberts. On November 11, 1993, he was one of the Presiding Bishops at the Consecration of Bishop Neville Brown at Spring Gardens in Antigua. Again on November 13, 1999, he was again at Spring Gardens in Antigua to preside at the Consecration of Bishop Kingsley Lewis.

The Eastern West Indies Province developed a very close bond with Bishop Thomas. He was a very warm, caring and affectionate person, who served his Church and the Lord well. Whatever he did, it had to be done to the best. He has had a great impact on the EWIP, from Trinidad to the Virgin Islands. No matter what the occasion, he was always concerned about the health of the Church and individuals personally.

He always had a listening ear and was ever ready in his calm and unassuming way to help. I believe that on a regular basis he would have prayed this prayer:

“Teach us good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do thy will”.



Bishop Stanley A. Thomas

Bishop Thomas entered eternal rest in the presence of his Saviour on March 06, 2010. He was 79 years old and maintained a busy schedule of faithful service in the church until he was hospitalized following a motor vehicle accident in January. Please remember

his beloved wife of 48 years Fay, and their three children, Janice, Carol and Raymond in Prayer.

The Service was held at The New Dorp Moravian Church on Saturday March 13 at 10.00a.m.

We have lost a Soldier and Champion of the faith. On behalf of the Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province and on behalf of my family, we express sincere condolences to his family, especially to Sis. Faye and their children. May his soul rest in perpetual peace.

Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis
Chairman of PEC



PROVINCIAL YOUTH CAMP 2010

The Moravian Church Antigua Conference will host the 2010 Provincial Youth Camp from August 4 - 14. Invitations have been extended to the Provinces in America, North and South, Cuba, Suriname, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Martin, the British Province and Denmark. They will join the youth from the EWIP.

We look forward to seeing as many young people as possible converging in Antigua for this camp.

PEC MEETING

The PEC will meet in the Barbados Conference from April 9 – 11, 2010. Our prayers are requested for them as they meet at such a time as this.



Birthday Greetings for the month of April is extended to:

Bro. Elroy Christopher	4
Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs	8
Sis. Megan Gibbs	22
Sis. Rosalind Prince	26
Bro. Neville Brown	27
Bro. Mikie Roberts	27



Anniversary Greeting is extended to:

Bro. Rudolph & Sis. Esther Roberts	22
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FUN CORNER

Men in Heaven - Who is the Head of the Household?

At the end of the age when all the believers were standing in line waiting to get into heaven,

God appeared and said, "I want all the men to form two lines. One line will be for the men who were the true heads of their households. The other will be for the men who were dominated by their wives."

God continued, "I want all the women to report to St. Peter."

The women left and the men formed two lines.

The line of men who were dominated by their wives was seemingly unending.

The line of men who were the true head of their household had one man in it.

God said to the first line, "You men ought to be ashamed of yourselves. I appointed you to be the heads of your households and you were disobedient and have not fulfilled your purpose. Of all of you, there is only one man who obeyed me. Learn from him."

Then God turned to the lone man and asked, "How did you come to be in this line?"

The man replied, "My wife told me to stand here."

Author is Unknown

