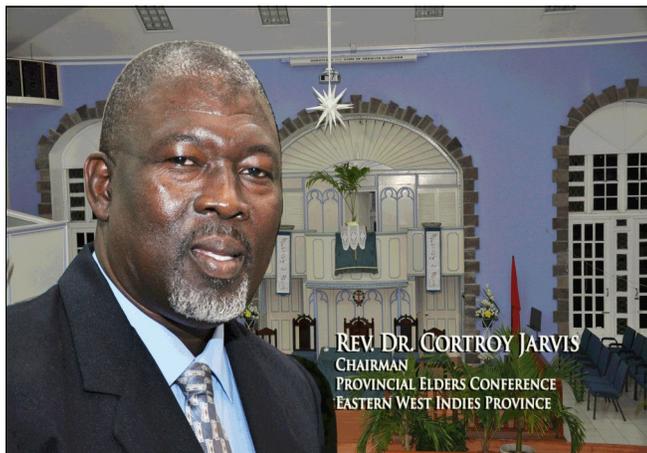


# The Information

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]

January 2010



## A BLESSED, HEALTHY and HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010

There is an old saying in Antigua and probably in most Caribbean Islands, "New Broom Sweep Clean, But Old Broom know The Corners". There is a suggestion here that while the New

Broom gets things clean, because of its lack of experience it misses the corners. The end result is there are some areas of the House or Yard that's not swept because the New Broom doesn't have the experience to maneuver and navigate into those small crevices. On the other hand, the Old Broom is able with consummate ease to deal with those difficult areas. The question is, are we looking forward to this New Year 2010 with great anticipation or are we prepared to hold onto the Old Year because of what we know?

Christmas is a season to sing praises, yet in our time the reality of environmental destruction undermines the doxology of creation. Littering has become a past time. Our Ponds, Dams, Rivers and Communities have been littered with garbage. There are too many persons who seem not to care about the destruction of our environment. During the past three weeks there was a Global Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. We wait to see what difference this will make in a world that is destroying itself not so much by Guns and Bombs, (even though they have wreak untold damage in different corners of the world), but by pollution, emission of gasses, the wanton discarding of garbage of every kind at places that they are not supposed to be. Is there something to say about all of the new diseases that have descended upon us? As the earth suffers, so must its inhabitants. Already, the poor and socially marginalized people find it ever more difficult to lift their voices in song. For some persons, life is too difficult to sing and many ask the question, "How can we sing the Lord's Song in a strange land?"

I believe that most of us would agree that 2009 was a most challenging year. We were fed a diet Global Recession, Economic Downturn, Downsizing, Belt Tightening, Job Cuts, Pay Cuts, Financial Hardship and a generally gloomy outlook. If one were to follow the dictates of others you would have fallen down and die, but the child of God sees hope even in the darkest night of living. It is at the time of drought, hardship and difficulty that we ought to stand on the promises of God. It is the writer of Isaiah who puts it best when he wrote, "...Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine."

*Continue on Page 2*

### 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

### MAILING ADDRESS:

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### WEB ADDRESS

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*Continued from Page 1*

**When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.**

**For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and thee". (Isaiah 43:1-3).**

Isaiah gives renewed hope and vitality to those who seem hopeless and dispirited. It is with this type of encouragement and positive spirit that we must enter into 2010. As a Church, we must go in the strength of the Lord no matter what time it is. God must remain our compass at all times. The enemy is ever present and ever ready to steal our joy and so we must never give way to the thief to invade God's territory.

Frances Havergal in penning one of our New Year's hymns strikes a note of confidence in God:

Standing at the portal  
of the opening year,  
Words of comfort meet us,  
hushing every fear;  
Spoken thru the silence  
by our Savior's voice,  
Tender, strong and faithful,  
making us rejoice.

For the year before us,  
O what rich supplies!  
For the poor and needy  
Living streams shall rise;  
for the sad and sinful  
shall His grace abound;  
for the faint and feeble  
Perfect strength be found.

**Refrain**  
***Onward, then, and fear not,***  
***Children of the day;***  
***for His Word shall never,***  
***never pass away.***

He will never fail us,  
He will not forsake;  
For His eternal covenant  
He will never break.  
Resting on the promise,  
what have we to fear?

"I, the Lord, am with thee,  
be thou not afraid;  
I will help and strengthen  
be thou not dismayed.  
Yea, I will uphold thee  
With My own right hand;  
Thou art called and chosen  
In My sight to stand."

God is all sufficient  
for the coming year.



In 2009 our Provincial theme was Blessed to Bless. As we begin 2010, and continuing through to the Inter Synodal period, we shall continue to pursue the Blessing. God has a Blessing in store for each one of us and so we ought not to be like hopeless, helpless persons, we must always be in pursuit of the Blessings. The Writer of Lamentations tells us that God's mercies are new every morning. If this is so, then the people of God

must appropriate the Blessing. Its there to be claimed. We must awake and pursue it.

**"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness". (Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV)**

In pursuing the Blessing one does not and should not be involved in wielding and dealings. One needs to remember that all our help comes from the Lord and it is upon Him that we depend.

Jacob was such a person who pursued the Blessing for the wrong reason, however when he came to his senses his life was changed forever. His pursuit was so intense that he announced, "I will not let you go until you bless me" (Genesis 32:26). In this statement that Jacob made, can be found the Presence, Power and Proclamation of the Blessing. I challenge us all to say to God as Jacob did "I will not let you go until you bless me."

In 2010 let us pray for change and offer ourselves as instruments of transformation. We live in the faith that, in the coming of Jesus Christ, there is a new creation in which the hope of the angels' song comes to fruition-glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace goodwill towards men. Happy New Year and walk good with God.



## PEC MEETINGS

The PEC will meet for the first time in 2010 in the Antigua Conference during the period January 29 - 31. The annual Superintendents Conference will follow the PEC meeting and will be held on February 1 and 2, 2010. Please bear these meetings in your prayers. The other PEC meetings planned for 2010 are:

- ◆ Barbados - April 9 - 11
- ◆ The Virgin Islands - July 1 - 3
- ◆ Antigua - September - 24 - 26

## CONFIRMATION MANUALS

Confirmation Manuals are available from the Provincial Headquarters at EC\$20.00 each.

**Place your order now.**



Black Rock Moravian Church Tobago 1869

National  
Award  
for the  
Black Rock  
Congregation  
in Tobago

The National

Trust of Trinidad and Tobago hosted its 2nd Biennial National Heritage Preservation Awards on Monday 28th December at 7:00pm at the Port of Spain Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

This event is held to give recognition to those who have sought to preserve the natural and built heritage of Trinidad and Tobago. Nominations were invited for awards which were presented in four categories: Best Historic Restoration Project (large and small); Best Kept Historic Building (large and small); Best Kept Natural Heritage Site and Best Community Heritage Project.

The Black Rock Moravian Church was not only nominated for an award in the category of Best Kept Natural Heritage Site, but it was the eventual winner of the Best Kept Natural Heritage Site.

The PEC and indeed the entire Eastern West Indies Province congratulate and celebrate the joy of the Congregation and the Tobago Conference. This should help to inspire other Congregations to keep their buildings in a good state of repair.



### PROVINCIAL YOUTH CAMP 2010

The Antigua Conference will host the 2010 Provincial Youth Camp from August 4 -14. We look forward to seeing as many young people as possible converging in Antigua for this camp.



### NICARAGUA SYNOD 2010

The Chairman of PEC has been invited to attend the Synod of the Moravian Church in Nicaragua, which will be held in Bluefields on the Caribbean Coasts from January 23 - 29th, 2010. While at the Synod, the Chairman will lead the Bible study sessions.



### QUEEN'S HONOUR

The EWI Province congratulates Bro. Cordel Josiah, a member of the Spring Gardens Moravian Church in Antigua, who was honoured by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, during her New Year's Day Message. Bro. Josiah was one of Two (2) Antiguan's honoured by the Queen. He is now a

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. (MBE). Bro. Josiah was honoured by the Queen for Public Service. He has distinguished himself in the Airline Industry, having served as an Executive at both LIAT and BWIA. He is credited with successfully negotiating the bilateral agreement for BWIA to operate the Antigua/London route. He is also credited with the establishment of the National Mortgage and Trust Company. He is currently the Chairman of both the Board of Management and Board of Trustees at the TOR Memorial School. In addition, Brother Josiah is President of both the National Choir and the Rotary Club of Antigua. We wish him God's blessings as he continues to do service in His name.



### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Guyana Women's Council will be hosting their second International Women's Conference on July 21-25, 2010. The Theme of this Conference is "*Celebrating Christian Womanhood*".

Women from the Eastern West Indies Province have been invited to attend and participate in the Conference. The registration cost for the Conference is US\$325.00. Participants will be accommodated at the St. Paul's Retreat Centre in Mentrose, East Coast Demerara, Guyana. The Conference Application form can be received from either the Superintendent or the Minister(s) of Christian Education in each Conference. The deadline for registration is February 26, 2010. More details can be had by emailing the Women's Conference address: [gymoravianwomen@yahoo.com](mailto:gymoravianwomen@yahoo.com)



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

Bro. Levi Bradshaw	03
Sis. Margaret John	04
Bro. Glenvil Gregory	08
Sis. Sonia Spencer	11
Sis. Andrea Smith	29



The PEC congratulates **Sis. Maureen Lewis**, wife of Bishop Lewis who recently graduated from the University of the West Indies with a

**“Masters in Education” (Health Promotion).**



**“The Thing That Thou Doest Is Not Good”**

(Exodus 18: 17)

There is a saying that **many hands make burden light**. The essence of this statement is that more can be achieved as a collective than individually. There are numerous benefits of teamwork. Jethro, Moses’ father in law in Exodus 18, recognized this fact very early and counseled Moses as to the importance of team work. Jethro was mindful of something called “Burnout” and so he advised Moses to share the work with other committed men/women of God. Moses I imagine was reluctant at first, but he saw the wisdom in the counsel and did as his father in law advised. I believe that every child of God must exercise wisdom and realize that team work can benefit the Kingdom and in the process each person will be strengthened to lead more effectively. Let this passage from Exodus guide our discussion:

**“<sup>13</sup>And it came to pass on the morrow that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening.**

**<sup>14</sup>And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, what is this thing that thou doest to the people? Why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?**

**<sup>15</sup>And Moses said unto his father in law, because the people come unto me to enquire of God:**

**<sup>16</sup>When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.**

**<sup>17</sup>And Moses' father in law said unto him, the thing that thou doest is not good.**

**<sup>18</sup>Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.**

**<sup>19</sup>Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:**

**<sup>20</sup>And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt show them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.**

**<sup>21</sup>Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:**

**<sup>22</sup>And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.**

**<sup>23</sup>If thou shalt do this thing and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.**

**<sup>24</sup>So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.**

**<sup>25</sup>And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.**

*Continue on Page 5*

*Continued from Page 5*

**<sup>26</sup>And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves". (Exodus 18: 13-26).**

**Author Duncan Broodie gives us Six Key Benefits to Team Work**

### 1. Creativity

We all have different skills, knowledge and personal attributes. By utilizing all of these different aspects in a team, more ideas can be generated. As more ideas are generated, more creative solutions are generated, leading to better results.

### 2. Satisfaction

Lack of job satisfaction is often one of the key things highlighted in surveys of employees. Individuals working together as a team to achieve a common goal are continually developing. As they interact more energy and enthusiasm is created. When this energy is utilized, it produces results which positively impacts on motivation and leads to even more success.

### 3. Skills

Even the best qualified individual cannot have all of the skills to do everything. Some people excel at coming up with the ideas. Others love the detail while there are those that focus on the big picture. There are others who can be counted on when it comes to implementing and follow through of a plan. The key point is that when a team works together, it has a huge range of skills available that it can utilize to deliver extraordinary results.

### 4. Speed

Imagine that you have a project that needs research, pulling together a proposition, financing it, implementing it and delivering specific benefits. If one person was allocated this task, it could take months and maybe years to make it happen. By splitting up the project, work can move forward in parallel and the ultimate goal achieved faster.

### 5. Sounding board

We all have a range of options open to us. If we are trying to figure out what is best, we might never move forward. In a team situation, other team members can act as a sounding board, allowing us to cut through the options and get on with those most likely to achieve the desired goal.

### 6. Support

It is amazing the amount of camaraderie that is created in teams, especially when the going gets tough. People will often go to what seems like extreme lengths when they know that they can rely on the support and encouragement of the team. Never underestimate the significance of this in achieving results.

Teams that work well make a huge impact and benefit from the rewards that go with this impact. So in 2010 let us not be afraid to team up or delegate responsibility to others as we endeavour to work as a team. Acknowledge your weaknesses. Acknowledge your strengths. Be secure in yourself and invite others to work with you for the building up of God's Kingdom.

## Church Jokes

### THE CREATION OF WIVES

*At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?"*

*Little Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."*

### FUNERAL INSTRUCTIONS

*An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."*