

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]



Whose Mission Anyway?

Most forested areas have at one time or another been destroyed by fire, but eventually they grow back stronger and more beautiful than ever. It is a cycle that must be understood. All it takes to start a fire is a little fuel, the right atmospheric conditions, and a source of ignition, perhaps as small as a tiny spark. If circumstances are right, a single blade of grass once ignited can build into an inferno that burns and ravages countless acres of land.

In effect, the fire's devastation produces healing by burning away the undergrowth that prevents fresh, new vegetation. The ash becomes a natural fertilizer.

The Staff of The Eastern West Indies Province of the Moravian Church (EWIP) has just come out of its 2010 Staff Retreat. The Retreat was held at the Playa Del Este, Private Sanctuary Resort in Salybia, Trinidad. The Retreat which ran from July 08-13 was held under the theme, Pursued, now Pursuing and was ably led by Canon Claude Berkley of the Anglican Church in Trinidad and Tobago.



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis - Chairman of PEC

Canon Berkley led us in a most incisive, decisive and informative way. Canon Berkley challenged us that as we pursue the things of God, we ought to be accountable. We ought to be accountable first of all to God, then to those who lead us and finally to those whom we lead.

The Bible says in Luke 14:28-32 (NIV):

²⁸"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? ²⁹For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, ³⁰saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

³¹"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace."

When as leaders we are not held accountable for our decisions it becomes easy for us to lead by opinion and emotion, knowing we will not be questioned or challenged for our actions. In such cases it is not uncommon for us to begin initiatives we really can't afford, and then expect our members to finance us out of our dilemma. This is a practice that has long been perfected by some persons, where accountability is easily camouflaged by complexity and deficits.

It is essential that everyone understand the purpose and reason for an organization's very existence. There are advantages to being a part of a collective whole, and one advantage is that it makes it easier to do more through the collaborative efforts of many. The key for leaders in general and more-so in the Church is to remember that there must be a balance, and never should the members be taken for granted or advantage of.

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:

Moravian Church - EWI Province
Moravian Provincial Headquarters
Cashew Hill, P.O. Box 504
St. John's, Antigua

Tel: (268)560-0185

Fax(268)462-0643

EMAIL ADDRESSES

moravianchewip@candw.ag

moravianchewip@gmail.com

WEB ADDRESS

<http://www.moravians.net>

Continue on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

The fundamental truth is that any organizational structure is merely a tool to be used to accomplish a worthy purpose, mission, or vision. It must never become a holy thing lest organizational idolatry occur. If an organizational structure is working efficiently and attaining its goals then keep it and improve it. If it is not reaching the vision or goals then change it, improve, or scrap it if necessary.

In his profound book titled *Upside Down*, author Stacy T. Rinehart writes, “

“As we look back over church history we see that in the beginning of any true spiritual movement, the Holy Spirit is released as men and women exercise faith and courage. God honors the simple, stumbling efforts of His children as they step out in faith. As people move into uncharted territory toward a vision He’s given them, God meets them there.

Yet, when their efforts meet with a measure of success and renewal breaks out, an insidious, counteractive process begins. The underbrush of institutionalism begins to take root. The human tendency is to build an organization around this living, dynamic thing called ministry. Then the surrounding structure becomes a heavy, cumbersome weight that cuts off the spiritual light and nutrients necessary for growth. In this process of institutionalization, people come to rely on human figures at the helm. God’s Spirit is quenched; freedom and innovation decline.

As leaders grow more entrenched, they invest more power and authority in their position. The priesthood of the elite increases and the priesthood of believers decline. An invisible caste system develops, making a subtle distinction between laity and clergy. Laity learns to step back out of the picture, find a comfortable place to sit, and watch the “professionals” at work.

As any ministry takes on an organizational focus, something to protect arises. Assets, property, history, and tradition must be preserved. Eventually the light and life that produced them lie dormant, and it seems that tradition and structure are all that remain. Thus, as institutionalism takes over, reformers of almost any kind meet with resistance and suspicion. They appear to be challenging the unchallengeable.

Suppose we see our role as servant charged with the responsibility and privilege of helping others come into the fruitful expression of God’s vision for their part in the kingdom. Then we may avoid the temptation to build our own kingdoms to which we recruit others with their time and talents.

Of course, if we continue to focus people’s eyes on

Christ, we will not be the “Maypole” around which everything revolves, and that may be painful. Yet, in this way, the ministry itself will not calcify into an organizational structure that requires loyalty and protection as it moves further from the Holy Spirit’s leading.”

The opportunity for making the needed improvements to secure a bold and dynamic future have never been greater than today. However, this calls for bold, compassionate, goal oriented and decisive leadership. Once leadership is seen in this way, then the impact upon the harvest of tomorrow can be immeasurable.

All it takes to start a fire is a little fuel, the right atmospheric conditions, and a source of ignition, perhaps as small as a tiny spark. The song writer was right when he penned:

It only takes a spark, to get a fire going.
And soon all those around, can warm up it it's glowing.

Chorus:

***That's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it,
it's fresh like spring, you want to sing,
you want to pass it on.***

What a wondrous time is Spring
When all the trees are budding.
The birds begin to sing,
the flowers start their blooming.

I wish for you my friend
this happiness that I've found
You can depend on him
It matters not where you're bound.

Last chorus:

***I'll shout it from the mountain tops
I want the world to know
The Lord of Life has come to me
I want to pass it on.***

As ministers we must be accountable to God and the members in the pews who faithfully give to support His work. We must be wise stewards. Let’s keep the main thing the main thing.

Tough Times never last,
Tough People Do.

By Rev. Dr. Robert Schuller

A Reflection of Provincial Staff Retreat 2010

by

Pastor Liselle Roberts - Trinidad Conference

Not knowing what to expect, I journeyed to the Playa De Este Nature Resort in Salybia for Staff Retreat 2010



with the intention to get some Rest, Renewal and Revitalization. For me, the retreat did just that! The atmosphere and surrounding told the story of God's awesome

and perfect creation, the sessions which were ably led by Cannon Berkley were provocative and left room for much reflection and introspection.

It's always good to hear the melodic singing when Moravians gather, and it was 'truly wonderful' to hear the voices of men and women of God giving praises during the worship sessions – it was a true and real encounter with God. Not to be out done, the hospitality of the

staff at Playa De Este was beyond commendable, and surely the food was awesome! It was indeed an honour and privilege for the members and staff of the Trinidad Conference to host Staff Retreat 2010.



Installation Service of the New President at U.T.C.W.I.

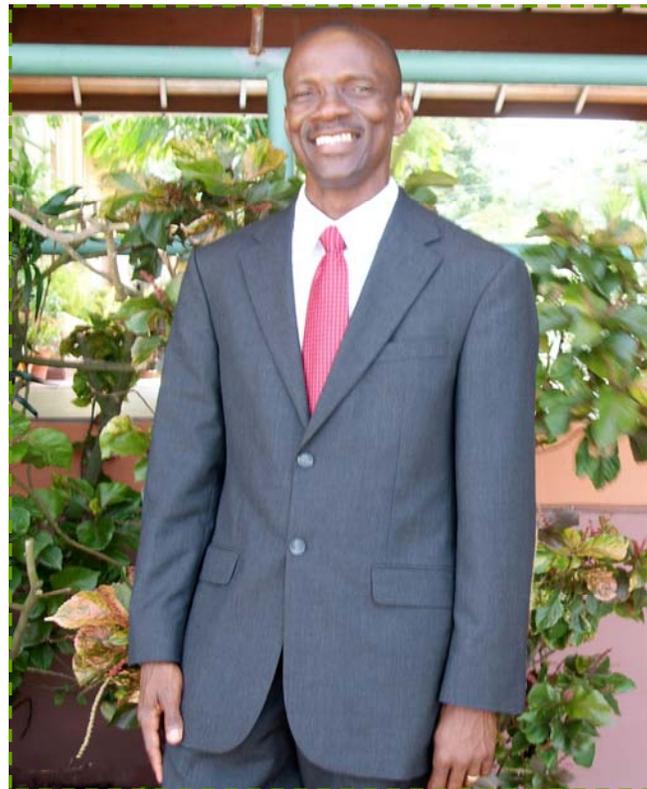
The Installation service of the new President of the United Theological College of the West Indies (U.T.C.W.I), the Rev'd Dr. Marjorie Angela Lewis will take place on Monday September 6, 2010 at 6.00p.m. in the Chapel of the University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica W.I.

Dr. Lewis was elected to this position in October, 2009. The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province wishes Dr. Lewis every success as she takes up leadership at U.T.C.W.I.

A Reflection of Provincial Staff Retreat 2010

by

Rev. Errol Connor - Virgin Islands Conference



Staff Retreat 2010 was a good one. The presenters were thoughtful, deliberative and engaging. I was challenged to think theologically, reflect pastorally and grow spiritually and personally. The presenters used the scriptures, illustrative metaphors, real life stories and scholarly statements in ways that were provocative, relevant and real. Moreover, what was equally prized was the fact that daily sessions were cradled in ample times of rest, relaxation, recreation cum space for personal reflection. The balance was just about right and the result was excellent. The retreat venue with a delightful blend of landscape and seascape was appropriately suited for the objectives both in space and taste. Meals were good but some would have liked to receive greater portions. Notwithstanding, the banquet night was a delightful moment of formal dress and togetherness. It must very well be said that for the most part and in many respects the retreat was time and money well spent. Thumbs up and hats off to the PEC and to the Trinidad Conference.

Our Theological Students

There are presently six (6) students preparing themselves for the Ministry of our church in the Eastern West Indies Province.



Yvanne, Althea & Moise

Moise and Yvanne Jean are two of the new Students of the Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province. The two flew out on August 26, 2010 to begin their Theological training at the United Theological College of the West Indies in Jamaica. Moise will prepare for the full time pastoral Ministry, while Yvanne will prepare herself for the Christian Education Ministry. They travelled with their daughter Althea.

Other persons in the Photograph are members of the St. Kitts Conference who bade them farewell at the Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport in St. Kitts. When they made the intransit stop in Antigua, they were seen off by the Chairman of PEC, the Superintendent of the Antigua Conference, Lay Pastor, Edgar Barriero, and Onita Samuel.

Catherine Governor is the first candidate to offer herself for the Ministry from the Black Rock congregation in Tobago. She has always been very involved in the life of the Church. Catherine will pursue the Ministry of Christian Education. May God open to you the doors of righteousness, Catherine.



Onita Samuel, our third year student Pastor has been chosen by UTCWI to be the Exchange Student for the September –December Semester, 2010. Onita will spend the Semester at the Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. Our best regards as you go Onita. God Bless.



Erwin Warner is following in the footsteps of Hilton Joseph the first Pastor from the Five Islands Congregation in Antigua. Erwin is the second candidate to pursue fulltime Pastoral Ministry from this congregation. May God order your steps in his word, Erwin.

Martin Taylor will continue his preparation for full-time Ministry at Codrington College in Barbados. At the end of this academic year, Martin will proceed to U.T.C.W.I in Jamaica for one (1) year to complete his Ministerial formation. Martin is pursuing fulltime Pastoral Ministry in our Church. Walk good, Martin. God Bless.



PEC MEETING

Your Prayers are requested for the PEC as it convenes its final meeting for 2010 from October 21- 24 in Tobago. During this time the PEC expects to meet with the Executive Board and the Joint Boards of the entire Tobago Conference. In addition, other meetings might be scheduled.

UNITY BOARD MEETING

Unity Board Meeting will take place in Calgary, Alberta, Canada from October 1-8, 2010. The head of each Province is expected to attend and present an up to date report on that province.

**Passage of Hurricane Earl
As a Category 1 Storm
Antigua/Barbuda
August 30, 2010**



Fallen Trees



Road eaten by water way



Flooding at different points



Fallen cable lines



Hurricane Earl passed on the North Eastern side of Antigua and Barbuda between the 29th and 30th August, 2010. It dumped 7” of rain on the Island in 16 hours and caused wide spread flooding in the low lying areas. There were many downed power lines, poles, trees, and in several areas there were landslides. Farmers were hardest hit, for many farms were submerged under 3’- 4 feet of water.

On September 01, tropical Storm Fiona is expected to follow the same path as Earl, so residents are bracing for more thunder storms, lightning and an abundance of rainfall.



to

Sis. Cherice Job Lewis who celebrated her birthday on July 10, 2010.



Happy Belated Anniversary Greetings to

Sis. Cherice and Bro. Fabian Lewis who celebrated their Wedding Anniversary on August 11, 2010.



Birthday Greetings for the month of September

is extended to:

Sis. Cynthia St. Hill	03
Bro. Samuel Jacobs	07
Bro. Walton Frederick	07
Sis. Myrtle Isaac	08
Bro. Keith Horsford	10
Bro. Devon Mannix	23
Sis. Lillette I. George	25
Sis. Lynda Prout	29



Anniversary Greetings for the month of September

is extended to:

Bro. Ezra & Sis. Julie Parris	05
Bro. Romeo & Sis. Deborah Challenger	08
Bro. Conrad & Sis. Sonia Spencer	24
Bro. Frank & Sis. Gloria Barker	27
Bro. Keith & Sis Cicely Horsford	30



CONDOLENCES

The PEC is saddened at the passing of Sister Alma Chambers Conference Organists in the Tobago Conference and a member of the Provincial Music Committee and her husband,

Brother Rudolph Chambers.

Sister Chambers passed into the nearer presence of God on August 03, 2010, while her husband Rudolph passed on August 02, 2010. Upon the request of the Children both parents were buried together at the Husband's Church, the St. Andrews Anglican in Scarborough, Tobago on Thursday August 12, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Let us lift up the family, the Moriah congregation and the Tobago Conference in prayer as they mourn their passing.



The Antigua Conference extends sincerest condolences to the family of Sis. Jean Genevieve Edwards also known as Teacher Ivy, who passed into the nearer presence of God on August 12th, 2010. Sis. Edwards represented the Antigua Conference at the 29th Provincial Synod of the Eastern West Indies Province which was held in St. Kitts during the period July 10 – 18, 2009. A Service of Celebration for the life of Sis. Edwards was held at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church on Tuesday August 24th, 2010.

Let us remember the family and the Antigua Conference in prayer.



Fun Corner



Something Missing – Missing Something?

Going over our church finances I found a receipt from a local paint store signed by someone named Christian. I wasn't aware of anyone buying paint, so I called the store to point out its mistake.

'I'm sorry,' I told the manager, 'but there are no Christians here at St Mary's Church.'