

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF PEC —EWI PROVINCE

January, 2011

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]



DON'T QUIT!!



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis

Chairman of the Provincial Elders Conference

The Eastern West Indies Province at the beginning of 2010 embarked on the theme, **"Pursuing the Blessing"** (Presence, Power and Proclamation). The theme will run for the three (3) year period 2010—2012. We have now run 1/3 of the way. As we started the race, the economic situation threatened to derail our desire to pursue the blessing. Many persons and congregations were bruised and battered. Many got frustrated and tired. Many cried out that things are getting worse and worse and we need to do something about our financial situation. There were times during

the year when I wondered if as a Province, we were going to be able to meet our financial commitments. But God never cease to amaze me, for on every occasion when the bottom seems to be falling out, God revealed a blessing. He provided our needs just on time. He never failed us.

The year 2011 is upon us. What does the future hold for us as individuals and as a Church? I believe that the year is filled with possibilities and opportunities, but we have to exercise our faith in the God who promises to be with us. The same God who has been with us in the past will see us through 2011, as we pursue the blessings that God has in store for us. I challenge us therefore, "Don't Quit."

The Psalmists in Psalm 124vs 1– 8[NIV] gives us a reminder,¹ **"If the LORD had not been on our side— let Israel say—² if the LORD had not been on our side when people attacked us,³ they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us;⁴ the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us,⁵ the raging waters would have swept us away.⁶ Praise be to the LORD, who has not let us be torn by their teeth.⁷ We have escaped like a bird from the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth."**

Charles Dickens once said, "Reflect upon your present blessings of which every man has many—not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some."

Our attitude sometimes crashes when the storms around us begin to take their toll. You see, life is full of problems and so we might as well be prepared for them. There is no such place as a trouble free area and no such person as one who knows no problems. Christians are not exempt from problems.

Perhaps it is the number of difficulties more than the size of any trouble that wears us down. People in every generation resist nothing more than change. Many times we enjoy the rewards of change but endue its process. We all have habits that we do not want to let go of. We form habits, then habits form us. It is easy to see the world only from our

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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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perspective. However, when that occurs, we stagnate and become narrow.

I believe that change is essential for growth to take place. An anonymous poet once said, “The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress.”

For Christians, change should bring us closer to God. I believe that God has ordained change. God has ordained that there be a succession of generations: first a man is a son, then a father, then a grandfather and possibly a great grandfather and the like. Each new generation is God’s way of telling us that He still has a purpose for us to fulfill. In fact, each generation has three specific functions to perform. We conserve or preserve, criticize and create.

Each generation is a reservoir in which the previous generation deposits its values. The new generation examines those values, rejects what is no longer needed and uses what is left to create new treasures. This whole process of conserving, criticizing and creating adds up to the very thing we fear, and that is change.

The fact is each generation must be evangelize on its own terms. It would be unwise for a Doctor to administer the same medicine to every patient, without diagnosing each problem. The word of God acknowledges this and so the writer of Hebrews 1: 1-2 [NIV] declares: ¹ “**In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,** ² **but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.**”

One of the saddest stories in the Bible is about Israel’s failure to enter the promised land as found in Numbers 13 and 14. It is a clear example of how negativity can limit God and us.

All 12 spies were sent into Canaan to spy out the land. They were all sent at the same time, with the same order and they came back with different advice. For Joshua and Caleb, the promised land was everything that God said it would be. They reported, “It certainly does flow with milk and honey and this is its fruit” (Numbers 13:27)

The other ten men offered a negative report. In Numbers 13: 31-33,[NIV]they reported facts without faith. **“We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.”** ³² **And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.** ³³ **We saw the**

Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

The result of the two different reports was, the people lost focus and aborted their pursuit of the blessing God had in store for them. Numbers 14: 1-4 [NIV] **“ That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. ² All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! ³ Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” ⁴ And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”**

History abounds with tales of experts who said positively that things could not be done and were proven wrong.

During the early 1900’s an army of scientist dispelled the idea that it was possible to fly airplanes. They declared, “Time and money is being wasted on aircraft experimentation.” The Wright brothers were determined and proved them wrong, when they flew the first airplane in 1904.

It is said that Thomas Eddison once said that talking pictures would never catch on. “Nobody” he said, “would pay to listen to sounds coming from a screen.” The rest is history, films, DVD’s and videos abound everywhere.

Henry Ford was persuaded to abandon his work on the idea of building a motor car. Ford persisted and the story speaks for itself. The Ford motor Car is one of the most resilient vehicles.

Benjamin Franklin was told by experts to stop all that foolishness of light bulbs. Had he aborted his quest and pursuit, we might have been robbed of the light bulbs.

The Philosopher Confucius once said, “If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people.”

2011 beckons us with endless possibilities and opportunities. Do not allow the dark clouds to be an impediment to you, to pursue the blessing God has in store for you.

Do not allow negative individuals to cause you to miss out on what God has already declared is yours. Keep your eyes on the goal and Don’t Quit. Pursue the blessing with passion.

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The Psalmists declares.... Weeping may endure for the night, but Joy comes in the morning” (Psalm 30: 5)

Frances Havergal assures us for 2011 when she penned the Hymn, “Standing at the Portal.”

He will never fail us, He will not forsake,
His eternal covenant, He will never break;
Resting on His promise, what have we to fear?
God is all sufficient, For the coming year!

Onward then and fear not,
Children of the day;
For His word shall never,
Never pass away.

Zero into the opportunities God has placed before you.
You are not alone. DON'T QUIT!

Have a happy, Spirit-filled and fruitful New Year.

The Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province is part owner of the United Theological College of the West Indies. The other denominations which have part ownership are: The Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, the Anglican Church in Jamaica, the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, the Jamaica Baptist Union, the Lutheran Church. UTCWI acts as the Faculty of Theology at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica. This is the Institution where more than 95% of our Ministerial Staff are trained. In this issue of the Information Newsletter, the message that follows comes from the President of UTCWI, the Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis.

Students at UTCWI are often heard repeating the phrase, ‘stages and stages, and still more stages!’

This phrase is an ‘insider’ phrase referring to the progression of their spiritual, emotional and academic maturity as they journey through a three or four year programme of ministerial formation.

It reminds me of the stages of this season: from Advent to Christmas to Epiphany. These are significant stages in the narrative of God’s redemptive act in Jesus. First, there is a period of preparation involving repentance, faith, hope and waiting. Next a stage of joy with the birth of the Christ child and the sounds of the angels singing ‘Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all on whom God’s favour rests.’ Thirdly the stage of Epiphany, when the Magi meet Jesus, encounter a new life, a new truth and the way they had travelled before is forever changed.

My prayer for us all is that we will be attentive to the experience of each stage of our Christian journey, of our life. That we will pay attention at the moments of waiting and anticipation, moments of birth, the time of coming of age, the commitment to discipleship and vocation, and the handing over, leaving a legacy for generations following.

We share with you in pictures some of the stages through which UTCWI progressed for the past semester as we make our preparations for the coming semester.

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis

United Theological College of the West Indies,
December 2010

Condolence

We express Sympathy to the Rev. Romeo Challenger and family on the recent passing of his brother Casper Challenger in Lestershire, England. He passed into the nearer presence of God on and was buried in England on December 29, 2010.

Let us remember Rev. Challenger and family in our prayers

Meeting of the Moravian Provincial Hymnal Committee

Your prayers are requested for the members of the Provincial Hymnal Committee as they meet in Antigua for the process which will lead to the production of a new hymnal. The Committee meets from January 9-14, 2011 at the Provincial Headquarters.

PEC MEETING

Your prayers are requested for:

- i. The PEC as it convenes its first meeting for 2011 in the Antigua Conference January 28 – 29.
- ii. The Superintendents as they meet in Antigua January 30 - 31, 2011.

Unity Offering 2011

Sunday March 06, 2011 is Unity Sunday . On March 01, 1457, the Moravian Church was founded. We ask for your continued prayers for the work and witness of our Church worldwide. A special offering will be taken in all Moravian Churches on this Sunday to go towards the erection of a secondary school in Urambo, District , Lake Tanganyika Mission Province, Tanzania.

Total cost of the Project : \$50, 000

PROJECT PHASE:

The Problem

DATE	PHASE	ACTIVITY
2011 - 2012	ONE	Two class room & Office
2012 - 2013	TWO	One class room & Lab
1113 - 2014	THREE	One Class room

Over the years the education sector in Tanzania has witness poor quality of learning among the pupils/students and poor accessibility to schools. This

poor learning is mainly associated with poverty, bad or absent facilities, under-prepared teachers, lack of learning resources, serious lack of purpose and discipline in many schools. The population has multiplied almost five times in forty years (1962) and it is almost impossible for the government to keep up with the provision of schools equipment.

The lack of access to education opportunities places a major constraint of people’s life chances as well as their capacity to participate in social, economic and environmental processes affecting them.

More detailed information on this project can be found at www.unitasfratrum.org.

Furlough

The following Pastors will proceed on Furlough as follows:

- ◇ Rev. Anique Elmes-Matthew– March 15 - July 15, 2011.
- ◇ Rev. Elroy Christopher—March 15 to July 15, 2011.

Unity Prayer Watch

The Annual Unity Prayer Watch for the Eastern West Indies Province will take place from April 1 - 14, 2011. Conferences will be allotted time to engage in the unbroken prayer chain in our next issue of the Information Newsletter.

Provincial Men’s Conference

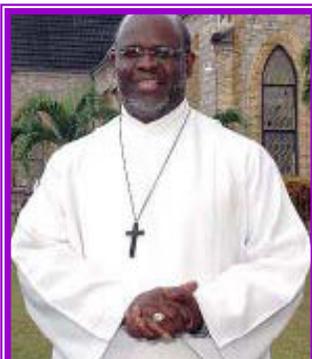
The Provincial Men’s Conference will be hosted by the Barbados Conference from July 4 - 8, 2011, under the theme “**Redeemed, Delivered, Covered.**”

NOTICE

THE 2011 MORAVIAN CHURCH
EASTERN WEST INDIES PROVINCE
CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE
AND READY FOR DISTRIBUTION



The Eastern West Indies Province offers congratulation to Canon Claude Berkley, Rector of the All Saints Anglican Church in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Canon Berkley was elected Co-adjutor Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago at their Synod held on October 31, 2010. His Consecration is tentatively set to take place sometime in January 2011.



Canon Claude Berkley
 Anglican coadjutor bishop of
 Trinidad & Tobago

Canon Berkley will replace Bishop the Right Rev. Calvin Bess, who will demit office on the attainment of his 72nd Birthday on December 18, 2011. Canon Berkley is the person who led the Staff Retreat for the Eastern West Indies Province in July 2010. We pray for Canon Berkley that he will lead the flock in Trinidad and Tobago, with wisdom and in the fear of God. We pray that he will continue to be an inspiration to not only the Anglicans in Trinidad and Tobago, but to people everywhere. God bless you more than you can ever imagine, Canon.

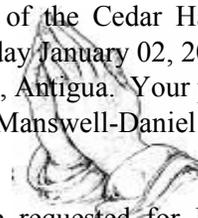


New Year's Prayer

Lord, our Lord, how incredible and magnificent is your name in all the earth. Your voice spoke the word of light and the light was given. Your heart shouted hope and love and creation was born. Your tears cried torrents for your errant people, and your prophets boldly stepped forward to proclaim your presence. Your Love streamed down and Jesus the Christ came to us, to heal, teach, guide, and bring us to you. Your Power hovered over us, like a mighty flame, inspiring us to be your witnesses. How magnificent and wonderful you are, O Lord. Now the old is passing away and a new heaven and earth are being born. Lord, we want to be ready to serve you in your new heaven and new earth. We need to let go of the disappointments and fears, and open our hearts to receive your love and blessings. This is a time of new beginnings. The Past we cannot change. We can reflect on all that has happened and move on into new relationship with you. Let the light of your love shine on us, that we may feel and know your powerful presence with us. Let the light of your love shine in us, that we may be encouraged to use our gifts and talents to serve others. Let the light of your love shine through us, that others may come to know you. AMEN.

Prayer Requests

The Rev. Belinda Manswell-Daniel will be installed as Associate Pastor of the Cedar Hall and Cashew Hill Pastorate on Sunday January 02, 2011 at the Cedar Hall Moravian Church, Antigua. Your prayers are requested for Rev. Belinda Manswell-Daniel and her family.



Your prayers are requested for Lynellen Prince, the daughter of Retired Pastor Ralph Prince, who is in the Intensive Care Unit at the Roy. L. Schneider Regional Hospital, St. Thomas.



Birthday Greetings for the Month of January is extended to:

Bro. Levi Bradshaw	3
Sis. Margaret John	4
Sis. Jovanca Lewis-Smith	5
Bro. Glenvil Gregory	8
Sis. Sonia Spencer	11
Sis. Beverly Job	24
Bro. Ray Joseph	27
Sis. Andrea Smith	29



Fun Corner

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. The next week the man realized that he would need his wife to wake him at 5.00 am for an early morning business flight to Chicago. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence, he finally wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5.00 a.m."

The next morning the man woke up, only to discover it was 9.00am, and that he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't woken him when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed ... it said... "It is 5.00am; wake up."