

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF PEC - EWI PROVINCE

January, 2012

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]



Give it up!

As we enter into the New Year 2012, I wish for you a most Blessed, Spirit-filled and Happy New Year. At every step of the way, we should seek God's guidance and direction.

A few days ago, I read a riveting article in the Oprah Magazine for January 2012, by Ellen Gibson, a former Piano student. Gibson says that a new Resolution to add to your list for 2012 is, "Quit something". Ellen Gibson declared that a few years ago, she decided to take up Piano, when past experience should have warned her against it. When she was in Elementary School and playing the Violin for four years, she left barely able to play scales, but this time she thought it might be fun to stretch herself a bit. She was terrified of playing because she knew that it was not what she wanted to do. She was merely keeping up appearances to make her family feel good. Gibson had to take part in her first adult-student



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis
Chairman
Provincial Elders Conference

recital and that floored her that she faked sickness and lied to get out of it. Gibson said, "I backed out using a not-very-adult method-a last minute text message to my Teacher faking the flu. I knew I should pull the plug. But I kept thinking, quit? After all this?"

Ellen Gibson says "in retrospect, it seems silly to have continued devoting time to a losing proposition just because I was knee deep. But it turns out that my response was perfectly human". Psychologists call the phenomenon, "escalation of commitment to a failing course of action", and it can have a profound influence on decisions big and small. Whether it's a boring book, a rocky marriage, a friendship, an organization, or a Job that's going nowhere, we sometimes stick with a doomed endeavour longer than we should in order to justify our original decision and the time, money, effort or energy we have already put in.

What's pernicious or destructive about this mental trap is that it can lead us to a place which we don't want to. It can lead to unhappiness and a loss of zeal. In 1976, Dr. Barry M. Staw found this to be true in a landmark study involving business students from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The subjects were put in charge of a made up company and asks to allocate funds between divisions. During the experiment, some were told they had invested in a division that subsequently performed poorly, while others believed another manager had funded that group.

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:

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>

Continued from Page 1

The subjects who felt personally responsible then earmarked almost 40% more, on average, for the lagging division. They should have known when to quit, instead, they continued to stroke a dead dog.

Ellen Gibson concluded her story by sharing what happened when she made a visit to see her parents during a break from School. Everyone knew that she had taken up Piano lessons but she was too embarrassed to practice with her family in listening range. Gibson says, "I waited until everyone was asleep, then sneaked downstairs to the living room. I slugged my way through the lesson book to Scott Joplins **THE ENTERTAINER**, but now my fingers couldn't work up to the swinging ragtime pace. The song sounded labored and joyless, like a dying ice cream truck. It was 2 in the morning, normal people were sleeping, and I was beating myself up over a hobby. This is absurd, I thought. I quit." This is a great lesson for us to take note of. Of course, we can't resort to quitting every time the going gets tough, or we would get no where.

Psychologist Scott Plous, in his book, **The Psychology of Judgment and Decision making**, says, "The challenge is, knowing the difference between an investment trap and a run of the mill rough patch". When you are unsure, Plous recommends taking three steps:

1. Lists Arguments for and against continuing. He says, if your primary reasons for preserving have to do with the past, for instance, you find yourself thinking, "But we've been friends for so long or I've worked here so many years, it may be time to change course.
2. Solicit opinions from others, especially from those who weren't around for your initial decision. People who aren't involved often have a different and useful perspective. In other words, solicit opinions from persons who are objective and accept the responses gracefully. Just don't look for yes men and yes women.
3. If you decide to go forward, schedule check-ins. Tell everyone that you are going to give this project your all for six (6) months and then reevaluate. Scott Plous calls this a built in exit strategy. At this point, ask yourself, if I could start over, knowing what I know now, would I make the same choice?

As the people of God, I challenge us as we enter into the New Year; let us serve God in sincerity. Let us not go

forward in a half hearted or Luke warm manner. The writer of Revelation, in writing to the Church of Laodicea says:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. ¹⁵ **I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!** ¹⁶ **So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. (Revelation 3:14-16).**

Even if you are a Pastor, do not be afraid or ashamed to admit that you have lost the zeal for Ministry. Do not be ashamed or afraid to say, I believe that I made the wrong decision. Do not be afraid or ashamed to say, I Quit. I prefer to see that we have a few Pastors who are on fire for God, than to have plenty of Pastors who have no zeal for the Lord and are just taking up space maybe because they cannot find any other job. If however, you decide to go forward, do so with the zeal and fire like Jeremiah after his complaint to God:

"You deceived^[a] me, LORD, and I was deceived^[b]; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me. ⁸ Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction. So the word of the LORD has brought me insult and reproach all day long. ⁹ **But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot".** (Jeremiah 20:7-9).

Have a Blessed New Year and may we continue to go forward in the words of our Provincial Theme, PURSUING THE BLESSING. May God Bless you more than you can ever imagine.



Quote of the Day

**Knowing is not enough;
we must apply. Willing is
not enough; we must do.**

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

**Commissioning Service for
Sis. Hyacinth Taylor and Sis. Olga Baird-Joefield
held at the Buccoo Moravian Church in Tobago
December 11, 2011**

**Welcoming Remarks Rev. Esther Moore Roberts,
Superintendent, Moravian Church,
Tobago Conference**

Rev. Dr. Kingsley Lewis-Bishop of the Unity in the EWI Province

Rev. Dr. Cortroy W.M Jarvis-Chairman of the PEC EWI Province

Other PEC member in the person of Sis. Beverly Job.

Rev. Adelyn Binta Mgonela-Superintendent Trinidad Conference and an 18 year veteran in overseas mission to Tanzania.

Ministerial Staff present:

Rev. Devon Mannix

Rev. Georgette John

Rev. Nevin Lewis

Apologies for absence were received from Rev. Dr. Derrick Forrester and Rev. Cherice Job-Lewis. Brother

Fabian Lewis will speak for Pastor Cherice later on in the service.

Visiting clergy from other denominations: Capt. Shonella Russell (Salvation Army) and Rev. Duane Samm (Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Church)

Members of the Executive Board Assemblyman, the Honourable, Br. Whitney Alfred

Members of all congregations in the Conference; members of the Buccoo Community; Colleagues and family members of our missionaries; members of MYOF, youth, boys and girls, Advent greetings and hearty welcome is extended to all.

It was the late G. Oliver Maynard who noted in his History of the Moravian Church, EWI Province 1968 that "The Moravian received many invitations to begin work in several of the islands and exploratory visits were made, but the church eventually had to decline the invitations due to a shortage of money and man power."(p.163)

He cited the situation of Montserrat in 1790. A Moravian inherited lands there and turned it over to the church.



One Brother Watson secured the title and was enthusiastic about starting a mission there but there was a shortage of manpower. Another request was made in 1870 but it was not fulfilled because of manpower and money. Ninety-three years later the Provincial Synod was held in Tobago and the Synod instructed the PEC to investigate the possibility of setting up a mission there in Montserrat but by that time, they discovered the island was over-churched. The policy of the Moravians is never to plant itself in over-churched areas, so the attempt was abandoned.

Brothers and Sisters, I declare that this mission to Grenada will go on record as having money and man power. We have succeeded in breaking the curse. Since 2004 when the Hurricane Ivan struck Grenada after slighting Tobago, over 50 mission-minded youth, adults and ministers have made several trips to Grenada to carry food, a Word of hope, school books and a Word of hope. Then when we realized the people's hunger for the gospel, the emphasis was changed. We then took a Word of hope and books, a Word of hope and VBS; Word of hope and health clinics, Word of hope and reading clinic; special mention must be made of the St. Kitts Conference for being very supportive with manpower and money.

In the last year with the full support of PEC, Tobago missionaries have made a monthly visit to Grenada.

Today is momentous because God has made it possible for the PEC to have permanence in placing two (2) missionaries with man-power in Grenada. Godly women; Women with a love for all people; Women who know how to plant in a famine; women who when surrounded by the enemy have said, "Lord I do not know what to do but my eyes are open on you"; women who are FAT; that is Faithful, Available and Teachable.

Sisters in Christ, the Tobago Conference is proud to have nurtured you. We give honour to God for your service and I feel especially proud as I speak for the entire Tobago Conference when I say 'we have confidence in you that under God, you will do great exploits. We implore you, to be faithful so that your names will be written not just in the history of Moravian mission but in the Lamb's Book of Life. Welcome once again to this momentous occasion and may God bless us all.

Greetings from Rev. Adelyn Mgonela
Superintendent- Moravian Church
Trinidad Conference

I greet you all in the name of Jesus Good afternoon. On this the third Sunday in Advent as our sisters, Sis Hyacinth and Sis Olga embark on a new journey in



their lives as Missionaries I would like to use the Gospel reading for today as the focus of my greeting.

John 1:6-8 *“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John, He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The*

true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.”

I want to remind us this evening that God’s sending did not end with John.

God continues to send people forth into his service and This evening there is a woman sent from God whose name is Hyacinth and there is a woman sent from God whose name is Olga.

Note that John *came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.”*

People sent from God have a purpose. People sent from God have a mission. People sent from God have a duty and a job description. People sent from God are sent to **Be** first. And to **BEAR** second.

When you BEAR witness without BEING a witness, you can reach another person’s ears because you are talking with your mouth. When you are BEING a witness first and you BEAR a witness second, you can reach a person’s heart—because you are talking with your life.

You really cannot **BE** what you cannot **BEAR**. And you can’t **BEAR** what you can’t **BE**.

So go forth my sisters and let people see a sermon **IN** you before they can hear a sermon **FROM** you.

Go forth into Grenada and do not seek to make Grenada a little Tobago . Allow the Church of Grenada to reflect the culture of Grenada Allow the Church of Grenada to become the Moravian Church in Grenada. Go and **BE** a witness and go and **BEAR** witness

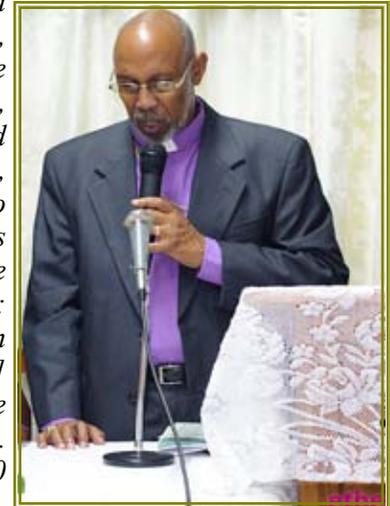
On behalf of the entire Moravian Community in Trinidad, I pray God’s protection, God’s anointing, God’s favour as you go forth into his service in another vineyard.



The Great Commission

Sermon preached at the Commissioning of Sister Hyacinth Taylor and Sis. Olga Baird-Joefeld on December 11, 2011 as missionaries to Tobago.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen”. Mt. 28 : 18 - 20



WHAT IS A MISSIONARY? – According to the dictionary a missionary is a member of a religion who works to convert those who do not share the missionary’s faith. The word “mission” is derived from the Latin “missionem” meaning “act of sending” or “mitto, mittere” literally meaning “to send” or to dispatch. The Greek equivalent is “Apostle” meaning messenger. Therefore a missionary is a messenger that has been sent to convert those not of the faith and bring many sons and daughters into glory.

That describes you because that is the significance of what we are doing here this evening.

WHY FOREIGN MISSIONS? – Because Jesus commanded it in Matthew 28:19 when He said “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...”, also He said that you would be a witness to the utter most parts of the earth Acts 1:8, so with that in mind why not foreign missions?

I want you to remember three letters which are not difficult to remember. They are **C I A**, but you are not going to be engaged in any undercover mission, however. Those letters stand for Commission, Instruction and Assurance.

I. Commission

This passage of scripture has become known as “The Great Commission”, but what do we mean by commission?

COMMISSION:

1: to furnish with a commission: as a: to confer a formal commission on b: to appoint or assign to a task or function.

2: to order to be made.

Your Commission is to go. Dictionary meanings of **GO:**

1: to move on a course: proceed

2: to move out of or away from a place expressed or implied, leave, depart.

Here Jesus is commissioning his disciples to undertake a worldwide mission, to become missionaries converting those not of the faith bringing many sons and daughter’s into glory.

Tonight you formally undertake to accept that commission.

II. Instruction

The instruction is three-fold. **TEACH:** Dictionary meanings:

1 a: to cause to know something

b: to cause to know how

c: to accustom to some action or attitude

d: to cause to know the disagreeable consequences of some action

2: to guide the studies of

3: to impart the knowledge of

4 a: to instruct by precept, example, or experience

b: to make known and accepted

5: to conduct instruction regularly in, to instruct differently, to indoctrinate, to disciple, to show the way, educate, to drive together, i.e. unite to make of sound mind.

BAPTIZING: Dictionaries offer the following meanings of this word: 1 a: a Christian sacrament marked by ritual use of water and admitting the recipient to the Christian community b: a non-Christian rite using water for ritual purification: purification by or submergence in Spirit 2: an act, experience, or ordeal by which one is purified, sanctified, initiated, or named: to purify or cleanse spiritually especially by a purging experience or ordeal: to give a name to. An outward showing of one’s allegiance to some thing or someone.

OBSERVE: By this word we understand: 1: to conform one’s action or practice to comply with 2: to inspect or take note of 3: to celebrate or solemnize in a customary or accepted way 4: to watch carefully especially with attention to details or behavior for the purpose of arriving at a judgment 5: to come to realize or know especially through consideration of noted facts 6: to utter as a remark.
ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU: Every commandment of God’s Word. They are to observe and maintain a standard of Holiness.

When we consider the meanings of these words taken together we understand that the missionary is one who is obedient, who studies the Word of God, and obeys the commands of God in a lifestyle that honors the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Assurance.

This passage speaks to assurance and this assurance is two-fold.

1. Missionaries must have assurance of salvation. They must know that they know that they know they are a child of God and that Christ dwells within them.

2. lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world.

A missionary is one who trusts God and lives a life of faith. The Bible says without faith it is impossible to please God.

Continue on Page 6

Continued from Page 5

A missionary understands God’s grace. God loves us unconditionally, whether we obey him or not, yet knows that He must judge sin and warn of the wrath of God.

So let's look at the context in which Jesus gave this requirement. Before telling us to do anything for him in v. 19, he tells us what he can do for us in v. 18. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." John Piper is spot on when he observes that, "Authority" means the right and power to do something. So Jesus means that he has absolute right and all power to do as he pleases in heaven and on earth. There is no authority in heaven which can call the will of Jesus into question and there is no authority on earth that can call the will of Jesus into question. And no power on earth or in heaven can frustrate his will when he exerts all his power to achieve it. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

A missionary walks in the fullness and power of the Holy Ghost. Acts 1:8 says “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses (Missionary) unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”.

When discouragements come, remember that God will accomplish his work. Mark 10:23-27

A missionary demonstrates love for God, his neighbor, his fellow disciples, and his enemies. Jesus commands us to love God with all of our hearts, with all of our souls, with all of our minds, and he also commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Jesus said in John 13:35 “By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples (MISSIONARY), if ye have love one to another”.

Go, then, and win converts to Jesus Christ by your teaching, by your preaching and by the manner of your life among the people of Grenada. AMEN.



L to R Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis, Rev. Nevin Lewis, Rev. Adelyn Mgonela, Bishop Kingsley Lewis, Sis. Beverly Job, Rev. Esther Moore Roberts, Seated at the front L to R Sis. Olga Baird-Joeffield and Sis. Hyacinth Taylor.



Sis. Hyacinth Taylor



Sis. Olga Baird-Joeffield



Buccoo Moravian Choir



Wedding Bells



The PEC extends words of Congratulations to the Rev. Nevin Lewis and Ms. Billie Sterling who will be united in Marriage on January 5, 2012 in Antigua. The marriage will be solemnized at the Zion Church of God, North Street, St. John's, Antigua.

We wish them God's Blessings as they embark upon this new journey of life.



PEC Meetings Before Synod

The PEC will convene two (2) meetings before the 30th Provincial Synod to be held in St. Thomas from July 13-19, 2012. The dates are:

- (i) January 27—29 in St. Kitts
- (ii) April 27—29 in St. Thomas



Superintendents Conference 2012

All Superintendents will meet in the St. Kitts Conference from January 30-31, 2012, following the PEC Meeting.

Let us remember the Members of PEC, and all Superintendents in our prayers.



Unity Updates

The USA, Southern Province has been asked to Supervise the Cuban Mission. The Jamaica Province will continue to offer limited assistance.

A Unity delegation will visit Cuba and Haiti between January 12-19, 2012.

The Hymn of the Month January – March 2012

Mikie Roberts (Rev)

Chair, Provincial Hymnal Committee.

With the arrival of 2012, we continue giving attention as a Province to one hymn each month. Please note the hymn of the month for the quarter **January to March 2012**. They are



561 **We pray thee Jesus, who didst first** found in the section *The Church's Ministry*. The recommended tune is **ST. CUTHBERT**, (the tune that is used for hymn # 161). This is

the hymn of the month for **JANUARY**. This hymn text will remind us of the ministry of the Church universal. It is hoped that as we meet for our Church Councils and elect and appoint elders, stewards and other congregational leaders that this hymn will serve as a reminder of the Church's primary ministry.

#79 **Jesus, good above all other** found in the section *The Son of God: His Life On Earth*. The recommended tune is the set tune **HQUEM PASTORES LAUDAVERE**. This is the hymn of the month for **FEBRUARY**. The text of this hymn draws attention to the person of Jesus and reminds us not only of his birth but also the purpose of his coming. It should help us prepare for the observance of Lenten season.

Me Alone is found in the Caribbean Hymnal **Sing A New Song No. 3**. It is #30 in that publication and it is the hymn of the month for **MARCH**. This hymn reminds us of Jesus' journey in the wilderness for 40 days and is an appropriate hymn to be sung during the season of Lent. The words and music for this hymn will be distributed in the near future.

On behalf of the members of the Provincial Hymnal Committee, I sincerely thank you for all of the efforts that you have made in observing the hymn of the month for the past year. As a reminder, it is recommended that where feasible the hymns be introduced to the congregation first by the choirs and that thereafter they be used as often as possible during the designated month. The members of the Provincial Hymnal Committee extend to all God's richest blessings for 2012.



Birthday Greetings for the Month of January is extended to:

Bro. Levi Bradshaw	03
Sis. Margaret John	04
Sis. Jovanca Lewis-Smith	05
Bro. Glenvil Gregory	08
Sis. Sonia Spencer	11
Sis. Beverly Job	24
Bro. Ray Joseph	27
Sis. Andrea Smith-Lorde	29



Anniversary Greetings for the Month of January is extended to:

 Bro. Neville & Sis. Ida Brown	16
--	----



Our prayers are requested for:

1. Bishop Neville Brown who was admitted to the Mount St. John Medical Centre on December 24, 2011.
2. Rev. Romeo Challenger who is still a patient at the Mount St. John Medical Centre.
3. Sis. Hyacinth Taylor and Sis. Olga Baird-Joefield who will be installed as Missionaries to Grenada on Sunday January 15, 2012 in Mount Tranquil, Grenada. Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis will officiate at the installation service.
4. Rev. Glenvil Gregory on the passing of his grandmother Mrs. Mary Gregory. She passed into the nearer presence of God on Saturday December 24, 2011. The funeral service will be held on January 05 at the All Saints Anglican Church in All Saints Village, Antigua.

Tributes

Brothers Basil Macleavy and Trevor Palmer made significant contributions to the ministry of the Moravian Church in Jamaica.

Bro. Macleavy was no flamboyant preacher but a sound teacher, a patient and discerning pastor who knew his members. His walk in the communities and his visits to the homes of his members endeared him both to them and to the wider community within which he served.

Rev. Trevor Palmer was a stylish and engaging preacher. He had passion for mission and evangelism. Consequently, he travelled all over the is-land preaching. He was also a frequent quest preacher in the Moravian Church in Barbados. God has given to His Church godly men and women who serve him to the best of their abilities. They served only for a season and they were called home to be with their Lord. Bro Palmer served as Youth Organizer and as pastor, at Bethany, Trinity, Lititz, Carmel, Nazareth and Patrick Town Circuit of Churches.

His funeral service will be on January 7, 2011 at Fairfield at 11:00 a.m.

The work and witness of our Brothers will forever be etched in the annals of our Province. May God grant unto their family His peace and may the eternal light of our Saviour shine upon them.



Fun Corner

The first four words you see describe you.

