



"And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested." 1 Chronicles 4 : 9 -10."

The Information

MONTHLY PUBLICATION

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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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The Fulfillment of our Faith

On March 12, 2009, Easter will be celebrated in the Western World. The Moravian Christians are normally referred to as Easter people. Many Moravian churches have a custom of holding an Easter sunrise service, or Resurrection Service which ends in God's Acre, or the Cemetery, the gathering together amid the graves of the "Church Triumphant" before the Risen Savior. The week prior to the service, families and church groups clean the gravestones and decorate them with flowers, transforming God's Acre into an almost garden like place. The opening words of the Easter sunrise or Resurrection Service is, **"The Lord is risen! And the congregation responds: The Lord is risen indeed!"** This dates back from the first such Moravian style service in Herrnhut, Germany, in 1732. The liturgy for the service is a Confession of Faith drawn up by Nicolaus Ludwig, Count von Zinzendorf (1700-1760) patron and leader of the Renewed Moravian Church.

Easter is a day of celebration because it represents the fulfillment of our faith as Christians. St. Paul wrote that, unless Christ rose from the dead, our faith is in vain (1 Corinthians 15:17). Through his death,

Christ saved humankind from the bondage to sin, and he destroyed the hold that death has on all of us; but it is his resurrection that gives us the promise of new life, both in this world and the next.

New life began on Easter. In the prayer Our Father.... we pray "Thy Kingdom come, on earth as it is in Heaven." And Christ told his disciples that some of them would not die until they saw the Kingdom of God "coming in power" (Mark 9:1). The early Christian Fathers saw Easter as the fulfillment of that promise. With the resurrection of Christ, God's Kingdom is established on earth, in the form of the Church. This is the fulfillment of our faith.

As Jesus rose triumphantly from the grave, may this Easter finds him rising triumphantly in your life. Indeed, may he be found rising triumphantly in our homes, our Churches, communities and everywhere that men and women exist. May this Easter be a new beginning for you, as you experience the new life in Jesus Christ. **Frances Cox** gives a good exegesis of Easter, when she pens these words in one of her hymns:

Jesus lives! To him the throne, over all the world is given; May we go where he is gone, rest and reign with him in heaven. Hallelujah!

Have a most blessed
and
Holy Easter



PEC NEWS

What is Moravian Unity?

Practices, principles and Procedures that guide the Unity

by

Rev. Dr. Cicely Athill-Horsford

The Moravian Church is the oldest of the Protestant Churches and the records show that those who composed its first membership were forerunners of the Reformation Movement. They were followers of the **John Hus**, great Reformation Preacher, Educator and Martyr, who was burned at the stake in 1415. He was burned at the stake because he refused to give up his belief that, the doctrines set forth in the Bible should be followed by Christians. John Hus was martyred, but his teachings could not be destroyed.

So on March 1, 1457 the Unitas Fratrum (the Unity of the Brethren – Moravian Church) was established. It was founded with a three-fold ideal of **faith, fellowship and freedom**, a strong emphasis on practical Christian living rather than on doctrinal thought or church tradition.

They impacted the spiritual life of the country & community. They were enabled to maintain a living fellowship in Christ with the help of the Bible and Hymns, a careful system of discipline (personal devotion, family devotion and later on the daily Text). They were taught the value of an effective church discipline and the nature of a saving faith.

Although the Moravian Church shares with all Protestant bodies the fundamentals of Christian worship, it possesses, in addition, a number of more distinctive customs and practices.

A profound and decisive experience of unity was given in an outpouring of the Holy Spirit at a celebration of the Holy Communion on August 13, 1727.

From this experience of conscious unity came zeal and strength to share this fellowship in Christ with others and joy to

serve wherever they found an open door.

The Unitas Fratrum stresses the doctrine of Christian Fellowship under Jesus Christ, regardless of race or denomination from which a member has come.

The Unity

The Unitas Fratrum consists of Provinces. Today, there are 19 Provinces found in many areas of the world. The Provinces of the Unity offer a wide variety of economic, social and political development.

There are Unity Provinces, Affiliated Provinces and Mission Provinces.

By 1967, it was agreed that Unity Synod be held at intervals every seven years.

The Unity Board

The affairs of the Church are managed between Synods by the Unity Board.

Eastern West Indies Province:

What is it?

The Provinces fall under the auspices of the Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum and the decisions of the Unity Synods. Each Province retains full autonomy over its constitution, worship and congregational life.

The Provincial Synod

The Provincial Synod is the highest authority in the Province. It meets one every three years. It is responsible to Unity Synod.

The Provincial Board

The Synod of the EWI Province elects the Provincial Board as the highest administrative authority of the Province. The Provincial Board (**The Provincial Elders' Conference – P. E. C.**) controls and administers all matters of the Province during the inter-synodal period. The Provincial Board (PEC) acts in the name and by the commission of the Synod. The **PEC** is responsible for carrying out the Church Order laid down for the Province, in its Conferences, congregations and fields of work.

P.E. C is responsible to the Provincial Synod and is accountable to the same for its administration.

The Board must keep in view the general task and objectives of the Unitas Fratrum and thus take the stand for Christian Discipline and order, justice and charity.

The Eastern West Indies Province

There are six (6) Conferences in the Eastern West Indies Province, with local government in the hands of an Island Conference, which is responsible to the P.E.C.

The Conference - How does it function?

The local government of the Church is vested in an Island Conference. Island Conference elects the Executive Board.

The Executive Board

The Executive Board controls and administers all matters of the Conference during the inter-conferential period. The Board shall supervise all Conference properties, inspect all property belonging to the congregations and report on the same in writing to the Conference on an annual basis.

The Congregation

The administration of the congregation is vested in the Pastor in conjunction with the Board of Elders, the Board of Stewards and the Church Council.

The Structure of the church is similar throughout: the Unity, the Province, the Conference and the Congregation. We are all connected. Therefore as an Officer, as a Leader I must **CARE**.

C – Communicate

A – Affirmation

R – Recognition

E – Example

I must give myself to the Lord and his work and care for others.

(Was presented at Church Officers & Leaders Retreat on Saturday January 31, 2009 in St. Thomas Virgin Islands)

PEC News

Meeting of Christian Educators

The Ministers of Christian Education is scheduled to meet in the Tobago Conference from March 30 – April 2, 2009. Your continued prayers for the Christian Educators are needed.

Provincial Synod

The 29th Provincial Synod will convene at the Bird Rock Hotel in St. Kitts on July 10, 2009 and will conclude on July 18, 2009.

The Synod Retreat will take place on Friday July 10, 2009, from 7:00 p.m – 9: 30 p.m.

The Election of the Officers of Synod and the appointment of Committees will take place on Saturday July 11, 2009. In addition, a Government reception will be held for Synodals on the evening of July 11, 2009.

Hospitality Sunday will be held on July 12, where Synodals will worship in different Churches and be hosted for lunch by an assigned family.

The opening service for Synod will be held on July 12 at the Zion Moravian Church at 6:00 p.m.

All Staff members are required to wear either PREACHING or ACADEMIC GOWN for the opening service of Synod. Lay Delegates and Observers are required to wear Black.

The Synod Communion service will take place at the Estridge Moravian Church. The NEW PRESBYTERS are asked to bring along their Surplice, as they will serve the elements during the communion.

The Frigate Bay Beach Hotel which is relatively close by will be used as a spill over location for the Synod, at no extra charge. The goal is to put the observers at the Frigate Bay. Day passes are also being put in place to cater to persons who are observers, and will be accommodated at a private residence and want to spend time at synod. The daily cost will be EC\$ 150.00 per person.

The Synod Registration fee being paid by Delegates and Observers is an all inclusive fee, to include, accommodation, meals, transportation and the like.

Delegates fee is US\$500.00

Observers fee is US\$600.00

Unity Synod

Unity Synod will be held at High Leigh Christian Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts from 27 July (arrivals day) until 7 August.

It is now clear that there will be no accommodation available for observers on site, but if anyone would like to attend as a day delegate, you are asked to let Lindsey Newens at Church House know exactly which dates you would like to attend. The day delegate rate is £26 per day and includes coffee, lunch, tea and evening meal.

All visitors are to be pre-booked both for catering and security reasons and will be required to sign in and out. It is not possible to know in advance when Synod will meet in plenary session and when in committee. The middle weekend will have no sessions and Synodals will not be on site for much of the time.

PASSION WEEK

Since 1768 it has been the custom to read, at some time each day, the story of the events in the last week in the life of Jesus from a Harmony of the Gospels. The readings are interspersed with suitable hymn verses. Normally, there is no address at these weekday services—the Gospel speaks for itself. Maundy Thursday evening readings are followed by a celebration of Holy Communion. The Good Friday Liturgy incorporates prayers, hymns and appropriate Gospel passages telling the story of Christ's trial and Crucifixion.

Unity Prayer Watch

The EWI Province will participate in the Unity Prayer Watch from 12:01 a.m. April 01, 2009 – Midnight April 14, 2009. The Schedule is as follows:

- Antigua -12:01a.m. April 01 – Midnight April 04
- Barbados - 12:01a.m. April 05 – Midnight April 07
- St. Kitts -12:01a.m. April 08 – Midnight April 08
- Tobago -12:01a.m. April 09 – Midday April 10
- Trinidad -12:01a.m. April 10 – Midday April 11
- Virgin Island—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.

Birthdays/Anniversaries



PEC Meeting

Your prayers are requested for the PEC as it meets for the final meeting before the 29th Provincial Synod. The meeting takes place in St. Kitts from April 24–26, 2009.

Chairman to attend Jamaica Synod

The Chairman of PEC has being invited by the Moravian Church in Jamaica, to attend its 71st Synod, to be held at Bethlehem Moravian Teachers College, in Malvern Jamaica. The Synod convenes on April 13 and ends on April 17, 2009. While at the Synod, the Chairman will lead the daily Bible Study Sessions.

**Antioch
Antioch**

In this Issue, we share the journey of an Antioch Servant serving in Costa Rica as he engages in Missions.

Roman Brady is an Antioch servant currently located in Costa Rica at the School of Music and Worship in Puerto Limon. This is an excerpt from his blog. For the complete story, please go to:

<http://romanbrady.blogspot.com/2009/02/new-beginnings.html>

Dear God, RIGHT NOWAt this point in my life I feel like a new man, like you have given me another chance. Why have you done this for little ol' me? For all the

times I have turned my back on you and sinned even when I knew better, you forgave me. Lord, For all the times I have second guessed myself and you, yet you showed me the path I should take. Even through my darkest and hardest moments, where I cursed your name and blamed you for everything that was going wrong, it was your shoulder I was crying on, and didn't even know it. I know...I know... there are more deserving people than I, but because I took this leap of faith and service, I believe you have given me this amazing gift. Lord, I can't thank you enough for everyone I have met so far on this short journey we call "life". Lord, from this moment on.. No more sinning, no more second guessing, but I will still cry on your shoulder when I need it. I love you Lord. Your disciple, Roman.

Dear God's children, This mission has been a life changing experience. I feel like a new man. I can't explain what has happened, but in the past few days something has changed within me. I feel different! And upon receiving an email from a friend in Jamaica yesterday, it reminded me of an experience I had at Laurel Ridge almost two years ago which also greatly impacted my life. Check my blog for this story.

As God and my readers are my witnesses, I forgive myself again. But this time I am not just giving Him parts of me I do not like. I am giving him everything! Everything I was, everything I am, and everything he will have me be. You're Missionary, Roman Daniel Brady.



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 Greetings for the month of April is extended to:

- Bro. Calvin & Sis. Florence Isaac 16
- Bro. Rudolph & Sis. Esther Robert s 22