



"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." 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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## Repair, Restore, Redeem and Refresh us, O Lord

The Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province will continue to use the theme: "Blessed to Bless" for 2009. The theme has served us well but there is still so much more to be explored to cause the theme to come alive in all that we do.

As we come to the end of 2008 and prepare to enter into 2009, we are mindful that we live in a world where things seem to be falling apart. The financial crisis and the financial meltdown have sent shock waves throughout the entire world. It is a financial crisis that has touched every country in the world. It calls for belt tightening and for prudent spending by all. This situation calls for us as a church to dig deep and to maximize the use of all our available resources to enable us to cope with daily life and living. The Moravian church is challenged to touch our communities in a real way, and so the social Ministry of the Church must seek to empower the poor, indigent and the youth.

As a church let us seek to educate ourselves in a rounded way. We are challenged to work with other civic minded groups as we seek to tackle the increase in

violent crimes, deviant behaviour, a multitude of diseases, including the deadly HIV/AIDS, broken families, broken relationships and broken lives. As we face the reality of unemployment and the need for food security, let us use every legitimate means at our disposal, to encourage and empower our people. We need to look forward with the hope of a brighter tomorrow.

No one can predict with certainty how stormy the new year will be. We are certain though, that all of us will face storms. The good news is those of us who know Jesus have our future anchored to Him, and in Him. The Jesus, who did not fail us in the past, will not fail us now nor in the future.

Frances R. Havergal aptly described one situation in one of our New Year's hymns:

*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.*

### Chorus

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

How will you fare in the storms of the new Year? If you are anchored in Jesus, You have nothing to fear.

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The prophet Isaiah, encourages us in chapter 43:1 *"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."*

The Chairman and members of PEC wish for you, a most blessed, Spirit-filled and productive year 2009.

Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis  
Chairman of PEC

### 2009 Regional Focus of the Decade to Overcome Violence

Gerard A. J. Granado  
General Secretary CCC

I am writing with regard to the Caribbean Regional Focus of the Decade to Overcome Violence (DoV) which will commence in January 2009. You may recall that the decision to designate the period 2001–2011 as the Decade to Overcome Violence emanated from the Eighth Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in response to the perceived deep yearning among the peoples of the world to build lasting peace grounded in justice for the generations of the future. The goal of the Decade is to move the Search for reconciliation and peace from the periphery to the centre of the life and witness of the church. Taking into account the multifaceted nature of violence and the variety of responses required, a key strategy of the WCC has been to highlight each year a different geographical region of the world in order to allow focus on the specific realities facing the countries in that particular area. To date, the regions which have been the annual focus of the DoV include Palestine/Israel, Sudan, the USA, Asia, Latin America, Europe and

the Pacific Islands. In 2009 the focus will turn toward the Caribbean.

The WCC decided to approach the DOV in a way that would allow for maximum involvement and ownership by local churches. No set programme of activities is offered for implementation since it is intended that the initiatives undertaken in each region would respond to the particular needs confronting that area. This presents the churches of the Caribbean with an important opportunity to heighten their strategic and concrete response to the epidemic of violence sweeping the territories of this region. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Latin America and the Caribbean Region of the World Bank in a 2007 Report on Crime, Violence and Development in the Caribbean noted that murder rates in this region – at 30 per 100,000 population annually – are higher than for any other region of the world and have increased in recent years for many countries of the region. Our homicide rates are 34 percent higher and robbery rates 26 percent higher than countries with comparable macroeconomic conditions. In addition, the economic and social costs of crime and violence and, especially the death and injuries from youth violence, are cause for absolute concern. Intensified action by churches is necessary now more than ever.

The principal agents for the identification and implementation of activities for the 2009 regional focus of the DoV will therefore be member churches of the CCC and interested associated bodies. Churches are free to construct their own programmes and to commence planning for interventions they deem most pertinent to fostering a culture of peace in

their communities. It must be pointed out that the WCC recognizes that the goal of overcoming violence is a long term undertaking. The Decade will be judged ultimately by whether it will have led to a change of consciousness and to deepened insights into the theological, ethical and spiritual foundations of Christian action for peace. It has been explained that the impact of the DoV will not be measured by the level of violence on the ground at the end of the Decade but rather by the number of churches and associated bodies throughout the region committed to and actively pursuing reconciliation and peace-building in their respective local contexts.

It is our hope that one of the major outcomes of the year will be that member churches – as agents of reconciliation and promoters of justice – will recognize and intensify their ministry to healing in society. In addition, we wish to propose that consideration be given to according particular attention to reconciliation and healing in Haiti, Suriname and Grenada. We hope ultimately that the year will help to reaffirm the belief of our Caribbean people in their capacity to be people of peace and that a safe and secure future built on non-violence, solidarity and respect for the inherent dignity of all persons, including one self, is possible to reclaim.

The Caribbean Conference of Churches will accompany member churches in their efforts and provide guidance and support for all that will be undertaken. Member Churches are asked to identify a DoV Regional Focus Point of Contact with whom the CCC could liaise on relevant matters throughout the year.

## Unity News

All churches are encouraged to offer their own gifts to this undertaking according to their own situation and to collaborate and learn from each other. We wish to suggest that churches meet with their parish communities to set their own priorities and design their plans for the 2009 DoV regional focus having regard to the specific issues of peace building required in their communities.

### Consideration may be given to the following:

- Direct interventions at the grass-roots level
- Family Life
- Education and Awareness Building
- Highlighting and celebrating positive efforts that have been made in the area of peace-building and violence prevention
- Special liturgical and worship events

The Caribbean Conference of churches is requesting member churches to do all they can to make this one of the main areas of focus for next year. Background information on the DoV may be obtained at [www.overcomingviolence.org](http://www.overcomingviolence.org) and [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org).

Finally, we wish to inform you that the DoV will conclude in 2011 with the hosting of the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPA) in Jamaica under the theme 'Glory to God and Peace on Earth'.

We look forward to your full support in making the 2009 Caribbean Regional Focus of the DoV a success.

### UNITY PRESIDENT

Sis. Angelene Swart has completed her term of office as Unity President and the whole Unity extends its very best thanks for her time in office and for all the efforts she has made on behalf of us all. We are delighted that she has agreed to act as chaplain for Unity Synod in the UK in July and August 2009.



Rev. Dr. Paul Gardner, President of the Jamaican Province was elected as President. We wish to congratulate Bro.

Gardner and pray for God's abundant blessings on him in this new and challenging task.

Many Provinces had their synods during the course of the year. We wish to extend our good wishes to the new leadership of our Provinces. May our Chief Elder, Jesus Christ continue to strengthen and guide our church leaders to emulate Christ in leading God's people.

### UNITY PRAYER DAY

The 2008 Unity Prayer day offering was for the girls' Secondary school in Mbeya, south Western Province in Tanzania and has raised almost £29,000 to date. We thank the America South, America North, Labrador, MCT Southern Province, Western Tanzania, Eastern West Indies, European Continental and the British Provinces that have already forwarded their offerings and would encourage the outstanding Provinces to forward their contributions as soon as possible. The 2009 offering has been earmarked for youth work within the

Unity. This offering is taken on the first Sunday in March.

### NEWS FROM OTHER PROVINCES

The Mission Province of Eastern Tanzania and Zanzibar purchased land from their own funds in Zanzibar to erect the first Moravian Church on the island. Sis. A. Swart together with members from the Moravian Church Foundation and the African regional leaders had the honour to visit the plot and commend the project to our Lord. Your continued prayers for the work of our Mission Provinces and Mission Areas are requested.

The African Region met in Tanzania to share their various ministries and to plan on common issues such as HIV/AIDS, poverty in Africa, mission work and partnerships.

The Moravian Church Foundation had their annual meeting in Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania. Opportunity was also created to visit the congregations and projects.

Mission work in Sierra Leone under the supervision of the US Southern Province is progressing very well.

Members of the Unity Board Executive visited Honduras Province and the Czech Province. The groups in Honduras wish to have spiritual retreats in order to grow together and work towards reconciliation. Funding for this project is needed and the Executive is trying to solicit funds to assist them as this is their initiative.



Ordinations/Consecrations/Birthdays/Anniversaries

**Ordinations and Consecrations**

- Bro. Nigel Daniel will be consecrated a Presbyter in the Moravian Church, on Sunday January 11, 2009 at 6.00 p.m. at the Cedar Hall Moravian Church in Antigua.
- Sis. Adelyn Mgonella will be consecrated a Presbyter in the Moravian Church, on Thursday January 15, 2009 at 6.00 p.m. at the Tunapuna Methodist Church in Trinidad.
- Bro. Adrian Lewis will be ordained a Deacon in the Moravian Church on Sunday, January 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Rosehill Moravian Church in Trinidad.
- Sis. Georgette John will be consecrated a Presbyter in the Moravian church, on Wednesday January 21, 2009 at 6.30p.m at the Bon Accord Moravian Church in Tobago.
- Bro. Hilton Joseph and Sis. Nasel Ephraim will be consecrated Presbyters in the Moravian Church, on Sunday January 25, 2009 at 6.00 p.m. at the Zion Moravian Church in St. Kitts.
- Sis. Movelle Kellman will be ordained a Deacon in the Moravian Church, on Tuesday February 03, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sharon Moravian Church in Barbados.

Please bear these brothers and sisters in prayer as they prepare for this important step in their lives.

**PEC NEWS**

- The PEC meetings for 2009 up to Synod are as follows:
    - ◆ January 16-18 in Trinidad and
    - ◆ April 24-26 in St. Kitts
  - The Annual Superintendents Conference will convene in Trinidad from January 18-19, 2009.
  - The 29th Provincial Synod will convene in St. Kitts on July 10, 2009 and will conclude on July 18, 2009.
- The names of **ALL** delegates should be forwarded to the Provincial Headquarters by January 01, 2009. The Synod will take place at the Bird Rock Hotel.
- Unity Synod will convene in London, England on July 27 and will conclude on August 07, 2009. The following will represent the Eastern West Indies Province at the Synod:
    - ◆ Sis. Winelle Kirton-Roberts
    - ◆ Sis. Jeanette Smith-Barry and
    - ◆ Bro. Cortroy Jarvis



To

Bro. Alvin Barker who celebrated his birthday on December 25th.



**Birthday Greeting for January go out to:**

Bro. Levi Bradshaw	3
Sis. Margaret John	4
Bro. Glenvil Gregory	8
Sis. Sonia Spencer	11
Bro. George Ramsay	27
Sis Andrea Smith	29



Bro. and Sis. Samuel Jacobs celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a worship Service at the New Herrnhut Moravian Church on December 29th. The service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Conrad Spencer. The Sanctuary was almost filled to capacity with family and friends.

We wish Brother and Sister Jacobs many more years of enriching marriage life together.

