

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF PEC - EWI PROVINCE

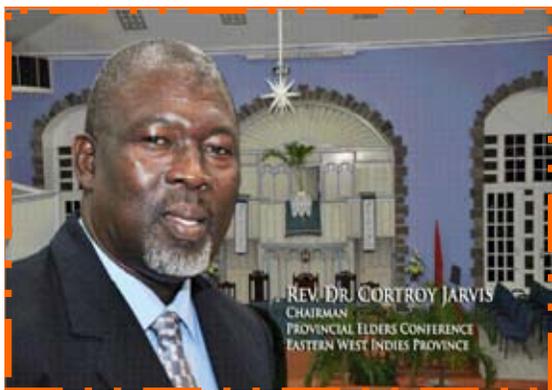
August /September, 2011

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]

Mathematics Enrichment Program

The Summer Mathematics Enrichment Program from July 11-29, 2011, was a



tremendous success. When the vision was shared by the Rev. Dr. Conrad Spencer, it was embraced immediately by the PEC. As we discussed the Vision of a Moravian College to be based in Antigua, Dr. Spencer shared his concern about the apparent low percentage of passes at CXC and CAPE level examinations in mathematics in the

Caribbean. He has always indicated that Mathematics is life and if our people are having problems negotiating Mathematics, there are going to be problems not only now, but in the future.

There has to be a role for the Church to help to Educate and Empower our people. The idea then of the Mathematics Enrichment Program was conceived. Dr. Vanere Goodwin, a Mathematics professor at the University of the Virgin Islands and himself, a member of the Faith Moravian Church in St. Croix, came on board. Both Dr. Goodwin and Dr. Spencer, explored possibilities with the Ministry of Education in Antigua in 2010, to see what could be done to help in the area of Mathematics. When that avenue was not working out, it was decided at the April 2011 meeting on the PEC, to run the program through our Church. The program was advertized on Radio, Television, the Newspaper and in our Churches in Antigua.

A Total of Forty Five (45) persons signed up and attended the classes for the three (3) week period. It has been a joy to see how the students absorbed and ate from the hands of both Dr. Goodwin and Dr. Spencer. Throughout the Three (3) weeks, it rained almost every day, but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of the students or lessen the attendance. They came whether it was rain or sun.

These are very exciting times for our Church and this program has really inspired us to go forward with more determination.

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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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must be expressed to all the students from 4th, 5th, 6th forms, for their keen interest in the program. The parents, Guardians and those who contributed in some way towards the success of the program. The Staff at the Provincial Headquarters must be highly commended for their hard work in ensuring that all went well. We owe a debt of Gratitude to Dr. Vanere Goodwin and Rev. Dr. Conrad Spencer, for the long hours preparing to teach the classes, the patience and commitment shown towards the success of the program. 2011 Summer Mathematics Enrichment Program was great. We look forward to 2012 with great anticipation for the second installment of this program.

A closing ceremony was held on Friday July 29 at which some Parents and Guardians were in attendance. All 45 students received certificates of participation at the program. It was a wonderful experience. After the ceremony all present feasted sumptuously and gave thanks. We look forward to the next edition.



On behalf of the Eastern West Indies Province, we express congratulations to:

- i. **Rev. Denise Smith-Lewis,**
 - ii. **Rev. Esther Moore-Roberts,** who graduated on Saturday July 23, 2011, with a **Masters Degree in Family Life Education**, from Oasis University in Trinidad and
 - iii. **Sis. Lexs Forrester,** who graduated from Covington Theological Seminary on Friday July 29, 2011, with a Masters Degree in Counselling, with Honours.
- We pray God's richest blessings upon them all.

FUNDRAISING BANQUET TOWARDS THE BUILDING OF MORAVIAN COLLEGE

The PEC, in an effort to begin to raise funds towards the building of the proposed Moravian College in Antigua, has scheduled a Fundraising Banquet for November 11, 2011, in Antigua. We are proposing that One (1) outstanding Educator from each of the conferences be honoured at this function. The Antigua conference will be allowed two (2) persons due to the fact that the Fundraiser is being held here. More details will follow with regard to the selection of this individual, but it is hoped that this individual would have been in Education for upwards of 25 years and is or has been involved in the life of the Church for a long time.

The PEC requests that the Conference sponsor the person chosen in order for them to attend the function. Once in Antigua, the Province will take care of all other expenses, to include accommodation, meals, transportation etc. This for us would be a very good launching pad for the College and so we look forward to your support in this matter.

Quotes of the Day

There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, popular or political; but because it is right.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Each of us has much more hidden inside us than we have had a chance to explore. Unless we create the environment that enables us to discover the limits of our potential, we will never know what we have inside of us. **Unknown**

Tortola Ground Breaking Ceremony



All four islands were represented as the Moravian community gathered on July 23, 2011 at Baughers Bay, Tortola to break ground for the new Sanctuary for the Tortola Moravian Fellowship. The atmosphere was celebrative, the worship uplifting, the fellowship rich and the vision clear. Challenged by the Bishop Rev Dr Kingsley Lewis to build the house of God based on 1 Cor 6:15, we were implored to seek the Holy Spirit to break through the hard ground and to build a solid foundation on Jesus Christ.

The service was led by Rev Anique Elmes-Matthew, the first resident Pastor on Tortola and a history of the early beginnings were given by Rev. Dr. Charles Peters.



The completion of the Sanctuary is estimated at \$1Million but the first phase which will make a place for worship will cost approximately \$300,000.00. With God's provision, it is anticipated that this first phase should be well in advance stage by the end of the year. Construction is scheduled to begin on August 8, 2011.

We thank all the Lay men and women, and the many Pastors who have labored to bring this project to where it is today. The Moravian community is indebted to the late Mary Francis from Memorial Church, whose generous contribution of this land to the Conference made this all possible.



We continue to solicit the prayers of the Province and their financial support.

With every blessing,

WKR

Winelle Kirton-Roberts, Rev. Dr.
Superintendent, Virgin Islands Conference

Emancipation

August 1, 2011, marked 177 years since the Emancipation from slavery in the Caribbean. It was a hard fought victory for the people who had been enslaved for over 100 years. There were many uprisings and rebellions. Many, many persons gave their lives to gain the freedom we enjoy today. When freedom came, it was the dawn of a new era. The former slaves celebrated as never before. They recognized that with the best efforts of so many, that it was God who gave them the victory. It was God who delivered them from the hands of their oppressors

The people gathered in the House of God for worship. They came to give Praise and Glory to God for their deliverance. They acknowledged that had it not been for God, they would have been consumed. John 8 speaks powerfully of what freedom does:

John 8:31-36 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32.and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' 33.They answered him, 'We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. what do you mean by saying, "you will be made free"?' 34. Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35.The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36.So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

When reading this scripture, I was reminded of a story about a man, who was well known for not being very talkative.

After attending church one Sunday, his wife asked him what the preacher preached on. He replied, "Sin." His wife asked, "Well, what did he say about it?" Silent for a moment, then the man responded, "he was against it." Why was he against it? The man responded, "he was just against it and he said it."

While the passage speaks about sin, the focus will not be so much on sin. Brian P. Stoffregen on the website, CrossMarks, writes, "If we understand sin as self-centeredness, then those who are doing self-centered things become slaves to themselves, their own wants

and desires. Often, this is how people may understand freedom, doing whatever they want to do, but that definition of freedom is actually slavery to one's self.

Being set free means having our desires and self-centeredness turned away from ourselves."

Verse 34: Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35.The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. Meaning Jesus the Son has a place in the heavenly household, but slaves to sin do not.

ALL Christians should be against sin. You can focus on the sin, or you can focus on being free from that sin.

We can focus on ourselves, or we can turn away from ourselves.

This scripture may be about sin, but this scripture is also about the power of Christ. The freedom found in being set free by Christ.

On Emancipation weekend, we celebrate our freedom from slavery, but for those in Christ, we are free every day.

In many ways, freedom is a state of mind. These last few months, we've seen people in North Africa and the Middle East demanding freedom. They thought they were free, but only when the uprisings started in Tunisia and the repressive regime was exposed and shamed, that they took to the streets by the tens of thousands in Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Syria, demanding freedom. They know in their minds and hearts what freedom is, and they want it.

Freedom in the world is a state of mind. Freedom in Christ is a state of being.

Jesus is saying in today's scripture, instead of sin, you can be free. If you know the truth of Christ, the truth which makes you free, and if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. May our Emancipation, not only be from physical slavery, but from the bondage of sin.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthday Greetings for the month of August is extended to:

Bro. Romeo Challenger	12
Sis. Winelle Kirton Roberts	20
Bro. Reuben Vessup	22
Sis. Anique Elmes-Matthew	22
Bro. Conrad Spencer	29
Sis. Angela Frederick	30

Birthday Greetings for the Month of September is extended to:

Bro. Colin Matthew	02
Sis. Cynthia St. Hill	03
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 August is extended to:

Sis. Cherice & Bro. Fabian Lewis	11
Bro. Winston & Sis. Bernadine Chase	12
Bro. Matthew & Sis. Jasmin Crooks	13
Bro. Selvin & Sis. June Mcmillan	20
Bro. Leon & Sis. Mabel Matthias	28
Bro. Dion & Sis. Eulencine Christopher	29

Anniversary Greetings for the month of September is extended to:

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

Fun Corner

Getting a hairdryer through customs...

A distinguished young woman on a flight from Ireland asked the Priest beside her,

"Father, may I ask a favour?"

"Of course child what may I do for you?"

"Well, I bought an expensive woman's electronic hair dryer for my Mother's birthday that is unopened and well over the Customs limits, and I'm afraid they'll confiscate it. Is there any way you could carry it through customs for me? Under your robes perhaps?"

"I would love to help you, dear, but I must warn you, I will not lie."

"With your honest face, Father, no one will question you."

When they got to Customs, she let the priest go ahead of her.

The official asked, "Father, do you have anything to declare?"

"From the top of my head down to my waist, I have nothing to declare."

The official thought this answer strange, so asked, "And what do you have to declare from your waist to the floor?"

"I have a marvelous instrument designed to be used on a woman, but which is, to date, unused."

Roaring with laughter, the official said, "Go ahead, Father. Next!"