

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF PEC - EWI PROVINCE

November, 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]

JESUS THE CHIEF ELDER



The Moravian Church is a liturgical church, meaning we observe the festivals of



the worldwide Christian Church with appropriate services, starting with the beginning of the church year, the first Sunday of Advent. In addition, we observe Memorial Days that are of special significance to the history and spiritual life of the Moravian Church. On November 13, 2011, we celebrate the Chief Elder Festival which proclaims Jesus Christ as the Head of the Moravian Church. Leonard Dober, one of the first two Moravian Missionaries was Chief Elder (head) of the Moravian Church, but it be-

came too difficult for him and he thought of giving it up. He determined that at the Synod in London in September 1741, that he would relinquish that position. After prayerful consideration at the London Synod, Jesus Christ was unanimously declared as Chief Elder of the Moravian Church on September 16, 1741. **The Synod knew that it would take a considerable amount of time to circulate the information throughout the Moravian World and so it was agreed that November 13 would be appointed as the day to celebrate the Chief Elder Festival.** This celebration declares that Jesus Christ is large and in charge in the Moravian Church. He is Master, Head, Leader, Chief Elder and the Lamb that has been conquered and so we will follow Him.

September 16 the day on which the decision was made, is observed as Covenant Day of Ministers and Church Workers of the Moravian Church.

The anniversary of this announcement to the congregations in the Moravian World has become one of the great festivals of the Moravian Church. The festival is celebrated in different ways in the Moravian Church World Wide. The purpose of celebrating the historical event with services, including the Love feasts, Cup of Covenant or Holy Communion is to offer to every member the opportunity to realize that Jesus Christ is Head and Chief Elder of the Moravian Church. No human person could or can be Chief Elder in the Moravian Church. This position is only reserved for Jesus Christ. He is also Head of each individual believer, and on this day, members should consciously renew their pledge of loyalty and confirm in

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 sacrament of the Lord's Supper their personal fellowship with the Saviour. May this 270th Chief Elder Festival find us acknowledging Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords of our lives. Our Lamb has conquered, Let us follow Him.



The good you do will run after you

I read a story recently which spoke powerful to my heart. The story speaks about how we should redeem the time and make every moment count for something good. As I read the story, my mind began to focus on words of scripture as recorded in Hebrews 13:1-3 **"Let brotherly love continue.**

²Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

³Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body".

It pays to be genuine. It pays to be kind at all times for when God blesses us, he expects us to bless others. You never know how far the kindness you do today will carry you. One thing I can assure of, you cannot exhaust God's kindness and as you bless others, God will continue to pour into you, to replenish you to the full. Let me now share the story with you. One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door.

Instead of a meal, he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry and so she brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?"

"You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness."

He said, "Then I thank you from my heart." As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strengthened also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Years later, that young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease.

A Doctor was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, he went down the hall of the hospital to her room. Dressed in his doctor's gown, he went in to see her. He recognized her at once. He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day, he gave special attention to the case.

After a long struggle, the battle was won. The doctor requested from the business office to pass the final billing to him for approval. He looked at it then wrote something on the edge, and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally, she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words:

"PAID IN FULL WITH ONE GLASS OF MILK..."

(Signed) **The Doctor**

Let me end this article with words of scripture as written in Ephesians 4:32: "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you". Let the power of kindness rule in your hearts for the good you do will run after you.



We are 256 days away from the beginning of the 30th Provincial Synod to be held in St. Thomas. All Delegates and observers should have already been registered and made their deposits. The balance of all Synod fees are due on May 1, 2012.

Message from the Second Global Gathering of the Global Christian Forum 4 - 7 October 2011, Manado, Indonesia

The second international gathering of the Global Christian Forum (GCF) met in Manado, Indonesia, from 4-7 October, 2011. Experiencing joy at being together and aware of the abiding presence of the grace of God, we came from 65 different countries and numerous Christian churches, traditions and expressions. The 287 participants included 18 young adults from across the globe, representing two international student organisations, who participated fully in the discussions and deliberations. This gathering brought together the great streams of the Christian faith, replicating in this way the first international Global Christian Forum gathering in Limuru, Kenya, in 2007, acclaimed as the most diverse Christian assembly in history. We gathered in Manado around the theme of 'Life Together in Jesus Christ: Empowered by the Holy Spirit'.

When we met for prayer and worship, which we did regularly, in plenary, at neighbourhood churches and in small groups, a deep hunger for unity in Christ was both experienced and acknowledged. To a large extent this depth of connection was made possible by the commitment to create open space and a relational community. While the fact that Christian churches are divided causes such a gathering no small amount of pain and struggle, we do not doubt it is the will of God in Christ that we be one (John 17).

One of the most poignant moments of the four days was a panel of churches and communities that have experienced healing and reconciliation in Christ.

These included the resurrection of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church in Albania; the Taizé Community; the reconciliation of Lutherans and

Mennonites at the international and local levels; and the extraordinary stories of the churches in China and the churches in the Middle East and northern Africa.

The substance of plenary papers and presentations flowed out into conversations where participants met in regional gatherings as well as in tradition-specific groups. Bible studies gathered groups of people across traditions and nationalities, as did the larger discussion groups. All this permitted and encouraged the formation of relationships that transcended differences and also allowed for a deepening understanding of 'the other'.

The overall focus of the Global Christian Forum gathering in Indonesia was two-fold. First, the GCF began to engage the enormous shifts in world Christianity. Our discussion included the pervasive consequences of resource inequality and the dangers of inadequate terminology such as 'Global South' and 'migrant churches'. All present recognized that these topics will challenge us for years to come. Aware we were meeting in the country with the largest Muslim population in the world, we were addressed by an Islamic scholar and by His Excellency, the Governor of North Sulawesi about the multi-faith character of Indonesia.

Second, the GCF recognized the upsurge of Pentecostal and charismatic movements which celebrate the person and work of the Holy Spirit. In light of these considerations, the GCF asked the questions, ever ancient and ever new: What is the Holy Spirit saying to the Church locally and globally? What is the Spirit's direction as we seek to be good stewards of God's creation?

The 'guiding purpose' of the Global Christian Forum, approved at the first global gathering in Limuru in 2007, is *to create an open space wherein representatives from a broad range of Christian churches and inter-church organizations, which confess the triune God and Jesus Christ as perfect in his divinity and humanity, can gather to foster mutual respect, to explore and address together common challenges.*

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Participants in Manado offered the following reflection on the gathering:

- We reaffirm the Forum's guiding purpose. We have heard the Spirit calling us not only to continue to foster respect for one another but now also to move forward together exploring and addressing common challenges.
- We express great appreciation for the extraordinary hospitality offered by our Indonesian hosts, and we promise to pray for them as they live in a complex interreligious situation.
- We give profound thanks for the insightful papers, presentations, group work, and inspiring worship. This meeting of the GCF focused on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. We discovered a great blessing in the sharing of faith stories and the fostering of a relational community. We were indeed humbled by the stories of the reconciliation of communities and individuals. The gathering became a grace-filled moment in the life of the Church.
- We appreciate the leadership of the GCF Committee and are grateful for the exemplary service of Hubert van Beek, GCF Secretary from the Forum's inception. In particular, we give thanks for the holistic approach that brought together churches and international Christian organizations. The speakers helped deepen our understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit as well as assisting our consideration of the changes and trends in world Christianity. We affirm the centrality of Scripture throughout the meeting. In response to these many blessings, we commit to pray for unity and seek opportunities for common witness.
- We also commit to renewed attention to the relationship between unity and mission. Disparity of resources and imbalance of power must be addressed. We must also address the need for a broader inclusiveness in our own gatherings, considering age, gender, regions, traditions, ethnicities, and abilities. We experience the open space in the Global Christian Forum as a gift of God. In a fragmented world and church, this unique expression of unity, embracing the breadth of world Christianity, is a source of inspiration and hope. We believe it is a helpful model for building authentic Christian relationships in every place.

We know that God's Spirit draws the body of Christ into unity for the sake of God's mission in the world. So we commit ourselves to nurture the Global Christian Forum, as the Spirit leads, as witness to God's saving and transforming love.

Second GCF Global Gathering Information

This second GCF global gathering brought together great streams of the Christian faith: African Instituted, Anglican, Catholic, charismatic, Evangelical, Orthodox, Pentecostal, Protestant, and contemplative communities. At this meeting the participants came from 65 countries and all continents. The gathering included 12 Christian world communions, 2 global ecumenical organizations, 6 world Evangelical/Pentecostal/Charismatic organizations, a number of regional organizations, and two global student organizations, the World Student Christian Federation and the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students.

These papers and presentations were presented: Prof. Dana Robert spoke on 'Witness and Unity in 21st Century World Christianity'; the Rev. Dr Kim Sang-Bok David addressed 'Trends and Changes in World Christianity'; Mr. Peter Crossing presented the *Atlas of Global Christianity*; Rev. Dr K. M. George addressed 'Bearing Witness to Christ and to each other in the Power of the Holy Spirit'; Dr Opoku Onyinah spoke about the history of Pentecostalism and its contributions to World Christianity; President Michelle Moran, International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, Rome, described the development of the charismatic movement within the Roman Catholic Church. Participants received on CDs the recently launched statement 'Christian Witness in a Multi-religious World: Recommendations', jointly produced by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, the World Council of Churches, and the World Evangelical Alliance. In the final plenary, the Indonesian host churches established an Indonesian Christian Forum.

Black Tie Affair and Awards Ceremony

It is common knowledge that the Moravian Church was at the forefront in bringing secular education to these parts. From the beginning, our church recognized the importance of education for equipping the mind and for building the character of young people. It is therefore in the course of its development that it established schools and colleges. Today, these serve the needs of persons far beyond the confines of the Moravian community. They have a special task to fulfill, and a distinctive role to play in the modern world. It is to this end that the PEC has decided to establish a college in Antigua which was once the 'Mecca' for education in the Leeward Islands.

Although the college will be located in Antigua, it will be a Provincial project. This means that all Moravians in the Province are expected to prayerfully and financially support it. The banquet dubbed 'A Black Tie Affair' to be held on Saturday 11th November is to kick-start the project. Two educators who are also active in the life of our church from each of the other Conferences, and three from the Antigua Conference will be honoured at this event. The following persons have been selected by the different Moravian Conferences to be honoured at the event:

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| ♦ Barbados | - | Sis. Gloria Skeete
Bro. Lisle Map |
| ♦ Tobago | - | Sis. Roslyn Moore-Alleyne
Bro. Philbrick Smith |
| ♦ Virgin Islands- | | Sis. Carmen Moorehead Mills
Sis. Jeanette Smith-Barry |
| ♦ St. Kitts | - | Bro. Sidney Osborne
Sis. Sandra Morton |
| ♦ Trinidad | - | Sis. Jasmine Jacob
Sis. Trudy Kerr |
| ♦ Antigua | - | Sis. Ruth Limerick
Sis. Genevieve Smith
Bro. Clarence Edwards |

The PEC recognizes the financial crunch on congregations as a result of the global recession.

However, it considers that the pride and joy of having a college offering degrees in several disciplines will far outweigh the sacrifice made in purchasing a ticket for the banquet. Tickets are being sold in all of the Conferences.



CALLS

Sis Hyacinth Taylor and Sis. Olga Baird Joefield of the Tobago Conference has accepted a call to serve as Missionaries to the Grenada Mission, in Grenada with effect from January 15, 2012. Let us remember our Sisters in Prayer as they prepare to assume this new assignment.

A Commissioning Service will be held in Tobago on December 11, 2011, to Commission our two (2) sisters as they prepare to go off to Grenada.



PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Your prayers are requested for the Rev. Anique Elmes-Matthew who fell on October 3, 2011 and suffered a fractured leg. She is currently at home under medical care.

Let us truly remember Sis. Elmes-Matthew in prayer and that God will do what He has done before and even more, in restoring her to good health.

2. Our Prayers are requested for the Rev. Romeo Challenger who was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of the Mount St. John Medical Centre in Antigua on October 18, 2011.

He has been ailing for a while now and so we invite you to lift him up in your prayers at this time so that God will touch him in a very special way.

3. Your prayers are requested for Sis. Albertha Titus and family on the passing of her husband **Bro. Irwin Titus**. He passed into the nearer presence of God on Friday October 28, 2011 in Trinidad.

Sis. Albertha Titus was the first female to have been elected on the PEC. She served for two (2) terms from 1990 – 1996.

GOSPEL ON STEEL

The Montgomery Steel Ensemble of the Montgomery Moravian Church Tobago, had a tremendous concert on Sunday October 23, 2011. It was the first concert put on by the Steel Ensemble which was under the Distinguished Patronage of the Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis. The scripture passage used was, "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6). The Steel Ensemble played its heart out like a professional steelband to a packed audience or congregation of over 500 persons. It was a worship to behold.



If anyone had any doubts, they were swept off of their feet after those pieces.



Next came some Guest Artists: Zandra and Ricky Baynes were out of this world as they blended voices together. The Rev. Handel Beckles was fantastic as he belted out two (2) pieces from the heart. Caryll Warner played solo on the Violin which was heart warming.



In segment two (2) the Steel Ensemble was more engaging. Caryll Warner accompanied them on violin as they played "You raised me up". Rhythmic Vibrations, a Young Adult Methodist Choir accompanied them with singing as they played, "His Grace". The third piece was, "God is standing by". The final piece in this segment, "Hear my cry", the Steel Ensemble was accompanied was accompanied by the Rev. Nicole Balloosingh-Holder as she led the congregation in worship.

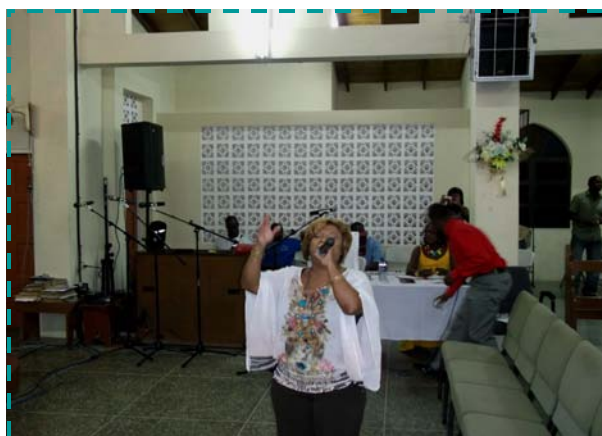


The Concert began with the National Anthem of Trinidad and Tobago being played on Pan by Master Sean-Daniel Buddingh, followed by the opening

prayer by the Rev. Esther Moore-Roberts. The welcome was done by the host Pastor, Rev. Nevin Lewis. The Chairman was the indomitable, Zelma Cowie, who chaired the program as only she can do. She did a marvellous job. Sean-Daniel Buddingh performed another piece on Pan and then the Ensemble got into its first segment. They played four (4) pieces, "How great is our God; My Redeemer lives; Looking for a city and Majesty".



Ricardo Seales on his Saxophone blessed our hearts as he played from the back of the congregation to the front as he showed that he has perfected the art form. Nicole Balloosingh-Holder then led us into a time of worship and celebration with four (4) pieces. By this time the congregation was on a high.



The Steel Ensemble played four (4) pieces for the grand finale: "Days of Elijah"; "In the name of the Lord", accompanied by Nicole Balloosingh-Holder; "Jehovah Knows", accompanied by Rhythmic Vibrations and finally, "We are going up", accompanied by the entire congregation.



After 2 hours and 45 minutes, we were all left begging for more. It was a most uplifting and heart-warming program. My wife and I felt honoured to have been invited and we were truly Blessed beyond measure. The Rev. Nevin Lewis said this of the program:



I am almost speechless. The concert put on by the Montgomery Steel ensemble was an awesome !!!!!!! experience. Wow. The ensemble lifted us up. Handel Beckles flowed in the presence of the holy spirit. Caryll Warner soothed our spirits with the violin. Ricky and Zandra Baynes blessed us and then Nicole Balloosingh Holder led us into an awesome worship to God. I don't remember a concert experience like that. To God be the glory !!!





**Birthday Greetings
for the month of November is extended to:**

Sis. Patricia Nicholas	15
Bro. Rowan Simmons	19
Bro. Ezra Parris	21
Sis. Myrtle Miller	21
Sis. Geraldine Roberts	23
Sis. Joyce Walters	24
Bro. Nevin Lewis	27



**Anniversary Greetings
for the month of November is extended to:**

Bro. Alban And Sis. Cynthia St. Hill	24
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Quote of the Day

**“SILENT” and “LISTEN”
contain the same letters.
We must become SILENT
to be able to LISTEN to
ourselves and others.**

Fun Corner

A father put his three year old daughter to bed, told her a story and listened to her prayers - which she ended by saying "God bless Mommy, God bless Daddy, God bless Grandma, and good-bye Grandpa."

The father said, "Why did you say good-bye to Grandpa?"

The little girl said, "I don't know, Daddy, it just seemed like the thing to do."

The next day Grandpa died. The father thought it was a strange coincidence. A few months later the father put the girl to bed and listened to her prayers, which went like this -- "God bless Mommy, God bless Daddy, and good-bye Grandma." The next day the Grandmother died.

My goodness, thought the father, this kid is in contact with the other side.

Several weeks later when the girl was going to bed the Dad heard her say, "God bless Mommy and good-bye Daddy."

He practically went into shock. He couldn't sleep all night and got up at the crack of dawn to go to his office. He was nervous as a cat all day, had lunch sent in and watched the clock. He figured if he could get by until midnight he would be OK.

He felt safe in the office, so instead of going home at the end of the day he stayed there, drinking coffee, looking at his watch and jumping at every sound.

Finally midnight arrived, he breathed a sigh of relief and went home. When he got home his wife said, "I've never seen you work so late, what's the matter?"

He said, "I don't want to talk about it, I've just spent the worst day of my life."

She said, "You think you had a bad day, you'll never believe what happened to me. This morning the mailman dropped dead on our porch."